

**Animal Care AGM**  
**Sunday 6th November 2011**  
**At 2pm in the new Function Room**

31 members were present. The Acting Chair opened the meeting by welcoming everyone. The Acting Chair explained that the Chair, Bernard Cook, had stood down due to ill health and thanked him for all his hard work over the years. She also expressed a wish that he remain on the committee and that his support and help for the new Chair would be much appreciated and needed.

**Chairman's report.** The last year had been another successful year for Animal Care and this was borne out by the number of animals that had been re-homed over the year; 246 dogs, 390 cats and 286 small, furry 'critters'. She thanked everyone; staff, committee, volunteers and members, for their hard work and commitment and hoped that that would continue in the coming year.

**Treasurer's Report.** Due to the difficult economic times facing everyone at the moment Animal Care has had difficult economic decisions to make and we have had to be prudent in how the valuable funds held by Animal Care are spent and utilised. The committee and staff have spent the year planning for the short term and the long term. Fundraising events have continued and, to raise extra funds and promote the work of Animal Care, we have attended many new events outside of our traditional Lancaster and Morecambe locality. This has included events such as the Cat Show organised by the Preston and Blackpool Cat Club and Myerscough College Open Day. As for other charities fundraising has been challenging but the determination of the volunteers who attend the events has been uncompromising as has the enthusiasm from the staff. Once again this determination and enthusiasm resulted in a very successful Open Day for us.

The Trustees feel it is vital that the charity continues to move forward to ensure the long term security of the charity. The committee has worked very hard to ensure that the charity's new ventures through the opening up of Woodlands; the new café, and the education room, have been a success. It is our hope that by opening up Woodlands as the face of the charity that this ensures the professionalism of the charity. The charity has been in existence for more than 30 years not and it is our duty to plan and secure the charity for the next 30 years.

The legacy income has declined this year so this has meant that those projects funded entirely by charity money have been planned conservatively. The charity relies heavily on legacy income and on the good nature of its

supporters both during their lifetime and after their death to support Animal Care and we are very grateful for all the financial assistance received.

Animal Care wholeheartedly believes in the charity's role as an educator and this is becoming one of the strengths of Animal Care in the local community. We now have a fully functioning education room that can be used to give presentations to local groups to promote the care of animals. This room is also available for local groups to hire for their own purposes.

The income stream through the charity shop has decreased over the year. However, despite this the volunteers who are involved with the shop in Morecambe, the shop at Woodlands and GB Antiques in Lancaster is unfaltering. The shops are our main source of regular income and we rely heavily on those shops to support Animal Care every month without fail.

Everyone at Animal Care has worked very hard within this last period and in this we must include the staff, trustees, members and volunteers without whom Animal Care simply could not survive but with whom Animal Care has thrived. Many of our volunteers do not seek the limelight but without them the life of the staff would be much more difficult.

We know that the charity will move from strength to strength in the future and the charity and the work that the charity carries out is a credit to everybody involved. We have one goal and that is to do all we can to enhance the lives of animals whilst they are in our care, be determined to find permanent homes for those animals and educate the public as to the welfare of animals in our society.

The Chair took questions from the members:  
Committee asked about accounts and when they would be available. There had been a delay at accountants due to illness so the committee had only just received them that day. They would be circulated as soon as all the formalities had been completed and members were asked to leave details with Faye and Linda in the office and they would be circulated as soon as possible.

A question was taken about fundraising and if there was a breakdown available. This would be available from the office should anyone wish to have the information.

The vote and confirmation of members of the committee took place.  
Members were confirmed as

Romy Hinde	Chair
Sarah Murphy	Deputy Chair
Steve Hinde	Treasurer
Barbara Cook	Secretary
Bernard Cook	

Joanne Knowles  
Tony Miller  
Sandra Roe  
Tom Skupham  
Robert Watson

Reserve members  
Anita Knight  
Len Robinson

These were duly elected by the members present.

The Chair thanked everyone for attending and closed the meeting.