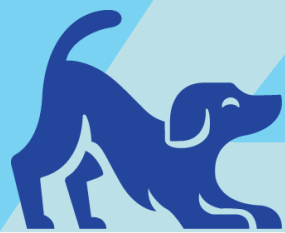


RSPCA  WOODSIDE

ANNUAL REPORT



Registered Charity Number: 222621



We are RSPCA WOODSIDE.

Every day, we open our doors to cats and dogs in need - offering safety, love, and the opportunity to start again. Whether they arrive frightened, injured, or as a family, each one is given the time, compassion and support they need. In 2025, we proudly found forever homes for **479** animals - a milestone made possible through patience, dedication and hope.

Behind every rescue is a story - often one of resilience, transformation and second chances. Behind that, is the kindness of people like *you*. From our dedicated employees and volunteers, to those who adopt or foster, and those who support in other ways, you are all part of what makes RSPCA Woodside special.

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TC Group LLP Chartered Accountants & Statutory Auditor
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LLoyds TSB Bank, Fosse Road, Leicester & CAF
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Our Leadership: Trustees



Connor Acton



Betsey
Malamah-Thomas



Steve Kinchington



Paula Clarke



Christine Page



Dave Morrish



Grace Gough



Martin Mannix

A Message From Our Chairman

“ Looking back on 2025–26, it’s clear that this has been a year where things really moved forward for our charity. We’ve seen plans turn into action, new ideas take shape, and a real sense of confidence develop across the organisation. ”

One of the standout moments of the year has been the fantastic launch of **Barney and Bella**, our commercial veterinary facility. This has been an exciting step for us and something we’re incredibly proud of. The practice has been welcomed by the local community and has already begun to show how high-quality veterinary care and long-term financial sustainability can sit side by side. Income generated through Barney and Bella is helping us reinvest directly into our charitable work, strengthening our ability to support animals most in need.

Another major area of progress this year has been our **retail operation**. We’ve expanded our presence with more shops opening across the region, helping us reach new supporters and raise vital funds. Just as importantly, we’ve placed sustainability at the heart of how our shops operate. Our retail teams are helping to promote more environmentally responsible shopping while continuing to generate essential income for the charity.

None of this would be possible without our **employees and volunteers**. Whether they’re caring for animals, running shops, fundraising, or supporting governance, volunteers bring energy, commitment, and kindness to every part of our organisation. As we’ve grown and tried new things this year, volunteers have stepped up time and again, and we’re hugely grateful for everything they contribute. Our dedicated employee team drive home our mission to support animals in need and a huge thank you should be placed on record to them for their continued hard work.

I’d also like to acknowledge the ongoing leadership of our **CEO**, Emma, and the **wider leadership team**. Emma’s steady guidance has been vital as we continue to grow and change, and her focus on balancing ambition with responsibility continue to shape a changing charity landscape for RSPCA Woodside.

As we look ahead, we do so with optimism, but also with care. We know there is more to do and more challenges to come, but the progress made during 2025–26 gives us a strong platform to build from.

Thank you to everyone who has played a part in this year’s work. Your support, time, and belief in what we do continue to make a real impact for animals across Leicestershire, Peterborough, and Rutland.



Connor Acton
Chair of Trustees

Our Leadership: CEO

“I remain inspired every day by the passion and commitment of our team, who go above and beyond to ensure every animal receives the care and compassion they deserve. To everyone who supports us through donations, volunteering, shopping, or working with us thank you. You are at the heart of everything we do.”

We are on a journey...

2025 was a year of real progress for Woodside, but we are still very much on that journey.

Like many organisations across the sector, we continue to face rising operational costs. As a people-led organisation delivering high-quality, one-to-one care for every animal, these pressures are significant. Despite this, we have remained resilient, focused, and determined to move forward.

Over the past year, we have rebranded the Woodside estate in line with the national society, while taking a pragmatic and cost-conscious approach to improving our facilities.

A standout achievement has been the launch of our commercial veterinary practice, Barney & Bella, named in honour of two much-loved former residents. In just nine months, the practice has built a strong and loyal client base, supported by outstanding customer reviews. We are particularly proud that it supports both our shelter animals and the wider community, generating income that is reinvested directly into animal welfare.

