

**“Without Refuge4Pets
I wouldn’t have been able
to keep my cat, I’m so
very grateful”**

Victim-survivor

Our impact during the year

Trustees Annual Report and Accounts

April 2025 - March 2026

Registered Charity No. 1174331





“It makes me feel good that I can provide care to a dog who has come from difficult circumstances”

Volunteer Animal Foster Carer

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Please note: We take the confidentiality of our victim-survivors (people and animals) very seriously. All the images of people and animals you see in this document (and in all our print, digital and social marketing materials) are from stock image libraries. We will never publish images of our service users or animals in our care.

Refuge4Pets

Objectives and activities

Our vision

We are working to achieve freedom from domestic abuse for people and animals.

Our mission

We offer victim-survivors of domestic abuse a specialist animal fostering service to remove a significant barrier that prevents many victim-survivors from leaving. We empower victim-survivors to access the vital safety and support they need before being reunited with their much-loved animals.

We believe that animals are an essential part of victim-survivors' coping strategies and that the reciprocal bond between victim-survivors and animals aids recovery from trauma.

We contribute to research, policy development and education around the link between domestic abuse and animal abuse to increase the safety and wellbeing of all victim-survivors, both people and animals.

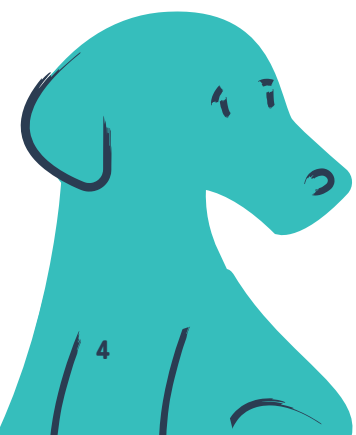
Achievements and performance

Throughout this report you will read about our key achievements and performance during the 2025/26 financial year, as well as our priorities for 2026/27.

Public benefit statement

In setting objectives and planning for activities, the Trustees have given due consideration to general guidance published by the Charity Commission relating to public benefit, including the guidance 'Public benefit: running a charity (PB2)'.

Refuge4Pets was founded in August 2017. We are a registered charity in England and Wales and our Registered Charity Number is 1174331. Our vision and mission are taken from our official objects, which can be found on the Charity Commission website.



Refuge4Pets five core values

Every decision we make as a charity is considered alongside our five core values. These are:

1

Empathy

We understand what people and animals have been through and work in an empathetic and non-judgemental way.

2

Equity

We recognise that people start from different places and face unique barriers. We allocate different or additional resources to support everyone to access a life free from abuse.

3

Empowerment

We empower victim-survivors to regain control of their lives.

4

Effectiveness

We work efficiently and effectively to achieve our vision.

5

Integrity

We are honest and have strong moral principles.



Introduction from our Chair

As Chair of Refuge4Pets, I am delighted to introduce our Annual Report for 2025/26 and to reflect on another remarkable year for the charity - a year of impact, growth and progress. All of which is captured and brought to life within this report.

Since 2017, when Refuge4Pets was founded, our work has been all about supporting freedom from domestic abuse - both for people and animals (including dogs, cats, horses, birds, fish, reptiles and more). We offer victim-survivors a specialist animal fostering service, for as long as they need it, and we give animals a vital space in which to rest and recover. Our services empower people to access specialist support and secure safe accommodation where they can be reunited with their pets to rebuild their lives together.

At Refuge4Pets, we know that the bond between people and their animals is profound. For many victim-survivors of domestic abuse, concern for the safety of a beloved pet can be one of the greatest barriers to seeking refuge and rebuilding their lives. Every day, our charity works to remove that barrier, ensuring that no one has to choose between their own safety and that of an animal they love.

I am immensely proud that Refuge4Pets continues to place equity, diversity and inclusion at the heart of everything we do. Our commitment is not simply to reach more people and animals, but to ensure that everyone who comes into contact with our charity feels heard, valued and supported. By embracing diversity and challenging barriers to accessing safety, we strengthen our ability to achieve our vision of freedom from domestic abuse for all.

Thank you for standing with us and helping to make that vision a reality. Of course, none of this would be possible without the commitment and expertise of our CEO, staff team, trustees, volunteer animal foster carers, funders and supporters. On behalf of the Board, I extend my sincere thanks to each and every one of you for your dedication and belief in our vision.

Together, we are creating a future where people and animals can live free from domestic abuse. As Chair, I remain inspired by the belief that every act of compassion, every safe place offered, and every barrier removed brings us one step closer to a world where all people and animals can live with dignity, safety and hope.

Best wishes
Dina



Dina Holder
Refuge4Pets Chair of the Board of Trustees

Dina has recently retired from The Women's Centre Cornwall, where she led innovative work on inclusion, diversity and equality by developing their Community Engagement projects. Dina is a qualified social worker and, before joining The Women's Centre, worked in the probation and youth offending teams, as well as developing and establishing services in Cornwall that provide vital support to survivors of domestic abuse. Dina is now offering a consultancy service to local organisations working to end Violence Against Women and Children. Dina has always had horses, dogs and other pets, and Refuge4Pets brings together these two areas of her life that she is passionate about - tackling domestic and sexual abuse and promoting animal welfare.

Equity, Diversity and Inclusion (EDI) Mission Statement

Our Vision

At Refuge4Pets, our vision is to achieve freedom from domestic abuse for both people and animals. We recognise that domestic abuse does not discriminate, affecting individuals and their pets across all walks of life regardless of race, ethnicity, age, religion, gender, sexual orientation, disability, neurodivergence, socio-economic background, or geographic location.

We are fully committed to creating an equitable, diverse, and inclusive environment where every victim-survivor person and animal, volunteer, staff member, trustee and colleague is treated with absolute dignity, empathy, and respect. This is in line with upholding the principles of the Equality Act 2010 and protected characteristics, and other wider areas of discrimination.

At Refuge4Pets, we are a trauma-responsive organisation and believe every victim-survivor (human and animal) deserves to feel safe, valued, respected and able to access appropriate support without fear of judgement or discrimination.

Understanding specific challenges

We recognise that the obstacles to escaping domestic abuse are heavily compounded by wider social inequalities. Perpetrators frequently exploit the bond between victim-survivors and their animals as a tool for coercion, control, and entrapment. We understand that:

- Marginalised communities often face unique hurdles, including limited access to inclusive emergency accommodation, financial disparities, language barriers, and a lack of trusted support networks.
- The fear of leaving a beloved animal behind stops many victim-survivors from escaping an abusive environment. Research highlights that 66% of victim-survivors of domestic abuse will delay leaving, stay or return to an abuser if they cannot take their pets with them.¹
- Our approach must be intersectional and trauma-responsive, meaning we actively consider how overlapping identities shape a victim-survivor's specific trauma and practical needs.

Our Commitment

We commit to actively challenge discrimination in all its forms and work to challenge and reduce the systemic barriers that prevent people and their animals from safely escaping abuse.

We are committed to making sure that our service reflects the diversity of our community, developing a trusted presence and providing care that is tailored to our service users' (human and animal) unique identities, circumstances, and needs.

We are committed to fostering an inclusive and supportive environment where all staff and volunteers feel valued, respected, and empowered to thrive in their roles.

We know that working to achieve equity, diversity and inclusion is critical to making sure that as many people and animals as possible can contribute to and/or benefit from our service. Our work in this area is supported by our core values (see page 5).

¹ Wakeham, M. (2021) *Animal Abuse as a Strategy or Coercive Control*. Bristol. University of Bristol.

Message from our CEO

As a Charity, we are volunteer-led with over 150 amazing foster carers who open their homes and hearts to animals across Devon and Cornwall. Last year, we fostered 192 animals and gave direct support to 105 families.

This has been our story for almost a decade, but thanks to an extraordinary gift from two incredible individuals, we now have an opportunity to do even more. Having our own animal sanctuary has been our long-standing ambition - a dream - until this year when our dream became a reality. Our Refuge4Pets Sanctuary is a home from home for all species of animals when they need us most. We have already welcomed animals to our Sanctuary and will continue to do so as our plans progress. Having a fully equipped Sanctuary facility of our own is enabling us to:

- Care for and rehabilitate the most traumatised animals who can't go straight to a foster family.
- Provide long-term care for animals whose complex needs mean they are unable to be rehomed.
- Respond to the increase in demand and emergency referrals to our service, including same-day collections which we frequently need to manage. The Sanctuary will give us a safe space for every animal needing support even at short notice.
- Keep multiple, bonded animals from the same household together rather than having to split them up across foster homes.
- Take care of the rehoming of animals if they can't be reunited with their families. The Sanctuary will give us vital space for animals to meet and greet potential forever families.



Dr Mary Wakeham BA (Hons), MA, MRes, PhD
Refuge4Pets Founder and Chief Executive Officer

Mary has over 15 years of experience working in the domestic abuse sector. She founded Refuge4Pets in 2017, driven by her lived experience and passion to enable freedom from domestic abuse for all victim-survivors, both people and animals. Mary is also a Senior Research Associate at the University of Bristol with a specialism in the dynamics and implications of the use and abuse of animals in the context of domestic abuse, particularly animal abuse as a strategy of coercive control. Mary is currently researching 'the use and abuse of animals and domestic abuse-related homicide and suicide', a study hosted at the University of Bristol and funded by Defra.

