

Mid-year report

/// Rescue. Protect. Lead.



More people. More animals. More need - and a strong response.

It was my privilege to join the Scottish SPCA in August. While I can't take credit for the incredible achievements of the last six months, I'm proud to share these stories of success – and the dedication behind them.

At the halfway point, demand for our services continues to grow. We're seeing more calls to give up pets, more wildlife in urgent need, and consistent demand for our frontline expertise. Guided by our strategy, we're rescuing animals, reaching people earlier, and working in partnership to improve outcomes across Scotland.

Our teams are out every day protecting animals from harm, rehabilitating injured wildlife, and preventing suffering before it starts – through PetAid, education, and Community Advice Hubs. We're also using our voice to push for stronger protections and better policy, informed by evidence and lived experience.

We remain committed to our Community First approach, and in September we'll publish our first Interim Impact Report – the start of telling the story of our impact journey and how we plan to measure the difference we make.

Everything we do is driven by the passion of our colleagues, volunteers, partners and supporters. Animal welfare depends on everyone.

Mark Bishop
Chief Executive, Scottish SPCA



2025 at a glance

January - June



351

animals in foster homes so far – safe, supportive spaces improving welfare while they wait for their forever home.

↑ 62.5%



3,076

animals arrived into our care – from dogs, cats and horses to farm animals in need of help.

↑ 6.22%



2,400

calls to give up pets - most citing behavioural issues they felt unable to manage.

↑ 19.5%



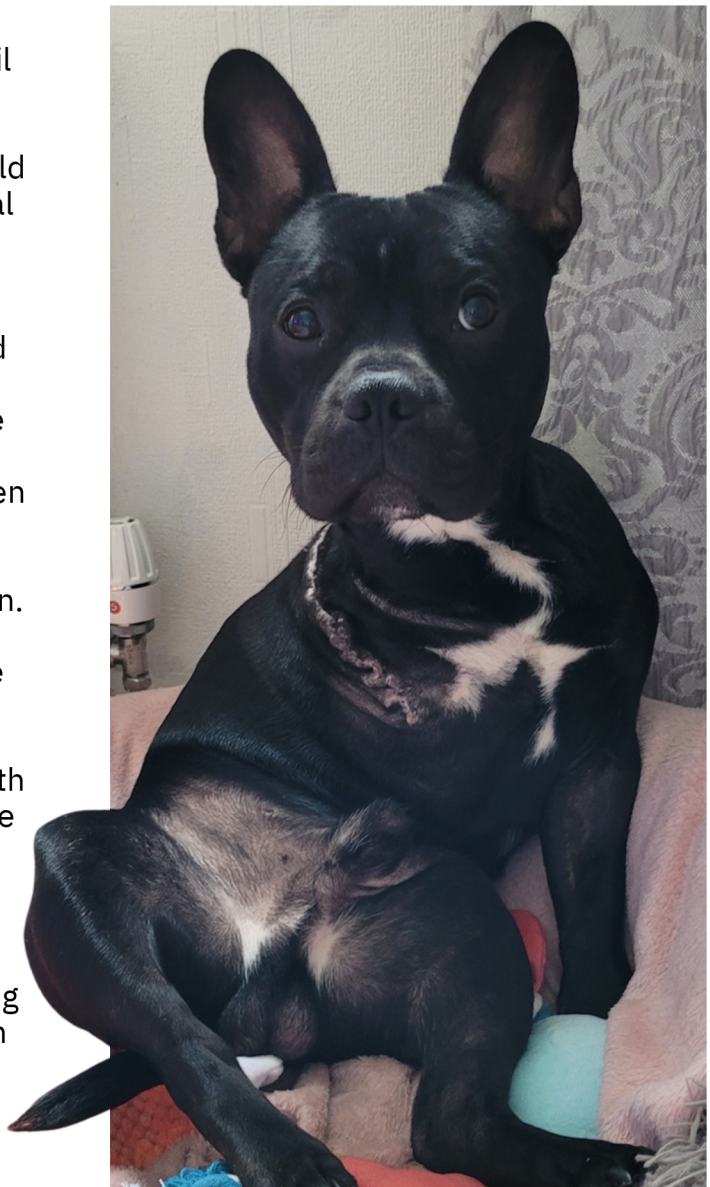
A second chance, with Pet Aid Vet

When one-year-old Star visited our Community Advice Hub for a simple nail clip, our team noticed something worrying – a significant limp. Owner, Anne-Marie, explained it was from an old break, which she'd been told would heal on its own.

Our team wasn't convinced. They recommended an X-ray, which revealed the damage was severe and that Star's best chance of a pain-free life would be to have the leg amputated. Anne-Marie agreed immediately – she'd already seen the toll it was taking. Since the injury, Star had become withdrawn, uninterested in play, and too tired to run.

Thanks to Pet Aid Vet, Star received the surgery he needed. Today, he's a completely different dog – stronger, happier, and back to his playful self. With the pain gone, he's enjoying life on three legs, running and playing without anything holding him back.

This is just one of many stories made possible through Pet Aid Vet – delivering food, advice, and vital veterinary care in the heart of communities, helping to keep pets healthy, happy, and where they belong.



Anne-Marie, Star's owner says...

'Just an amazing service, put us at right at ease. I can't thank the sspca enough for all that they have done for Star and us.'



Rescue

GETTING TO MORE ANIMALS - AND KEEPING THEM IN THE ENVIRONMENT THEY THRIVE IN

Every day, our teams are on the ground across Scotland, responding to animals in urgent need of help.

From tackling organised animal crime to investigating reports of cruelty and neglect, our inspectors and animal rescue officers are delivering life-saving interventions with professionalism, empathy and grit.