Financially, while the wider climate remains challenging, we have demonstrated a balanced performance and control. Income has exceeded expectations and expenditure has been carefully managed, resulting in a positive year-to-date position against a planned deficit. We continue to manage risks such as rising costs while reducing reliance on legacy income.

Our people remain at the heart of everything we do. This year, we have invested in training and development, strengthened engagement, and evolved our volunteer model to create more flexible opportunities to support our work.

It has not been without its challenges. A period without a dedicated fundraising team, alongside senior leadership vacancies, placed additional pressure on the organisation. However, through strong teamwork and careful management, we maintained stability and continued to innovate.

We have also strengthened our governance, developing our Trustee Board and progressing our journey toward becoming a Charitable Incorporated Organisation (CIO), alongside establishing a separate trading company.

Most importantly, we remained true to our purpose. This year, we rehomed 255 cats and 224 dogs, giving them a second chance at life. Behind these numbers are countless individual stories of care, compassion, and dedication.

I continue to be inspired by the extraordinary commitment of our staff and volunteers, who consistently go above and beyond. We are incredibly fortunate to have such a skilled and passionate workforce. Everything we do is driven by one simple principle: **doing the right thing for every animal in our care.**



Emma Peake
CEO

Our Mission



RSPCA Woodside is a separately registered charity (RSPCA Leicestershire, Peterborough and Rutland Branch) of the Royal Society for the Prevention of Cruelty to Animals (RSPCA) and is governed by the RSPCA Acts, RSPCA Rules and RSPCA Branch Rules.

The Trustee Board is registered with the Charity Commission as an incorporated trustee body and oversees the strategic management of RSPCA Woodside, with day-to-day operational management of the Charity being delegated to a CEO, Head of Resource and Governance, Head of Animal Services, Head of Income Generation, Head of Retail and Clinical Director.

RSPCA Woodside owns and runs an animal rehoming centre and carries out its direct animal welfare work within the area of Leicestershire, Peterborough and Rutland.

Objectives and Activities

The Charity's objectives align with those of the National RSPCA. We are committed to preventing cruelty, promoting kindness, and alleviating the suffering of animals, particularly within our local area, while operating in accordance with the policies of the National RSPCA.

RSPCA Woodside achieves these aims by providing care and rehoming for animals that come into our custody. Many of these animals have been abandoned, neglected, or mistreated, and may have required the intervention and support of the RSPCA Inspectorate.



Welfare

All animals received into the care of our centre receive veterinary treatment, vaccination, neutering, microchipping, flea treatment and worming treatment and are assessed for rehoming.

The centre offers advice to the public in matters concerning animal welfare, rehoming and adoption. Our on-site events help to promote the message regarding responsible pet ownership and these are well received by the public who attend.

The Trustees have reviewed the general guidance provided by the Charity Commission with regard to a statement of public benefit. The Trustees have ensured that the Charity remains focused on our charitable aims and continues to deliver benefits to the public. The Charity aims to achieve these objectives by promoting the work and objects of the National RSPCA. It aims to provide support locally to those people whose animals are in need, promoting good levels of care

and welfare of animals, and rehoming abandoned animals and mistreated pets.



The welfare work undertaken by the centre, although local in nature, benefits society at large and also aims to help people in need with the care of their animals. All of our charitable activities focus on promoting kindness and preventing or suppressing cruelty and are undertaken to further our purposes for the public benefit.

The contact we have with individuals and the growing number of companies who also support us ensures that a wide group of local members of the public enjoy working with us in a compassionate and rewarding way. We ensure, through our policies, that no individual will be excluded from volunteering on the grounds of gender, marital or family status, religious belief or political opinion, disability, race or ethnic origin, nationality, sexual orientation or age, or any other criteria which could be deemed to be discriminatory or divisive.