- Minimise the stress cats often experience and effectively manage the spread of feline diseases.
- Reduce current charity expenditure, for example kennel, cattery and vehicle costs.

To successfully take this project over the line we are seeking the support of individuals, corporate givers and grant makers keen to stop the cycle of domestic abuse and protect the people and animals caught up in it. While we are delighted that plans are progressing, we still need further philanthropic investment to complete the build costs of animal accommodation.

Of course, we welcome gifts of all sizes and are very happy to discuss the options for dedicating support to a specific area of the project or leaving a gift in memory of a loved one. There are also some features of the Sanctuary that would be suitable for naming.

Over the last 12 months we have also been delighted for the opportunity to collaborate with the University of Bristol on a research study exploring the use and abuse of animals by perpetrators of domestic abuse and the interconnection with domestic abuse-related deaths. This research is funded by Defra (the UK Government Department for Environment, Food & Rural Affairs). Find more information about the research at refuge4pets.org.uk/research.

Finally, thank you for your ongoing support and huge thanks to my incredible team who work tirelessly to enable freedom from domestic abuse for people and animals with passion, determination and integrity.

Best wishes

Mary

Remembering our late Patron Dame Jenni Murray



Dame Jenni Murray is our late Patron. She was an inspiration and a dear friend. We were deeply saddened by her death in March 2026.

Dina Holder, Refuge4Pets Chair Trustee said: ***“Jenni always used her voice to support efforts to end violence against women and girls including the abuse of pets. A true star and such a huge loss.”***

Dame Jenni Murray was best known as a presenter of Women's Hour on Radio 4. She was a tireless campaigner for women's rights, equity and fairness. Back in 2022 we were over the moon when Jenni joined us as our first-ever patron. Speaking about her role as Patron, Dame Jenni said at the time: ***“Women, children and their pets suffer from domestic abuse. If I had ever needed to escape, how could I have left my dogs and cat behind to face cruelty? Refuge4Pets can help keep them safe. I am proud to become the charity's Patron.”***

Our CEO, Mary Wakeham, first met Jenni at the People's Pet Awards when Jenni awarded Refuge4Pets a Special Recognition Award. Mary said: ***“Having grown up hearing Jenni's voice and then being an avid Women's Hour listener, meeting Jenni and spending time in her company was a real privilege and a lot of fun!”***

Dame Jenni Murray will be forever a huge part of our cause, and she will remain in our hearts and minds. We miss her deeply. Our thoughts continue to be with her family and Jenni's much-loved dogs and cat.

Timeline of the year 2025/26

April 2025
Our Project Workers had a busy month completing 72 visits with our Animal Foster Carers. We visit our foster families once a month to deliver supplies and spend time with animals to make sure they are happy in the home and provide advice and support to our foster carers as needed.



May 2025
In this month's National Link Coalition newsletter, our CEO, Dr Mary Wakeham was prominently featured in one of their top stories talking about her recent journal article about the link between domestic abuse and animal abuse. National Link Coalition is a monthly report from The Global Resource Center in the United States that brings together research from across the world to better understand the link between animal abuse and human violence.

December 2025
We celebrated our most successful Christmas fundraising campaign to date, raising £2,169 in funds and increasing awareness of our work supporting survivors and their pets.

January 2026
We began the new year with some truly incredible news. Thanks to a transformational donation, our long-held ambition of opening a Refuge4Pets Sanctuary has become a reality.

February 2026
Animal Friends, the pet insurance provider, became one of our Corporate Ambassadors and we also partnered with Naturewatch Foundation with the 'Act to Protect: Protect Animals, Protect People.' campaign. This campaign sets out how educating professionals to recognise the human-animal bond strengthens the safeguarding of both people and animals



June 2025
We were proud to present our research and services at the PHAIR Annual Conference in Edinburgh. The event brought together researchers, animal advocates, and campaigners from across the world to explore key issues and emerging developments in animal advocacy.



July 2025
We commenced a two-year research project examining the use and abuse of animals by perpetrators of domestic abuse and the links to domestic abuse-related deaths. Funded by Defra, the study is led by Dr Mary Wakeham (Founder and CEO of Refuge4Pets) and managed by Dr Natasha Mulvihill (Associate Professor in Criminology) at the University of Bristol's School for Policy Studies.



November 2025
We launched our new video that perfectly captures why we do what we do. **Scan the QR to watch it on our website now.**

October 2025
We were delighted to be selected as a beneficiary of the Co-op Local Community Fund. Local Co-op members generously chose Refuge4Pets as their community cause, helping to raise vital funds to support our work.



August 2025
We were delighted to launch our Corporate Ambassador Programme, welcoming Coodes Solicitors as our very first Corporate Ambassador. Their support marked an exciting step forward as we continue to build partnerships with businesses committed to making a difference.

September 2025
We had the pleasure of working alongside colleagues from The Links Group to deliver training for veterinary professionals at Langford Vets. We also travelled to Jersey to provide training and support to veterinary teams across the island.



March 2026
We appeared on BBC One's Crimewatch Live alongside Samantha Billingham, Founder of Stronger Beginnings, to discuss the important link between domestic abuse and animal abuse and to raise awareness of this often-overlooked issue.

Meet the team

Alongside our CEO, we have our brilliant staff team: Vicki, Kelly, Rhiannon, Rebecca, Jessica and Sarah (not pictured). The team has considerable expertise in the areas of domestic abuse, animal care and welfare, safeguarding, volunteer engagement and finance.

“Thank you, it’s been amazing - your staff are so dedicated”

Victim-survivor



Our board of trustees

Alongside our Chair, Dina Holder, we have six further trustees. Each trustee gives up their time throughout the year to oversee the governance of the charity, provide support and guidance to the CEO and ensure Refuge4Pets is focused on achieving our objectives.



Caroline Harding
Trustee (Secretary)

Caroline comes from a business and marketing background and for the last 18 years has run a branding and graphic design agency with her husband. Back in 2019, she was looking for a new challenge outside of work that was related to helping animals and people and saw an article about Refuge4Pets in Cornwall Life magazine. She approached us to become a fundraising volunteer and has been helping at our events ever since, even completing a 15,000ft skydive in 2022 to raise money for the charity! Joining as a trustee in January 2024, Caroline brings her business skills to our board and continues to help at our events.

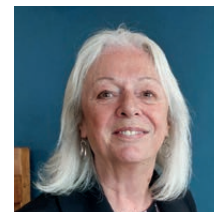


Dr Hattie Lawrence
Trustee

Hattie is an equine vet by background and spent nearly 30 years in clinical practice and running a variety of veterinary businesses. She is now the CEO of Langford Vets, the clinical teaching platform of the University of Bristol Veterinary School. Hattie has seen first-hand in veterinary practice the link between animal abuse and domestic abuse and is committed to help widen understanding of this widespread issue, especially within veterinary teams. She brings to the team veterinary expertise and extensive leadership experience and business acumen. When not working Hattie loves to be out in the beautiful countryside of the Southwest, running or walking with her little lurcher Piper.

“You provide the most incredible, much needed service”

Colleague in Domestic Abuse Professional Services



Lesley Leahy
Trustee

Lesley spent her career in Housing, working as Area Housing Manager for the London Borough of Ealing, Housing Services Manager at Herefordshire and as a housing consultant. Lesley is well versed in working in fast paced organisations working with people at crisis point. She is experienced in business planning and management, governance, strategic planning and public relations. Now happily retired Lesley has volunteered for Refuge4Pets since 2019, fostering dogs, fundraising, working as a peer mentor and she joined the trustee team in 2022.



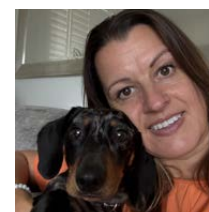
Laura Smit-Chesterfield
Trustee

Laura worked as an Independent Domestic Abuse Advocate in Cornwall and was the founding team leader of the one-stop-shop for anyone experiencing domestic abuse. After the arrival of her second child, Laura decided to explore other avenues in her career and now runs her own brand consultancy company. Laura is also the CEO of Cornwall Refuge Trust, a charity providing refuge for people escaping domestic abuse. Alongside Dina Holder, she was a founding Refuge4Pets Trustee, and it is Laura’s love of animals and dedication to providing support to victim-survivors of domestic abuse, that inspires her to continue in this role.



Mark Randell
Trustee

Mark is a retired senior detective who now trains police officers, prosecutors and politicians globally on the importance of taking animal welfare seriously within relationships and communities. His policing background focused on understanding criminal and abuser motivation within serious crime and terrorism, then working collaboratively to protect communities. His passion has always been animals, and he uses his international policing skills to persuade others why keeping pets safe keeps people safer too.



Abbe Smith
Trustee (Treasurer)

Abbe is a Chartered Management Accountant (FCMA) with over 25 years’ experience in finance, governance and business transformation across commercial organisations. Abbe joined Refuge4Pets because she believes everyone deserves safety, compassion and the opportunity to rebuild their lives, including the pets that are so often part of the family. She is passionate about using her professional experience to support charities that make a genuine difference to people’s lives. Outside of work, Abbe loves keeping active, spending time outdoors and is a lifelong animal lover who understands the special bond between people and their pets.