We've also seen a significant increase in the number of wild animals requiring urgent care. At our National Wildlife Centre, animals are rehabilitated and given the best possible chance of returning to their natural habitats – from orphaned fox cubs to injured swans and seals.

At the same time, we're continuing to support animals through rehoming and fostering – giving hundreds of pets a fresh start in loving, homes.



2,326

wild animals admitted

↑ 5.6%

1,933

animal rehomed

↑ 2.38%

17,091

incidents attended by AROs

↑ 7.2%

7,426

investigations

↓ 4.2%

Protect

PREVENTING SUFFERING BEFORE IT STARTS THROUGH EARLY SUPPORT



Many people relinquish their pets due to behavioural challenges they feel unable to manage. By making behaviour support a core part of our Community Advice Hubs, we can help owners address these issues and keep animals in loving homes.

Alongside this, Pet Aid continues to provide vital meals, vet care, and guidance for those facing hardship. Through partnerships with SAMH, Citizens Advice, and Simon Community Scotland, we address both animal and human welfare — offering joined-up help for those who need it most.

We also believe education is key. Our pioneering Animal Guardians programme — the only one of its kind in the UK — is helping children develop empathy, compassion, and a better understanding of animal needs. Thanks to a new study by the University of Edinburgh, we now have strong evidence this approach works, with children showing measurable improvements in behaviour, animal welfare knowledge, and empathy.

44,907

*pet meals provided by
Pet Aid Food*

564

*animals and their owners
received support or were
referred for treatment
through Pet Aid Vet*

52

*completed Animal
Guardian referrals*

Lead

CHAMPIONING CHANGE FOR ANIMALS – AND THE PEOPLE WHO CARE FOR THEM

We're not just responding to animal welfare issues – we're shaping the solutions. Through our education, policy and engagement work, we use evidence to influence and advocate for lasting change.

We chair the UK and Irish Pet Trade Taskforce, tackling the commercial trade of animals where welfare is compromised. This work is built on strong partnerships, collaborating across nations with other SPCAs, Police, and the UK, Welsh, Northern Irish and Irish Governments.

At this year's Royal Highland Show, we strengthened relationships with key farming organisations, including NFUS and RSABI, recognising that cross-sector collaboration is vital for better welfare outcomes.

We continue to drive national conversations across the political and research sectors, ensuring animal welfare is recognised in areas such as housing, mental health, domestic abuse, conservation, trade deals, online safety and organised crime.



Welfare of Dogs (Scotland) Act

Shaped new laws to raise dog ownership standards and help curb the puppy trade.

PASSED!

IN PROGRESS

Dog Theft (Scotland) Bill

Backing a new law to make dog theft a specific crime.

LAUNCHED

Greyhound Racing (Offences) (Scotland) Bill

Supporting legislation to end greyhound racing on oval tracks in Scotland.

LAUNCHED

Don't Pet Me Campaign

Leading the call for a permitted list of species that can legally be kept as pets to be introduced.

LAUNCHED

Financials

MANAGING RESOURCES CAREFULLY - AND INVESTING WHERE IT MATTERS MOST

As we reach the halfway point in the year, we continue to navigate financial challenges with a clear focus on delivering the greatest impact for animals.

So far this year, our income is behind budget, reflecting wider pressures on charitable giving. However, careful cost management has kept expenditure down too, resulting in a year-to-date deficit of £2.7 million, lower than anticipated at this stage.

We're managing our finances carefully and prioritising investment in the areas that matter most. This includes our people, centres, and services like PetAid, all of which are vital to supporting both animals and communities.

We remain incredibly grateful for the continued generosity of the public, our funders, and the individuals and families who leave legacy gifts. And we thank the nearly **1,000** active volunteers giving their time and commitment to help us deliver our mission every day.

Income

£7.58m

vs. budget of £9.98m
(£11.42 cash received - difference due to legacy income accounting rules)

Legacy & in-memory giving:

£6.71m

Trust income:

£814k

Expenditure

£11.1m

vs. budget of £12.70m

Operating deficit:

£3.5m

vs. budget of £3.39m



Working with Erskine Veterans

WORKING IN PARTNERSHIP ALLOWS US TO REACH MORE PEOPLE AND ANIMALS, SHARE EXPERTISE, AND ACHIEVE GREATER IMPACT THAN WE COULD ALONE



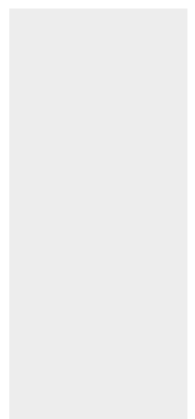
By joining forces with like-minded organisations, we can combine our strengths to improve animal welfare and support communities in meaningful ways.

Our new partnership with Erskine Veterans Charity does exactly that. Residents from Erskine's care homes visit our centres to spend time with animals, helping to socialise them while providing comfort, companionship, and connection for older adults.

For many veterans, the presence of animals brings joy, eases loneliness, and offers a renewed sense of purpose. Together, we're creating special moments for those who have given so much — while helping our animals feel calm, connected, and ready for their forever homes.

John, a RAF Veteran from Erskine Veterans says...

"It gives you something to look forward to and this kind of connection brings so much joy. An animal reminds you that you're still needed and that there's still so much love to give and receive. It's a wonderful thing Erskine and the SSPCA are doing, and I am delighted to be taking part."





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The Scottish Society for the Prevention of Cruelty to Animals (Scottish SPCA or SSPCA) is a Scottish Charitable Incorporated Organisation (SCIO) registered with the Scottish Charity Regulator (OSCR), Scottish Charity Number SC006467, and a company limited by guarantee, Company Number SC201401