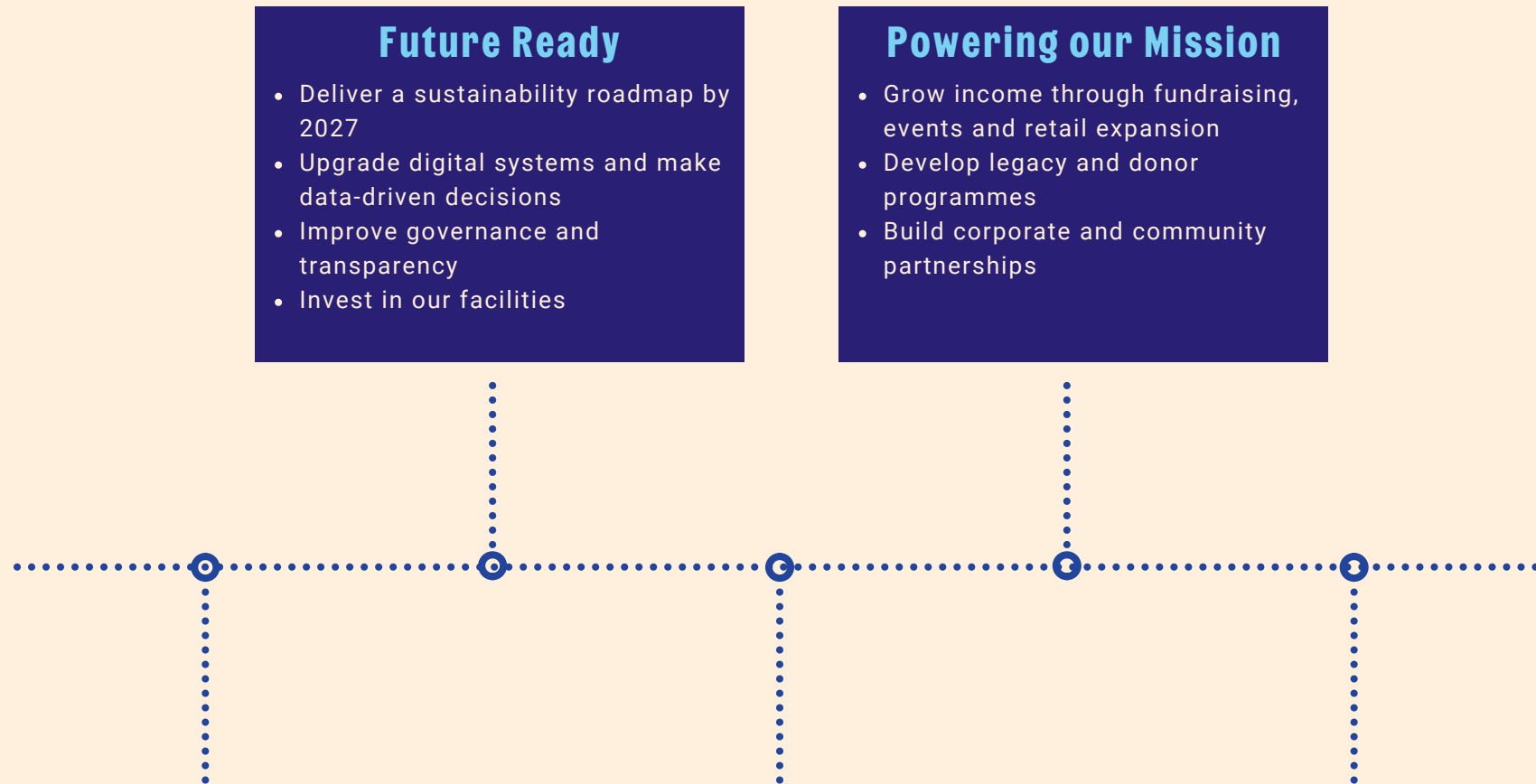
**OUR VISION IS A WORLD
WHERE ALL ANIMALS ARE
RESPECTED AND TREATED
WITH KINDNESS.**





OUR MISSION IS TO ENSURE
THAT ALL ANIMALS HAVE A
GOOD LIFE BY **RESCUING AND
CARING FOR THOSE IN NEED,**
BY ADVOCATING ON BEHALF
OF ALL ANIMALS AND BY
INSPIRING EVERYONE TO
TREAT THEM WITH
COMPASSION AND RESPECT.