Removing the barriers to safety

A trustee's perspective

It is perhaps no surprise, that when someone is experiencing domestic abuse, the thought of leaving a beloved pet behind can feel overwhelming. For many survivors, this becomes one of the greatest barriers to seeking safety. Some remain in abusive situations because they simply cannot bear the thought of what might happen to the animal they love. Others make the incredibly difficult decision to leave, only to return because they cannot leave their pet behind.



It is a heartbreaking reality, and one that can have devastating, and sometimes fatal, consequences. But it is also a reality that Refuge4Pets has been working tirelessly to change.

A charity born from compassion

Nearly a decade ago, Dr Mary Wakeham and a dedicated group of founding trustees recognised a significant gap in support for survivors of domestic abuse who had pets. They understood something that was often overlooked. Without somewhere safe for animals to go, many people simply couldn't leave.

That understanding became the foundation for Refuge4Pets.

Nine years on, the charity continues to provide a lifeline across Devon and Cornwall, offering temporary foster care for pets while their owners access safety, specialist support and begin rebuilding their lives. By protecting both people and their animals, Refuge4Pets removes one of the biggest practical and emotional

obstacles preventing survivors from escaping abuse. It gives people choices where previously they felt they had none. As a relatively new trustee, I wanted to gain a deeper understanding of the charity beyond board papers, governance discussions and strategy meetings.

Recently, I had the opportunity to spend time with the Refuge4Pets team and see first-hand the incredible work that happens every day. It was an experience that left a lasting impression.

One of the highlights was spending time with Dr Mary Wakeham herself.

Mary's vision, determination and compassion have shaped Refuge4Pets from the very beginning. Her influence extends far beyond the Southwest through her internationally recognised research into the links between domestic abuse and animal welfare. Her work has helped professionals, policymakers and charities better understand why protecting pets is such an important part of protecting survivors.

Despite everything she has achieved, Mary remains remarkably humble. Her focus has never been on recognition; it has always been on improving lives. That quiet determination is evident in every conversation and every decision she makes. Spending time with her reinforced just how much one person's vision, combined with the dedication of others, can create lasting change.

The people behind the service

Perhaps the most memorable part of my visit was spending time on the road with one of Refuge4Pets' frontline team members.

It quickly became clear that this role is about so much more than coordinating foster placements. Each conversation demonstrated empathy, professionalism and an unwavering commitment to ensuring both pets and their foster carers receive the support they need.

Every interaction reflected the trust that has been built with the foster carers who are truly the lifeblood of the service.

Seeing the care and attention given to every aspect of the service reinforced just how much responsibility the team carries and how committed they are to getting it right.

It reminded me that while good governance, policies and procedures are essential, it is people who ultimately make charities like Refuge4Pets what they are.

Extraordinary foster carers

Another privilege during my visit was meeting two of Refuge4Pets' remarkable foster carers, one in Devon and one in Cornwall. Their generosity is extraordinary. These volunteers do far more than provide temporary accommodation for animals. They open their homes and their hearts, offering patience, kindness and stability to pets during a period of uncertainty. Listening to their experiences, it was clear that fostering requires far more than simply caring for an animal. It takes commitment, flexibility and genuine compassion. Each foster carer spoke warmly about the pets they had welcomed into their homes and understood the important part they were playing in supporting the charity's mission.

It is difficult to overstate just how important their contribution is. Without foster carers, Refuge4Pets simply could not provide the service that enables people to seek safety knowing their beloved pets are being cared for.

The pets who tell the story

Meeting the pets themselves brought everything into sharp focus. Seeing dogs happily wagging their tails and cats contentedly settled in their temporary homes was a powerful reminder of the care they receive from their foster families. They were relaxed, well looked after and clearly thriving. Knowing that these animals are safe while their owners access support

highlights why Refuge4Pets exists. Every successful foster placement removes one significant barrier for someone facing an impossible decision, providing reassurance that their much-loved companion is being cared for until they can be reunited.

More than pet fostering

It would be easy to describe Refuge4Pets simply as a pet fostering charity. But that would only tell part of the story.

At its heart, Refuge4Pets is about removing one of the barriers that can prevent someone from leaving an abusive situation. It makes sure that people do not have to choose between their own safety and the welfare of a much-loved pet. Every foster placement, every volunteer, every donation, every partner organisation and every member of the team contribute to making that possible.

Having seen the dedication of the staff, the commitment of the foster carers and the care given to every animal, I came away with an even greater appreciation of the difference this charity makes.

Looking ahead

As trustees, we often talk about strategy, governance, sustainability and growth. Those conversations are important because they help make sure Refuge4Pets can continue supporting survivors for many years to come. But spending time with the people who deliver the service every day reminded me exactly why those conversations matter.

Behind every successful foster placement is someone taking one of the bravest steps of their life.

The work of Refuge4Pets is carried out quietly, compassionately and with extraordinary dedication.



We don't just foster cats and dogs...

When people hear about our fostering service they often say: "is it just cats and dogs you look after?" It is true that many of the animals in our care are cats and dogs, but our fostering service covers all animals.

In the last year we took 147 additional animals* into our care. This included...

- 57 dogs
- 51 cats
- 4 tortoises
- 4 sheep
- 3 horses
- 3 rabbits
- 2 guinea pigs
- 1 snake
- 1 hamster
- 1 bird



Fostering different species of animals means that we can help more people (and their much-loved companions) escape domestic abuse. This is only possible because of our incredible Volunteer Animal Foster Carers.

*147 new animals came into our care with 45 existing animals carried over from the previous year. A total of 192 animals were cared for in the 2025/26 financial year.



Thank you to our Volunteer Animal Foster Carers

We have 153 Volunteer Animal Foster Carers registered with us across Devon and Cornwall. Of these, typically 40-50 will actively be caring for the animals that come into the charity when their families flee domestic abuse.

These animals are the silent victim of domestic abuse. Perpetrators of domestic abuse exploit the bond that victim-survivors have with animals to frighten, punish, terrorise, force compliance, and trap them in the abusive relationship. Perpetrators may abuse animals in similar ways to the people in the household. Animals experience physical, sexual, and emotional abuse, are neglected, and in some cases are killed by perpetrators.

Many of the animals that come into our service are traumatised by their experience of domestic abuse and it is our role to provide animals with the love, patience and time to recover in a safe home.

We are so grateful to our foster carers for providing this safe space, and so much more. Thank you for everything you do.



"I get so much satisfaction from knowing I've been able to help - I've loved having the cats here"

Volunteer Animal Foster Carer

Our impact in numbers

People and animals
we helped in 2025/2026

Families indirectly
supported

381

Families directly
supported

105

Animals
cared for

192

Animals
reunited

65

Professionals
trained

1065

Please note: Direct support is where families accessed our fostering service and indirect support is where we have provided information about animal fostering services in other areas of the UK or advice.

Our impact in numbers

People and animals
we've helped since the charity started

Families indirectly
supported

1552

Animals
reunited

587

Animals
cared for

872

Families directly
supported

494

Professionals
trained

9308

The real-life experiences behind our numbers

Here is a small selection of the real-life experiences of some of our service users over the last year. You may find these stories difficult to read as they include descriptions about the abuse of both people and animals. The names of the people and animals have been changed to protect their identities.

Robyn and Rufus

The case was discussed at the Multi-Agency Risk Assessment Conference (MARAC). This is a weekly meeting where representatives from various agencies, including Refuge4Pets, police, health services, social care, housing, probation, and domestic abuse teams collaborate to share information about victim-survivors of domestic abuse who are at risk of domestic abuse related death.

Robyn wanted to flee but would not leave unless Rufus, her dog, was able to leave at the same time since the perpetrator had previously been prosecuted by the RSPCA for animal abuse. The perpetrator was constantly with Robyn and checking her phone, so discussions were held in the MARAC meeting to find a safe way to communicate with her and co-ordinate a plan for the whole family to escape.

Unfortunately, things escalated, and Robyn and her children had to leave without Rufus. A report was made to the RSPCA because of concerns. Thanks to the combined efforts of different agencies, we were able to safely collect Rufus and bring him into our care. He was placed with a family experienced in fostering dogs for us, and he settled into his temporary home quickly. Robyn and her family appreciated getting regular updates and photos, and they eventually moved into a place that allowed them to be reunited with Rufus.



Richard and Morris

Richard was referred to our service by the local domestic abuse service following a Multi-Agency Risk Assessment Conference (MARAC) meeting. Richard had fled domestic abuse and had been placed into emergency accommodation. The perpetrator was sending threats saying she would rehome Richard's cat Morris, and she was refusing to let the cat inside or feed him. The perpetrator also told Richard that Morris was injured, but was refusing to take him to the vets, or allow Richard to do so.

A friend was able to help get Morris to safety and we met Richard and his friend at a safe location to collect Morris who was underweight, missing fur, and had a large wound on his neck. We got Morris straight to the vets to get him checked out. Once in our care, we discovered some additional health issues that were not initially obvious. We were able to provide him with the appropriate veterinary treatment. After a series of tests, scans, and rehabilitation at his foster home, Morris was safely reunited with Richard and his daughter.