Where We Are Going



One Team, One Purpose

- Invest in employee and volunteer development
- Build a culture of wellbeing, inclusion and progression
- Strengthen engagement and volunteer growth

United for Animals

- Strengthen partnerships with National RSPCA and neighbouring branches,
- Develop relationships with local authorities, schools and community groups
- Extend our reach across Rutland and Peterborough

Lifesaving in Action

- Modernise and expand our rehoming facilities
- Grow foster-to-adoption through our “Keep them Home” strategy
- Strengthen behavioural and rehabilitation expertise
- Build lifelong adopter relationships

Sustainability

Alongside animal welfare, we are committed to reducing our environmental impact and contributing to a more sustainable future. This report establishes our baseline, identifies key areas for improvement, and sets out our long-term ambitions for change.



Protecting animals also means protecting the environment they depend on.

Our current position

- 1.** We employ over 70 staff and are supported by more than 300 volunteers, with hybrid working offered where possible to support flexibility and reduce commuting impacts.
- 2.** We operate three vehicles for transporting donations between sites, none of these vehicles are electric.
- 3.** We run eight charity shops across Leicestershire, Rutland and Peterborough, as well as our rehoming centre in Leicester. Whilst none of these operate on renewable energy, our retail operations support sustainability by extending the life of donated goods and reducing waste through a circular economy.

Our carbon baseline

This is our first formal Carbon Reduction Plan, establishing a 2025 baseline. Our total Scope 1 and 2 emissions are 45 tonnes CO₂e, based on UK Government reporting factors.

Breakdown:

- 63% electricity
- 19% mains gas
- 16% diesel
- 2% air conditioning (F-gas)

We will work with the RSPCA Environment and Sustainability team to develop our approach to Scope 3 emissions.

Our Commitments

Scope 3 emissions

These emissions include those not directly produced by the charity but resulting from our wider activities, including:

- 1) **Upstream Activities** - emissions from purchased goods and services, including production, transport and waste
- 2) **Downstream Activities** - emissions linked to the use and disposal of products and services

Our pledge

As part of our journey towards Net Zero, in line with UK Government targets, we have set the following priorities:

- 1) Transition all sites to renewable energy by 2029
- 2) Phase out diesel vehicles and replace them with electric alternatives
- 3) Install EV charging at Woodside
- 4) Provide Carbon Literacy training by 2027
- 5) Establish Sustainability Champions by 2027
- 6) Develop Scope 3 measurement from 2027

Engaging our people

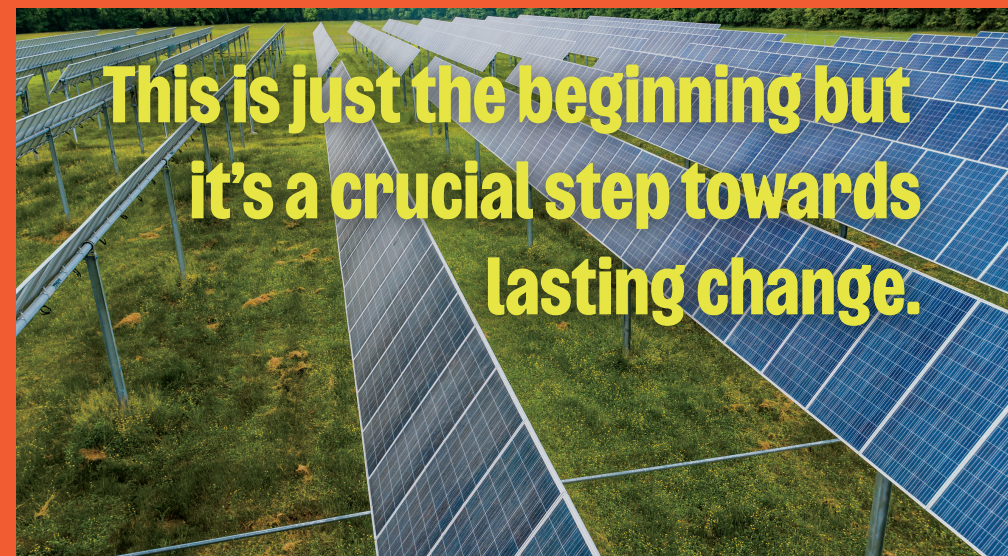
Our people will play a vital role in delivering our sustainability ambitions. From small, everyday actions to organisation-wide initiatives, we are committed to embedding sustainability into our culture.

Through the introduction of Sustainability Champions and Carbon Literacy training, we will empower colleagues and volunteers to take an active role in reducing our environmental impact.

Looking ahead

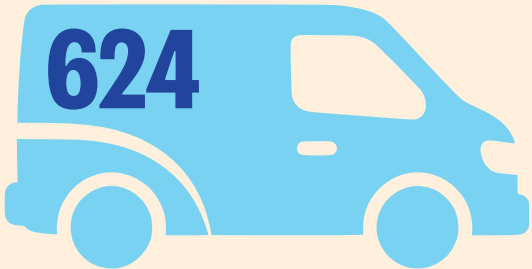
Sustainability will be embedded across our culture, supported by training and Sustainability Champions to empower employees and volunteers to take action.

Future priorities include exploring solar energy, improving insulation and upgrading heating systems to maximise efficiency.

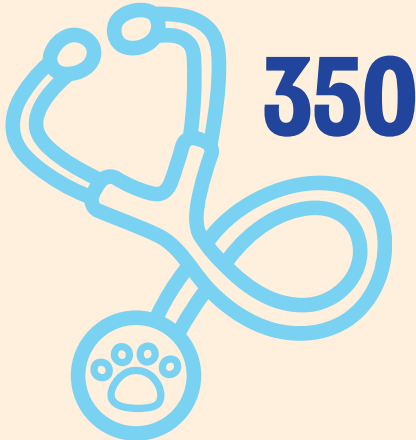
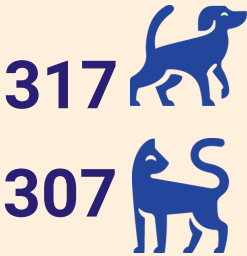


**This is just the beginning but
it's a crucial step towards
lasting change.**

2025 at a Glance



ANIMALS CAME TO
WOODSIDE



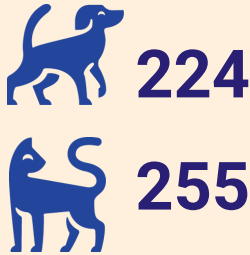
ANIMALS
MICROCHIPPED



ANIMALS
NEUTERED



ANIMALS FOSTERED



ANIMALS REHOMED

Yearly Comparisons

	2023	2024	2025
Animals who came in to Woodside	629 236 dogs 390 cats	498 234 dogs 264 cats	624 317 dogs 307 cats
Animals Microchipped	204	388	350
Animals Neutered	418	398	341
Animals Fostered	100	64	140
Animals Rehomed	496 183 dogs 313 cats	389 170 dogs 219 cats	479 224 dogs 244 cats
Time in our Care: 0-3 months	19 dogs 29 cats	19 dogs 16 cats	25 dogs 54 cats
Time in our Care: 4-6 months	20 dogs 28 cats	16 dogs 17 cats	8 dogs 5 cats
Time in our Care: 6+ months	9 dogs 5 cats	10 dogs 6 cats	6 dogs 4 cats



“I love animals and enjoy helping out and being part of a team”

The Difference We've Made



Dexter

From the moment Dexter arrived, it was clear he was a cat who *needed* interaction, stimulation, and connection. He didn't want to sit and watch the world go by - he wanted to be a part of it.

However, this meant he could sometimes become too enthusiastic during play. To help channel his intelligence and energy, our Clinical Behaviourist created a plan using puzzle feeders and interactive toys to help focus his busy mind. Today, Dexter is

thriving in a home that embraces his personality. His journey shows that the most rewarding companions are often the ones who need a little bit of understanding.

Although we had little background information about Poppy when she arrived, her bright, bouncy personality quickly won everyone over. Like many spaniels, she was full of curiosity, energy, and she loved meeting people and was always ready to learn. She already knew some basic commands like sit and responding to her name, and just needed guidance, structure and plenty of outlets for her energy.