Joanne, Dexter and Meg

Joanne reached out to us directly to see if we could offer some assistance. She had endured years of abuse and had finally fled, but she was returning to the property to walk and care for the dogs which meant that she couldn't completely cut off contact. We were able to collect the dogs, giving Joanne a chance to escape to refuge and access the support she needed.

The dogs were placed into foster care, and we kept Joanne updated on how they were doing, sending her regular photos and videos - including Dexter and Meg opening their presents on Christmas Day!

Matteo, Felix, Luna and Romeo

Matteo was referred to our service by the Police who had arranged a refuge placement in one of the very few male refuges in the UK, which is in our area. Matteo left with his three beloved cats, Felix, Luna and Romeo who came into our care. When we collected the cats, Matteo was very upset to see them go but our Project Worker explained that we had found a placement for all three cats to stay together and reassured him that we would keep in touch with regular updates and photos.

Matteo remained in the refuge, supported by the team, and with their assistance, he applied for local housing. After seven months, Matteo was able to secure accommodation, and we were thrilled to reunite him with his cats.

Lesley and Coco

Lesley and her children were at significant risk from the perpetrator, who had coerced and controlled them for many years, including threats and physical abuse towards the entire family. Lesley's dog, Coco was also a victim, she had been pushed, shouted at, and even denied food and water by the perpetrator. The situation escalated around Christmas time, and Lesley and her children were moved into emergency accommodation.

We met in a supermarket car park to collect Coco. She was so friendly despite all that had happened and the abuse she had endured. She hopped into our van and was taken straight to a foster home that gave her time to decompress and relax. Coco was a lovely girl and enjoyed receiving affection and going on outings to the beach while in foster care. Lesley was able to secure private accommodation, which can be very difficult, especially with pets. Coco's foster carers were sad to see her go but were so happy that she could be reunited with her family.

Petra, Maisie and Louis

Petra contacted us after speaking with her local domestic abuse support service. She explained that she has been subject to constant control by the perpetrator, who had cameras inside and outside the house to monitor her while he was at work. He tracked her and checked her phone, controlled all the finances, and limited her contact with family and friends. Petra had found a place to live, but there was a gap between her moving in and her opportunity to leave. While she had found temporary accommodation for herself, unfortunately, Maisie and Louis, her two cats were not allowed there.

Arrangements were made for her to meet us in a public location away from her home, due to the presence of cameras and the limited time she had to collect some belongings, her cats, and leave. We took Maisie and Louis into our care for two weeks, after which they were able to be reunited with her at her new property.

It was very rewarding to see Petra reunited with Maisie and Louis, as it demonstrated to us that even short-term support can make a huge difference.

“Knowing that my dog was being cared for has given me the determination to leave, and not go back”

Victim-survivor

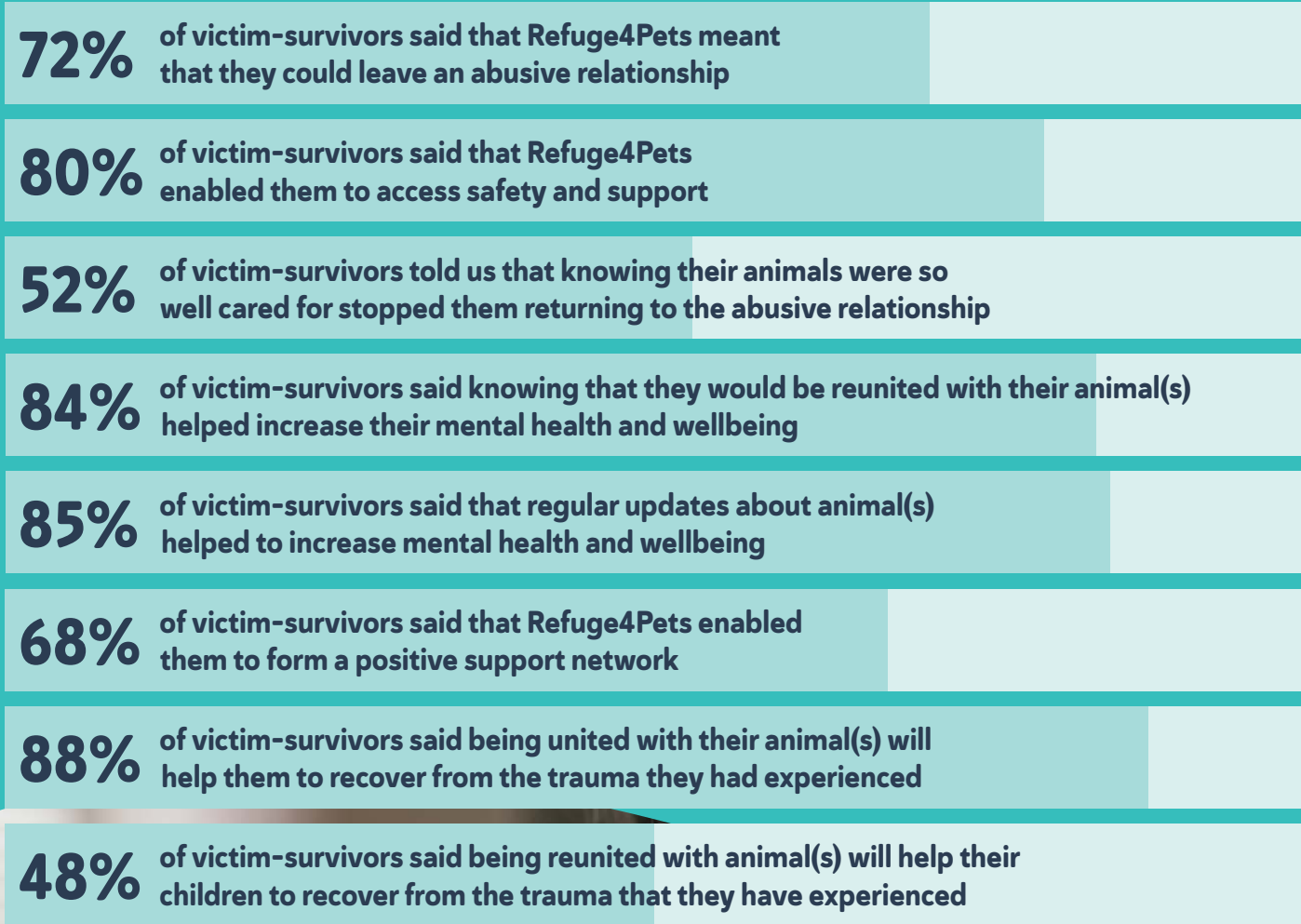


What people say about us

Our service users (victim-survivors)



“This service has been invaluable and enabled me and my daughter to keep our beloved pet. We had great communication so we knew they were safe until they could come home. Thank you very much for looking after our precious family member.”



“Thank you so much - it’s been amazing - you’ve enabled me to find somewhere safe for us all”

Victim-survivor

What people say about us

Our volunteers (animal foster carers)



“I am not in a position to have my own dog, fostering brings me so much joy and just being able to get out and walk a dog each day has also helped me to make friends.”

“It’s hard to say goodbye to any pet you have fostered, but it is wonderful knowing they are going back to their family who are now safe and happy.”



“Fostering is helping with grieving for my previous cat”

Volunteer Animal Foster Carer

What people say about us

Our colleagues (domestic abuse-related professional services)

100%
of our colleagues
rated our service
as excellent

We work closely with our colleagues in human and animal health and welfare services including domestic abuse services, police, housing, social care, mental health, veterinary teams and so on. We are proud of the work we have done to raise awareness of the link between animal abuse and domestic abuse and the support we offer our colleagues when helping people and animals to escape domestic abuse.

Through our anonymous feedback survey, we found that 100% of our colleagues rated our service as excellent.

Here is a small selection of the comments we received from our colleagues as part of this survey...

“Your service takes away the worry and uncertainty as to what will happen to the person’s pets when fleeing domestic abuse. Knowing that there is an organisation that will support them and their pets during a difficult and often tricky time makes such a difference.”

“I believe this service is invaluable to the reassurance of victim-survivors to know their pets are safe to enable them to leave a bad relationship.”

“The service provides a lifeline to victim-survivors who want to flee abusive relationships but are held back due to the concern for their pet(s). There are so many barriers/consequences of leaving an abusive relationship, but this service helps to address one of the most significant and is literally a lifeline for the animals as well as the victim-survivors. A brilliant service that I cannot praise enough, keep up the excellent work as your service is so vital.”

“It’s life-saving as one of the biggest barriers to leaving an abusive relationship is pets/animals knowing they will be looked after makes the difference between someone staying or someone making the decision to leave.”

“I am amazed at the incredible work that you do, having worked in refuge some 15 plus years ago there was nothing like this and many victims of domestic abuse chose to stay because of their beloved pets in exchange of prolonged suffering from their abuser. I remember once being told by a victim, it would kill her if she had to leave her pets behind, she would have nothing to live for, it was better to put up with the abuse from her partner and for him to kill her!”

“The work you do is wonderful. More people need to know about this and be part of this conversation as the prevalence of coercive control via pets is concerning when so many know so little about this and how people they are supporting are continuing to be abused in this way.”

“When dealing with high-risk situations, Refuge4Pets have been quick to respond and have enabled us to make sure that our victim-survivors know that their pets are safe whilst they seek support. We are very fortunate to have Refuge4Pets involved in our MARAC process. Thank you.”

Training professionals

During 2025/26 we trained 1,065 professionals in contact with victim-survivors to raise awareness of the link between domestic abuse and the use and abuse of animals. These professionals included: the police, domestic abuse advocates, social workers, veterinary staff, probation teams and more.

The training and resources we provide are based on our domestic abuse practice and academic research expertise. They have been specifically designed to raise awareness about:

All the training that we provide is designed to raise awareness about:

- The use and abuse of animals by perpetrators as a strategy of coercive control.
- The implications for all victim-survivors – adults, children and animals.
- The importance of asking about animals, identifying animal-related risks and effectively taking steps to reduce these risks in safety plans.

Much of the training we provide is co-facilitated with our Links Group colleagues and in collaboration with a broad range of experts in the field as well as those with lived experience.

“Brilliant delivery, amazing knowledge, passion shone through, and continued amazing work in raising awareness and gaining research in order to improve services and support for the whole family.”

Training Session Attendee



Our supporters

During our 2025/26 financial year, in addition to donations from individuals, we were also supported with grants and donations from various organisations. Thank you to everyone who made a donation, and to the following organisations...

- Almo Nature
- Animal Friends
- Co-op Local Community Fund
- Jean Sainsbury Animal Welfare Trust
- Kennel Club Charitable Trust
- Leaver Family Charitable Trust
- Manolo Blahnik Foundation
- Marchig Animal Welfare Trust
- Marjorie Coote Animal Charity Trust
- National Lottery Community Fund
- Naturewatch Foundation
- Oak Foundation
- Pets Foundation
- Schnauzerfest
- Souter Charitable Trust
- Spar Community Fund
- The IVO Trust
- Torbay County Council

Main priorities 2026/27

As we move into the next financial year, our main priorities and expected outcomes for 2026/27 are:

Priority 1

Increasing the safety and wellbeing of people and animals

Outcome:

We are reaching victim-survivors of domestic abuse across Devon and Cornwall who need our support.

Priority 2

Influencing change

Outcome:

More people and animals are safeguarded because of our contribution to research, education, policy and practice change in relation to the link between domestic abuse and animal abuse.

Priority 3

Increasing community involvement

Outcome:

Greater community ownership and awareness about the link between domestic abuse and animal abuse to build a bystander community.

Priority 4

Long-term impact for sustained change

Outcome:

We are developing and delivering innovative solutions that enhance our reach and impact in terms of maximising the safety of victim-survivors of domestic abuse, both people and animals.

Refuge4Pets Trustees Annual Report



Reference and Administrative Details

Charity Name	Registered office
Refuge4Pets	PO Box 160
	Liskeard
Charity Registration Number	Cornwall
1174331	PL14 9DR
Company Registration Number	
CE010822	

Trustees

The following Trustees served during the year and up to the date of signing this report.

- C Harding**
- D Holder**, Chair
- Dr H Lawrence** (appointed 24 April 2025)
- L Leahy**
- S Moffat** (appointed 24 April 2025, resigned 30 April 2026)
- M Randell**
- L Smit-Chesterfield**
- A Smith** (appointed 9 July 2026)
- K Whincup** (resigned 18 July 2025)

Financial review

Incoming resources for the period are £1,838,641 (2025: £255,178) and resources expended are £273,872 (2025: £282,224) leaving an overall surplus for the year of £1,564,769 (2025: £27,046 Deficit). Total unrestricted funds carried forward at the end of the year of £144,820 (2025: £102,991) with £8,987 (2025: £11,953) within the total of unrestricted funds, assigned to designated funds. In addition, there remains £1,578,468 (2025: £55,528) of restricted funds carried forward.

Key Management Personnel

Mary Wakeham (CEO)

Bankers

Lloyds Bank
The Parade
Liskeard
Cornwall
PL14 6AW

Independent Auditors

Griffin Chartered Accountants
Courtenay House
Pynes Hill
Exeter
EX2 5AZ

Reserves policy

Refuge4Pets’ reserves policy is to maintain its level of unrestricted funds and maintain funds at a position where the minimum level of free reserves (i.e. unrestricted funds less designated funds) will cover 3 months of core running costs plus any potential liabilities in the event of Refuge4Pets having to cease its activities. Though meeting this policy requirement, our aspiration is to increase our level of free reserves to from 3 months to 6 months core running costs, plus any potential closure liabilities. The level of free reserves on 31 March 2026 was £135,833, which is in line with our policy.

Organisation structure

The charity was registered with the Charity Commission on 22nd August 2017 as a Charitable Incorporation Organisation (CIO).

The Trustees provide overall leadership, governance and strategic oversight of the charity. They are responsible for setting the organisation’s strategic direction, ensuring effective stewardship of resources, managing risk and monitoring performance. The Chief Executive Officer is responsible for the day-to-day management of the charity and for delivering the strategy and objectives agreed by the Trustees.

Governing document

The governing document is based on the Charity Commission model constitution for association CIO’s i.e. those without voting members other than its trustees. The governing document came into force on the date of registration and was last amended on 9th July 2026.

Trustee appointment process

Trustees are recruited and appointed based on the skills and expertise required to make sure the Board has the appropriate balance of knowledge and perspectives to provide effective leadership and governance. The Board regularly reviews its composition to identify any gaps in skills and to support succession planning.

All new Trustees receive a comprehensive induction programme, ongoing training and development opportunities. Each Trustee also has an annual review just like the team do.

Trustees Responsibilities

The Trustees are responsible for keeping proper accounting records that disclose with reasonable accuracy at any time the financial position of the charity and to enable them to ensure that the financial statements comply with the Charities Act 2011 and the applicable Statement of Recommended Practice.

The Trustees are also responsible for safeguarding the assets of the charity and hence taking reasonable steps for the prevention and detection of fraud and other irregularities.

This report has been prepared in accordance with the Charity SORP (FRS 102).

Approved by the Board on 10th September 2026 and signed on its behalf by:

Dina + I Holder
Dina Holder
Chair of the Board of Trustees

The Board meets monthly to oversee the charity’s performance, strategy and risk management, and is committed to the continuous development and effectiveness of the Board to make sure it can best support the charity in achieving its mission.

Risk management

The Trustees have assessed the major risks to which the Charity is exposed, in particular those related to the operations and finances of the Charity and are satisfied that systems and procedures are in place to mitigate exposure to the major risks. Given the nature of our work key risks centre around the safety and wellbeing of our staff, volunteers, service users and animals. We have comprehensive safeguarding, health and safety, and operational policies and procedures in place to support a safe and effective environment for all those who engage with the charity. The Trustees also recognise that our people are our most valuable asset and therefore place significant importance on staff wellbeing, engagement and the retention of key personnel. We are committed to fostering a positive, supportive and inclusive working environment that enables staff and volunteers to thrive, ensuring the Charity is well placed to deliver its mission and objectives both now and in the future.

Going concern

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

INDEPENDENT AUDITORS' REPORT TO THE MEMBERS OF REFUGE4PETS

Opinion

We have audited the financial statements of Refuge4Pets (the 'charity') for the year ended 31 March 2026 which comprise the Statement of financial activities, the Balance sheet, the Statement of cash flows and the related notes, including a summary of significant accounting policies. The financial reporting framework that has been applied in their preparation is applicable law and United Kingdom Accounting Standards, including Financial Reporting Standard 102 'The Financial Reporting Standard applicable in the UK and Republic of Ireland' (United Kingdom Generally Accepted Accounting Practice).

The financial statements have been prepared in accordance with Accounting and Reporting by Charities preparing their accounts in accordance with the Financial Reporting Standards applicable in the UK and Republic of Ireland (FRS 102) in preference to the Accounting and Reporting by Charities: Statement of Recommended Practice issued on 1 April 2005 which is referred to in the extant regulations but has been withdrawn.

This has been done in order for the accounts to provide a true and fair view in accordance with the Generally Accepted Accounting Practice effective for reporting periods beginning on or after 1 January 2015.

In our opinion the financial statements:

- give a true and fair view of the state of the charity's affairs as at 31 March 2026 and of its incoming resources and application of resources for the year then ended;
- have been properly prepared in accordance with United Kingdom Generally Accepted Accounting Practice; and
- have been prepared in accordance with the requirements of the Charities Act 2011.

Basis for opinion

We conducted our audit in accordance with International Standards on Auditing (UK) (ISAs (UK)) and applicable law. Our responsibilities under those standards are further described in the Auditors' responsibilities for the audit of the financial statements section of our report. We are independent of the charity in accordance with the ethical requirements that are relevant to our audit of the financial statements in the United Kingdom, including the Financial Reporting Council's Ethical Standard, and we have fulfilled our other ethical responsibilities in accordance with these requirements. We believe that the audit evidence we have obtained is sufficient and appropriate to provide a basis for our opinion.

Conclusions relating to going concern

In auditing the financial statements, we have concluded that the Trustees' use of the going concern basis of accounting in the preparation of the financial statements is appropriate.

Based on the work we have performed, we have not identified any material uncertainties relating to events or conditions that, individually or collectively, may cast significant doubt on the charity's ability to continue as a going concern for a period of at least twelve months from when the financial statements are authorised for issue.