Poppy

After receiving some care from Barney and Bella, including a spay, it wasn't long before the right home came along – an active family ready to embrace her love of adventure.

Poppy is now living her best life. From countryside walks to joyful beach runs and muddy puddles, her journey is a lovely reminder of how a little a little care and kindness can change everything.

Denzil came into our care in December 2024, following a change in his owner's circumstances. He was described as a loving, playful dog who adored people, and this was immediately clear when he arrived. It wasn't long until he became a favourite among the team,

Denzil



However, Denzil had complex ongoing needs. He required careful dietary management due to a poultry allergy and long-term veterinary treatment for a skin condition.

The challenge for dogs like Denzil is never whether they will find a home, but whether they will find the *right* one.

And after 311 days, he finally found his forever home. A home that could meet his needs, manage his medical care, and give him the stability and understanding he needed. His story highlights the importance of a welfare-led approach to rehoming; find a home that is willing to work with him.



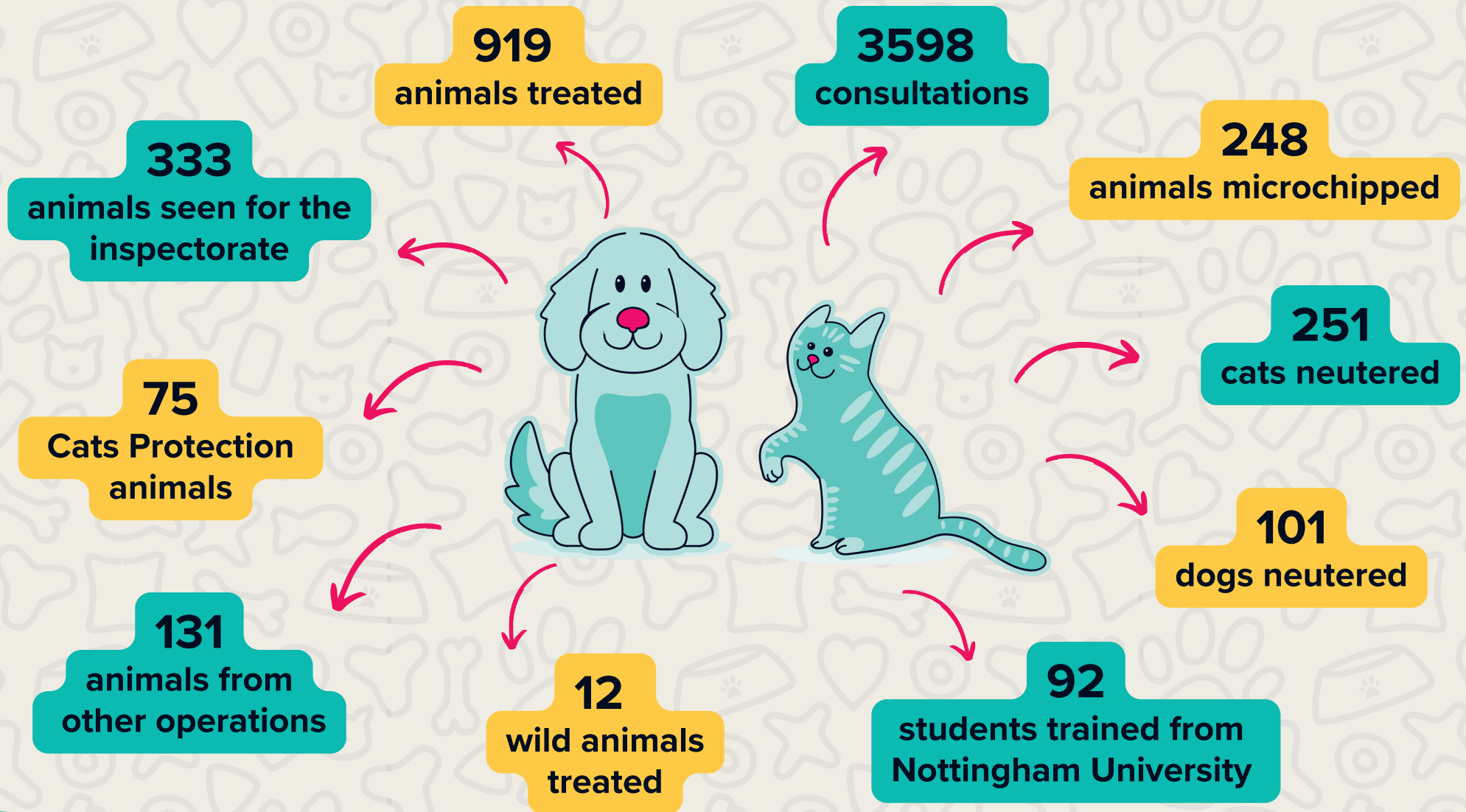
Chilli

Chilli came to us as a stray, terrified of the world around her. She displayed extreme fear-based behaviours including: hiding, hissing, growling, and trying to escape any form of handling.

Our team immediately adapted her care and moved her to the quieter environment of our Behaviour Section. With the support of our Cattery Team and Clinical Behaviourist, a structured plan was introduced. And slowly, Chilli began to change. From hiding, to watching, to stepping forward for gentle interactions. Her confidence grew, her curiosity returned, and she began to engage with the world in a positive way.

In November 2025, she found her forever home with a family who could provide a calm environment that matched her needs. Her story is a powerful reminder that rehabilitation takes time, but with the right approach, even the most frightened animals can learn to feel safe, to trust, and love.

Veterinary Excellence



BARNEY & BELLA IS RATED
4.9 OUT OF 5 STARS

Financial Accountability

A Message From Our Treasurer

“My core responsibility as Treasurer remains ensuring the financial stability and sustainability of Woodside, and I am pleased to report that 2025 has been a strong and encouraging year for the charity.”

Despite several operational challenges, the organisation has delivered a positive financial performance overall. Year-to-date results show a surplus against a budgeted deficit, demonstrating the resilience of the organisation.