Our responsibilities and the responsibilities of the Trustees with respect to going concern are described in the relevant sections of this report.

INDEPENDENT AUDITORS' REPORT TO THE MEMBERS OF REFUGE4PETS (CONTINUED)

Other information

The other information comprises the information included in the Annual report other than the financial statements and our Auditors' report thereon. The Trustees are responsible for the other information contained within the Annual report. Our opinion on the financial statements does not cover the other information and, except to the extent otherwise explicitly stated in our report, we do not express any form of assurance conclusion thereon. Our responsibility is to read the other information and, in doing so, consider whether the other information is materially inconsistent with the financial statements or our knowledge obtained in the course of the audit, or otherwise appears to be materially misstated. If we identify such material inconsistencies or apparent material misstatements, we are required to determine whether this gives rise to a material misstatement in the financial statements themselves. If, based on the work we have performed, we conclude that there is a material misstatement of this other information, we are required to report that fact.

We have nothing to report in this regard.

Matters on which we are required to report by exception

We have nothing to report in respect of the following matters where the Charities (Accounts and Reports) Regulations 2008 requires us to report to you if, in our opinion:

- the information given in the Trustees' report is inconsistent in any material respect with the financial statements; or
- sufficient accounting records have not been kept; or
- the financial statements are not in agreement with the accounting records and returns; or
- we have not received all the information and explanations we require for our audit.

Responsibilities of trustees

As explained more fully in the Trustees' responsibilities statement, the Trustees are responsible for the preparation of the financial statements which give a true and fair view, and for such internal control as the Trustees determine is necessary to enable the preparation of financial statements that are free from material misstatement, whether due to fraud or error.

In preparing the financial statements, the Trustees are responsible for assessing the charity's ability to continue as a going concern, disclosing, as applicable, matters related to going concern and using the going concern basis of accounting unless the Trustees either intend to liquidate the charity or to cease operations, or have no realistic alternative but to do so.

INDEPENDENT AUDITORS' REPORT TO THE MEMBERS OF REFUGE4PETS (CONTINUED)

Auditors' responsibilities for the audit of the financial statements

We have been appointed as auditor under section 144 of the Charities Act 2011 and report in accordance with the Act and relevant regulations made or having effect thereunder.

Our objectives are to obtain reasonable assurance about whether the financial statements as a whole are free from material misstatement, whether due to fraud or error, and to issue an Auditors' report that includes our opinion. Reasonable assurance is a high level of assurance, but is not a guarantee that an audit conducted in accordance with ISAs (UK) will always detect a material misstatement when it exists. Misstatements can arise from fraud or error and are considered material if, individually or in the aggregate, they could reasonably be expected to influence the economic decisions of users taken on the basis of these financial statements.

Irregularities, including fraud, are instances of non-compliance with laws and regulations. We design procedures in line with our responsibilities, outlined above, to detect material misstatements in respect of irregularities, including fraud. The extent to which our procedures are capable of detecting irregularities, including fraud is detailed below:

- Enquiry of management and those charged with governance around actual and potential litigation and claims as well as actual, suspected and alleged fraud;
- Reviewing minutes of meetings of those charged with governance;
- Assessing the extent of compliance with laws and regulations considered to have a direct material effect on the financial statements or the operations of the entity through enquiry and inspection;
- Reviewing financial statement disclosures and testing the supporting documentation to assess compliance with applicable laws and regulations;
- Performing audit work over the risk of management bias and override of controls, including testing of journal entries and other adjustments for appropriateness, evaluating the business rationale of significant transactions outside the normal course of business and reviewing accounting estimates for indicators of potential bias

Because of the inherent limitations of an audit, there is a risk that we will not detect all irregularities, including those leading to a material misstatement in the financial statements or non-compliance with regulation. This risk increases the more that compliance with a law or regulation is removed from the events and transactions reflected in the financial statements, as we will be less likely to become aware of instances of non-compliance. The risk is also greater regarding irregularities occurring due to fraud rather than error, as fraud involves intentional concealment, forgery, collusion, omission or misrepresentation.

A further description of our responsibilities for the audit of the financial statements is located on the Financial Reporting Council's website at: www.frc.org.uk/auditorsresponsibilities. This description forms part of our Auditors' report.

Other matters

Refuge4Pets did not require an audit in the previous year. Therefore, the comparative figures are unaudited. Sufficient appropriate audit evidence that the opening balances do not contain misstatements that materially affect the current period's financial statements has been obtained.

INDEPENDENT AUDITORS' REPORT TO THE MEMBERS OF REFUGE4PETS (CONTINUED)

Use of our report

This report is made solely to the charity's trustees, as a body, in accordance with Part 4 of the Charities (Accounts and Reports) Regulations 2008. Our audit work has been undertaken so that we might state to the charity's trustees those matters we are required to state to them in an Auditors' report and for no other purpose. To the fullest extent permitted by law, we do not accept or assume responsibility to anyone other than the charity and its trustees, as a body, for our audit work, for this report, or for the opinions we have formed.

 A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'Griffin'.

Griffin
Chartered Accountants
Courtenay House
Pynes Hill
Exeter
EX2 5AZ

Date: 28/09/2026

Griffin are eligible to act as auditors in terms of section 1212 of the Companies Act 2006.

REFUGE4PETS

STATEMENT OF FINANCIAL ACTIVITIES
FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 MARCH 2026

	Note	Restricted funds 2026 £	Unrestricted funds 2026 £	Total funds 2026 £	Total funds 2025 £
Income from:					
Donations and legacies	4	1,526,393	132,534	1,658,927	30,071
Charitable activities	5	108,681	71,033	179,714	215,487
Other trading activities		-	-	-	9,620
Total income		1,635,074	203,567	1,838,641	255,178
Expenditure on:					
Charitable activities	6	112,134	161,738	273,872	282,224
Total expenditure		112,134	161,738	273,872	282,224
Net movement in funds		1,522,940	41,829	1,564,769	(27,046)
Reconciliation of funds:					
Total funds brought forward		55,528	102,991	158,519	185,565
Net movement in funds		1,522,940	41,829	1,564,769	(27,046)
Total funds carried forward		1,578,468	144,820	1,723,288	158,519

The Statement of financial activities includes all gains and losses recognised in the year.

The notes on pages 35 to 49 form part of these financial statements.

REFUGE4PETS

BALANCE SHEET
AS AT 31 MARCH 2026

	Note	2026 £	2025 £
Fixed assets			
Tangible assets	11	8,987	11,953
		8,987	11,953
Current assets			
Debtors	12	71,920	3,795
Cash at bank and in hand		1,654,474	145,217
		1,726,394	149,012
Current liabilities			
Creditors: amounts falling due within one year	13	(12,093)	(2,446)
Net current assets		1,714,301	146,566
Total assets less current liabilities		1,723,288	158,519
Net assets excluding pension asset		1,723,288	158,519
Total net assets		1,723,288	158,519
Charity funds			
Restricted funds	14	1,578,468	55,528
Unrestricted funds	14	144,820	102,991
Total funds		1,723,288	158,519

The financial statements were approved and authorised for issue by the Trustees on 10/09/2026 and signed on their behalf by:

Dina + I Holder

D Holder
Chair of the Board of Trustees

The notes on pages 35 to 49 form part of these financial statements.

**STATEMENT OF CASH FLOWS
FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 MARCH 2026**

	2026 £	2025 £
Cash flows from operating activities		
Net cash used in operating activities	1,509,257	(24,295)
Cash flows from investing activities		
Proceeds from the sale of tangible fixed assets	-	9,620
Purchase of tangible fixed assets	-	(10,638)
Net cash provided by/(used in) investing activities	-	(1,018)
Cash flows from financing activities		
Net cash provided by financing activities	-	-
Change in cash and cash equivalents in the year	1,509,257	(25,313)
Cash and cash equivalents at the beginning of the year	145,217	170,530
Cash and cash equivalents at the end of the year	1,654,474	145,217

The notes on pages 35 to 49 form part of these financial statements

**NOTES TO THE FINANCIAL STATEMENTS
FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 MARCH 2026**

1. General information

Refuge4Pets is a registered charity in England and Wales. The registered office is PO Box 160, Liskeard, Cornwall, PL14 9DR.

2. Accounting policies

2.1 Basis of preparation of financial statements

The financial statements have been prepared in accordance with the Charities SORP (FRS 102) - Accounting and Reporting by Charities: Statement of Recommended Practice applicable to charities preparing their accounts in accordance with the Financial Reporting Standard applicable in the UK and Republic of Ireland (FRS 102) (effective 1 January 2019), the Financial Reporting Standard applicable in the UK and Republic of Ireland (FRS 102) and the Charities Act 2011.

The financial statements have been prepared to give a 'true and fair' view and have departed from the Charities (Accounts and Reports) Regulations 2008 only to the extent required to provide a 'true and fair' view. This departure has involved following the Charities SORP (FRS 102) published in October 2019 rather than the Accounting and Reporting by Charities: Statement of Recommended Practice effective from 1 April 2005 which has since been withdrawn.

Refuge4Pets meets the definition of a public benefit entity under FRS 102. Assets and liabilities are initially recognised at historical cost or transaction value unless otherwise stated in the relevant accounting policy.

2.2 Going concern

The trustees confirm that, having considered their expectations and intentions for the next twelve months, and the availability of working capital, the charity is a going concern.

2.3 Income

All income is recognised once the Charity has entitlement to the income, it is probable that the income will be received and the amount of income receivable can be measured reliably.

The recognition of income from legacies is dependent on establishing entitlement, the probability of receipt and the ability to estimate with sufficient accuracy the amount receivable. Evidence of entitlement to a legacy exists when the Charity has sufficient evidence that a gift has been left to them (through knowledge of the existence of a valid will and the death of the benefactor) and the executor is satisfied that the property in question will not be required to satisfy claims in the estate. Receipt of a legacy must be recognised when it is probable that it will be received and the fair value of the amount receivable, which will generally be the expected cash amount to be distributed to the Charity, can be reliably measured.

Grants are included in the Statement of financial activities on a receivable basis. The balance of income received for specific purposes but not expended during the period is shown in the relevant funds on the Balance sheet. Where income is received in advance of entitlement of receipt, its recognition is deferred and included in creditors as deferred income. Where entitlement occurs before income is received, the income is accrued.

Income tax recoverable in relation to donations received under Gift Aid or deeds of covenant is recognised at the time of the donation.

**NOTES TO THE FINANCIAL STATEMENTS
FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 MARCH 2026**

2. Accounting policies (continued)

2.3 Income (continued)

Other income is recognised in the period in which it is receivable and to the extent the goods have been provided or on completion of the service.

2.4 Expenditure

Expenditure is recognised once there is a legal or constructive obligation to transfer economic benefit to a third party, it is probable that a transfer of economic benefits will be required in settlement and the amount of the obligation can be measured reliably. Expenditure is classified by activity. The costs of each activity are made up of the total of direct costs and shared costs, including support costs involved in undertaking each activity. Direct costs attributable to a single activity are allocated directly to that activity. Shared costs which contribute to more than one activity and support costs which are not attributable to a single activity are apportioned between those activities on a basis consistent with the use of resources. Central staff costs are allocated on the basis of time spent, and depreciation charges allocated on the portion of the asset's use.

Expenditure on charitable activities is incurred on directly undertaking the activities which further the Charity's objectives, as well as any associated support costs.

All expenditure is inclusive of irrecoverable VAT.

2.5 Taxation

The Charity is considered to pass the tests set out in Paragraph 1 Schedule 6 of the Finance Act 2010 and therefore it meets the definition of a charitable company for UK corporation tax purposes. Accordingly, the Charity is potentially exempt from taxation in respect of income or capital gains received within categories covered by Chapter 3 Part 11 of the Corporation Tax Act 2010 or Section 256 of the Taxation of Chargeable Gains Act 1992, to the extent that such income or gains are applied exclusively to charitable purposes.

2.6 Tangible fixed assets and depreciation

Tangible fixed assets costing £100 or more are capitalised and recognised when future economic benefits are probable and the cost or value of the asset can be measured reliably.

Tangible fixed assets are initially recognised at cost. After recognition, under the cost model, tangible fixed assets are measured at cost less accumulated depreciation and any accumulated impairment losses. All costs incurred to bring a tangible fixed asset into its intended working condition should be included in the measurement of cost.

Depreciation is charged so as to allocate the cost of tangible fixed assets less their residual value over their estimated useful lives, .

Depreciation is provided on the following basis:

Motor vehicles	-	25% reducing balance
Office equipment	-	25% reducing balance

**NOTES TO THE FINANCIAL STATEMENTS
FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 MARCH 2026**

2. Accounting policies (continued)

2.7 Debtors

Trade and other debtors are recognised at the settlement amount after any trade discount offered. Prepayments are valued at the amount prepaid net of any trade discounts due.

2.8 Cash at bank and in hand

Cash at bank and in hand includes cash and short-term highly liquid investments with a short maturity of three months or less from the date of acquisition or opening of the deposit or similar account.

2.9 Liabilities and provisions

Liabilities are recognised when there is an obligation at the Balance sheet date as a result of a past event, it is probable that a transfer of economic benefit will be required in settlement, and the amount of the settlement can be estimated reliably.

Liabilities are recognised at the amount that the Charity anticipates it will pay to settle the debt or the amount it has received as advanced payments for the goods or services it must provide.

Provisions are measured at the best estimate of the amounts required to settle the obligation. Where the effect of the time value of money is material, the provision is based on the present value of those amounts, discounted at the pre-tax discount rate that reflects the risks specific to the liability. The unwinding of the discount is recognised in the Statement of financial activities as a finance cost.

2.10 Financial instruments

The Charity only has financial assets and financial liabilities of a kind that qualify as basic financial instruments. Basic financial instruments are initially recognised at transaction value and subsequently measured at their settlement value with the exception of bank loans which are subsequently measured at amortised cost using the effective interest method.

2.11 Fund accounting

General funds are unrestricted funds which are available for use at the discretion of the Trustees in furtherance of the general objectives of the Charity and which have not been designated for other purposes.

Designated funds comprise unrestricted funds that have been set aside by the Trustees for particular purposes. The aim and use of each designated fund is set out in the notes to the financial statements.

Restricted funds are funds which are to be used in accordance with specific restrictions imposed by donors or which have been raised by the Charity for particular purposes. The costs of raising and administering such funds are charged against the specific fund. The aim and use of each restricted fund is set out in the notes to the financial statements.

**NOTES TO THE FINANCIAL STATEMENTS
FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 MARCH 2026**

3. Critical accounting estimates and areas of judgement

Estimates and judgements are continually evaluated and are based on historical experience and other factors, including expectations of future events that are believed to be reasonable under the circumstances.

Critical accounting estimates and assumptions:

The Charity makes estimates and assumptions concerning the future. The resulting accounting estimates and assumptions will, by definition, seldom equal the related actual results. The estimates and assumptions that have a significant risk of causing a material adjustment to the carrying amounts of assets and liabilities within the next financial year are discussed below.

Depreciation is estimated over the useful economic life of an asset in order to write off the value of this asset in line with life.

4. Income from donations and legacies

	Restricted funds 2026 £	Unrestricted funds 2026 £	Total funds 2026 £
Donations	1,526,393	57,534	1,583,927
Legacies	-	75,000	75,000
	<u>1,526,393</u>	<u>132,534</u>	<u>1,658,927</u>
		<i>Unrestricted funds 2025 £</i>	<i>Total funds 2025 £</i>
Donations		29,141	29,141
Legacies		930	930
		<u>30,071</u>	<u>30,071</u>

**NOTES TO THE FINANCIAL STATEMENTS
FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 MARCH 2026**

5. Income from charitable activities

	Restricted funds 2026 £	Unrestricted funds 2026 £	Total funds 2026 £
Grant income	<u>108,681</u>	<u>71,033</u>	<u>179,714</u>
	<i>Restricted funds 2025 £</i>	<i>Unrestricted funds 2025 £</i>	<i>Total funds 2025 £</i>
Grant income	<u>112,712</u>	<u>102,775</u>	<u>215,487</u>

6. Analysis of expenditure on charitable activities

Summary by fund type

	Restricted funds 2026 £	Unrestricted funds 2026 £	Total 2026 £
Charitable activities	<u>112,134</u>	<u>161,738</u>	<u>273,872</u>
	<i>Restricted funds 2025 £</i>	<i>Unrestricted funds 2025 £</i>	<i>Total 2025 £</i>
Charitable activities	<u>142,658</u>	<u>139,566</u>	<u>282,224</u>

NOTES TO THE FINANCIAL STATEMENTS
FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 MARCH 2026

7. Analysis of expenditure by activities

	Activities undertaken directly 2026 £	Support costs 2026 £	Total funds 2026 £
Charitable activities	51,830	222,042	273,872

	Activities undertaken directly 2025 £	Support costs 2025 £	Total funds 2025 £
Charitable activities	50,029	232,195	282,224

Analysis of direct costs

	Total funds 2026 £	Total funds 2025 £
Pet Food	1,076	2,324
Fostering Expenses	2,884	1,771
Kennel Fees	14,669	11,399
Vet Fees	27,851	21,088
Event Costs	622	3,706
Volunteer Expenses	221	122
Purchase of Motor Vehicle	-	9,619
Mayfield Sanctuary	4,507	-
	51,830	50,029

NOTES TO THE FINANCIAL STATEMENTS
FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 MARCH 2026

7. Analysis of expenditure by activities (continued)

Analysis of support costs

	Total funds 2026 £	Total funds 2025 £
Staff costs	153,773	171,889
Staff training	2,536	3,015
Rent and rates	2,016	2,016
Insurance	5,732	6,380
Telephone and fax	3,462	3,684
IT services	2,955	2,047
Printing, postage and stationery	2,153	2,523
Subscriptions	799	1,120
Sundry expenses	1,354	3,210
Owned vehicle expenses	9,287	14,520
Travel and subsistence	4,161	4,072
Advertising & Marketing	570	314
Consultancy fees	17,428	10,948
Bank charges	350	310
Governance Costs	8,254	2,514
Operating lease	4,246	-
Depreciation	2,966	3,633
	222,042	232,195

8. Auditors' remuneration

	2026 £	2025 £
Fees payable to the Charity's auditor for the audit of the Charity's annual accounts	6,900	-
Fees payable to the Charity's independent examiners' in respect of the Charity's annual accounts	-	1,150

**NOTES TO THE FINANCIAL STATEMENTS
FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 MARCH 2026**

9. Staff costs

	2026 £	2025 £
Wages and salaries	144,460	159,996
Social security costs	6,311	8,427
Contribution to defined contribution pension schemes	3,002	3,466
	<u>153,773</u>	<u>171,889</u>

The average number of persons employed by the Charity during the year was as follows:

	2026 No.	2025 No.
Employees	<u>5</u>	<u>7</u>

No employee received remuneration amounting to more than £60,000 in either year.