One of the standout achievements this year has been the successful transition of our veterinary services into a commercial offering through the launch of Barney & Bella. This marks an important step forward in diversifying our income streams and reducing reliance on more volatile sources such as legacies. The development of a more commercial mindset, led by our CEO and embedded across the team, has been instrumental in driving this progress and positioning the charity for long-term sustainability.

Income performance has been particularly strong, with overall income exceeding budget expectations, supported by exceptional supporter income and continued generosity from the public. This highlights the strength of our community engagement and the trust placed in RSPCA Woodside's work.

The year has not been without its challenges. For a significant period, we operated without a dedicated fundraising team due to staffing changes, which inevitably impacted performance in this area. In addition, long-term sickness within the finance function reduced capacity and visibility at times. Despite this, the organisation continued to operate effectively, which is a testament to the dedication, flexibility, and commitment of the wider team who stepped up to ensure continuity and control.

Cost pressures have remained a feature throughout the year, particularly in relation to staffing and operational expenses. However, careful management and improved efficiencies have helped to mitigate these pressures, with overall expenditure being well controlled against budget.

Our financial position remains stable, with cash reserves providing a reasonable level of cover and investments continuing to perform steadily. The legacy pipeline also remains strong, providing confidence for future income, although timing remains inherently unpredictable.

Looking ahead, the focus will be on building on this year's momentum. Strengthening fundraising capacity, continuing to grow our commercial activities, and embedding robust financial controls will all be key priorities. The introduction of new systems and continued strategic oversight will further support this direction.

Finally, I would like to extend my sincere thanks to our employees, volunteers, trustees, and leadership team. This has been a year that required resilience and adaptability, and the collective effort across the organisation has been exceptional. It is this commitment that enables RSPCA Woodside to continue making a meaningful difference to the animals and communities we serve.



Steve Kinchington
Branch Treasurer

**RSPCA Leicestershire, Rutland & Peterborough (also known as RSPCA Woodside)
Woodside Animal Centre, 190 Scudamore Road, Leicester, LE3 1UQ**

Registered Charity Number: 222621