The total employee benefit, including employer NI and pension contributions, paid to the key management personnel in the year to 31 March 2026 is £43,320 (2025: £50,201).

10. Trustees' remuneration and expenses

During the year, no Trustees received any remuneration or other benefits (2025 - £NIL).

During the year ended 31 March 2026, expenses totalling £280 were reimbursed or paid directly to 2 Trustees (2025 - £NIL to *Trustee*), in relation to travel and accomodation.

**NOTES TO THE FINANCIAL STATEMENTS
FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 MARCH 2026**

11. Tangible fixed assets

	Motor vehicles £	Office equipment £	Total £
Cost or valuation			
At 1 April 2025	19,833	10,686	30,519
At 31 March 2026	<u>19,833</u>	<u>10,686</u>	<u>30,519</u>
Depreciation			
At 1 April 2025	11,988	6,578	18,566
Charge for the year	1,961	1,005	2,966
At 31 March 2026	<u>13,949</u>	<u>7,583</u>	<u>21,532</u>
Net book value			
At 31 March 2026	<u>5,884</u>	<u>3,103</u>	<u>8,987</u>
At 31 March 2025	<u>7,845</u>	<u>4,108</u>	<u>11,953</u>

12. Debtors

	2026 £	2025 £
Due within one year		
Other debtors	68,125	-
Prepayments and accrued income	3,795	3,795
	<u>71,920</u>	<u>3,795</u>

NOTES TO THE FINANCIAL STATEMENTS
FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 MARCH 2026

13. Creditors: Amounts falling due within one year

	2026 £	2025 £
Trade creditors	3,679	1,296
Accruals and deferred income	8,414	1,150
	<u>12,093</u>	<u>2,446</u>

NOTES TO THE FINANCIAL STATEMENTS
FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 MARCH 2026

14. Statement of funds

Statement of funds - current year

	Balance at 1 April 2025 £	Income £	Expenditure £	Balance at 31 March 2026 £
Unrestricted funds				
Designated funds				
Capital expenditure	11,953	-	(2,966)	8,987
General funds				
Unrestricted funds	91,038	203,567	(158,772)	135,833
Total Unrestricted funds	<u>102,991</u>	<u>203,567</u>	<u>(161,738)</u>	<u>144,820</u>
Restricted funds				
Jean Sainsbury	13,595	5,000	(18,591)	4
Norman Family Trust	1,500	-	-	1,500
Pets at Home Foundation	21,742	29,081	(30,085)	20,738
National Lottery Community Fund	10,790	53,133	(48,227)	15,696
The Fore	1,008	-	(1,008)	-
Devon County Council	3,648	-	(3,648)	-
Betty Phillips	1,245	-	(340)	905
POCA	2,000	-	(2,000)	-
Mayfield	-	1,506,360	-	1,506,360
Kennel Club	-	20,000	-	20,000
Schnauzerfest	-	500	-	500
Naturewatch	-	5,000	(4,567)	433
Marchig Vet Fee Grant	-	5,000	(2,668)	2,332
Almo Nature	-	1,000	(1,000)	-
Torbay Council	-	10,000	-	10,000
	<u>55,528</u>	<u>1,635,074</u>	<u>(112,134)</u>	<u>1,578,468</u>
Total of funds	<u>158,519</u>	<u>1,838,641</u>	<u>(273,872)</u>	<u>1,723,288</u>

**NOTES TO THE FINANCIAL STATEMENTS
FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 MARCH 2026**

14. Statement of funds (continued)

Designated funds

Capital expenditure

This funds represents the net book value of fixed assets

Restricted funds

Mayfield

Represents funding restricted for the purchase or development of the sanctuary premises.

Jean Sainsbury

Represents funding restricted for veterinary fees and related animal treatment costs.

Norman Family Trust

Represents funding restricted towards volunteer-related cost

Pets at Home Foundation

Represents funding restricted towards the salary costs of the Project Worker.

National Lottery Community Fund

Represents funding restricted towards salaries, travel, vehicle costs, staff training and organisational development.

The Fore

Represents funding restricted towards administrative resources and support.

Devon County Council

Represents funding restricted towards the MARAC pilot project.

Betty Phillips

Represents funding restricted towards veterinary and animal care costs.

Kennel Club

Represents funding restricted towards dog-related costs, including related salary or management costs where applicable.

Schnauzerfest

Represents funding restricted towards dog-related costs.

Naturewatch

Represents funding restricted towards direct animal care costs.

Marchig Vet Fee Grant

Represents funding restricted towards veterinary fees.

Marjorie Coote

Represents funding restricted towards veterinary fees.

**NOTES TO THE FINANCIAL STATEMENTS
FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 MARCH 2026**

14. Statement of funds (continued)

Statement of funds - prior year

	<i>Balance at 1 April 2024 £</i>	<i>Income £</i>	<i>Expenditure £</i>	<i>Transfers in/out £</i>	<i>Balance at 31 March 2025 £</i>
Unrestricted funds					
Designated funds					
Capital expenditure	14,567	-	(3,633)	1,019	11,953
Oak Foundation	607	-	(607)	-	-
	<u>15,174</u>	<u>-</u>	<u>(4,240)</u>	<u>1,019</u>	<u>11,953</u>
General funds					
Unrestricted funds	<u>60,266</u>	<u>142,466</u>	<u>(135,326)</u>	<u>23,632</u>	<u>91,038</u>
Total Unrestricted funds	<u>75,440</u>	<u>142,466</u>	<u>(139,566)</u>	<u>24,651</u>	<u>102,991</u>
Restricted funds					
Jean Sainsbury	10,595	3,000	-	-	13,595
Norman Family Trust	-	1,500	-	-	1,500
Pets at Home Foundation	20,341	28,487	(27,086)	-	21,742
National Lottery Community Fund	29,649	57,257	(76,116)	-	10,790
Pet Plan	434	7,000	(7,434)	-	-
The Fore	1,008	-	-	-	1,008
Devon County Council	5,387	13,468	(15,207)	-	3,648
Manola Blahnik	24,651	-	-	(24,651)	-
Betty Phillips	8,060	-	(6,815)	-	1,245
Richer Sounds	10,000	-	(10,000)	-	-
POCA	-	2,000	-	-	2,000
	<u>110,125</u>	<u>112,712</u>	<u>(142,658)</u>	<u>(24,651)</u>	<u>55,528</u>
Total of funds	<u>185,565</u>	<u>255,178</u>	<u>(282,224)</u>	<u>-</u>	<u>158,519</u>

NOTES TO THE FINANCIAL STATEMENTS
FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 MARCH 2026

15. Analysis of net assets between funds

Analysis of net assets between funds - current year

	Restricted funds 2026 £	Unrestricted funds 2026 £	Total funds 2026 £
Tangible fixed assets	-	8,987	8,987
Current assets	1,578,468	147,926	1,726,394
Creditors due within one year	-	(12,093)	(12,093)
Total	1,578,468	144,820	1,723,288

Analysis of net assets between funds - prior year

	Restricted funds 2025 £	Unrestricted funds 2025 £	Total funds 2025 £
Tangible fixed assets	-	11,953	11,953
Current assets	55,528	93,484	149,012
Creditors due within one year	-	(2,446)	(2,446)
Total	55,528	102,991	158,519

16. Reconciliation of net movement in funds to net cash flow from operating activities

	2026 £	2025 £
Net income/expenditure for the year (as per Statement of Financial Activities)	1,564,769	(27,046)
Adjustments for:		
Depreciation charges	2,966	3,633
Decrease/(increase) in debtors	(68,125)	362
Increase/(decrease) in creditors	9,647	(1,244)
Net cash provided by/(used in) operating activities	1,509,257	(24,295)

NOTES TO THE FINANCIAL STATEMENTS
FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 MARCH 2026

17. Analysis of cash and cash equivalents

	2026 £	2025 £
Cash in hand	1,654,474	145,217
Total cash and cash equivalents	1,654,474	145,217

18. Analysis of changes in net debt

	At 1 April 2025 £	Cash flows £	At 31 March 2026 £
Cash at bank and in hand	145,217	1,509,257	1,654,474
	145,217	1,509,257	1,654,474

19. Operating lease commitments

At 31 March 2026 the Charity had commitments to make future minimum lease payments under non-cancellable operating leases as follows:

	2026 £	2025 £
Not later than 1 year	3,806	3,806
Later than 1 year and not later than 5 years	5,709	9,515
	9,515	13,321

20. Related party transactions

The Charity has not entered into any related party transaction during the year, nor are there any outstanding balances owing between related parties and the Charity at 31 March 2026.

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