# Annual Review





# Contents

02	Saving lives
04	ER for pets
06	Keeping them healthy
08	Thanks for your support
10	Making a commitment
12	A job well done
14	PDSA PetAid service locations
15	PDSA shop and fundraising group locations
16	Income and expenditure



# A message from the Director General

Every working day PDSA veterinary staff treat, free of charge, more than 4,500 sick and injured pets. All are animals belonging to the most vulnerable people in society, people who, quite simply, are unable to afford private veterinary fees and who, when their pet needs medical treatment, have nowhere else to

turn for caring and professional

leading veterinary charity.

veterinary help than PDSA, Britain's

In 2003 PDSA caseloads rose by 8

per cent, reaching 1.2 million

consultations at the 43 PetAid

hospitals nationwide. And this

treated free of charge through

figure does not include the many

thousands of sick and injured pets

PDSA's links with private practice.

Sadly, being hit by a car remains

pets resulting in a trip to a PDSA

compound fractures to parvovirus,

and treat it all. No wonder PDSA

vets and nurses say that their heavy

PetAid hospital. But, from

tumours to ringworm, foreign bodies to diabetes, PDSA staff see

the most common cause of injury to

caseloads ensure they treat a broader range of injury and illness in a year than many of their private practice colleagues see in an entire career. I am sure that our founder, Maria

Dickin, would be delighted with what is achieved for sick and injured animals in PDSA PetAid hospitals. I am equally sure that she would not expect us to rest on our laurels. She would certainly remind us that we still need to reach many more eligible clients and their pets. So, I am pleased to report that in 2003 PDSA opened a new PetAid hospital in Basildon, The Coco Markus Centre; began work on another new PetAid hospital in Bradford and continued to develop links with private practice through the PetAid practice scheme. Here, private practices make free PDSA-funded veterinary care available to the sick and injured pets of their PDSA-eligible clients.

In 2003 twenty-five new PetAid practices were introduced in smaller communities across Britain and, in a first for the veterinary industry, PDSA joined forces with VetSavers, part of the Best Friends Group, to launch pilots of the Partnership project and offer free PDSA-funded veterinary care to the pets of eligible clients and a full veterinary service to fee-paying clients - all under the one PDSA roof.

PDSA's ongoing commitment to promoting responsible pet ownership was further emphasised with a third year of the PDSA PetCheck programme to provide pet care advice and information as well as free health checks for dogs. The charity also launched PDSA National PetCheck Week to raise awareness of the need for pets to be registered with a veterinary surgeon, and introduced a series of new responsible pet care information leaflets, supported by a variety of media activities and promotions.

But the cost of saving lives is high. In 2003 PDSA spent nearly £33 million providing PetAid services - a figure that is raised, quite remarkably, entirely by public support each year. In order to maintain and expand PetAid services PDSA must continue to successfully translate the public's genuine concern for the welfare of animals into an awareness of the charity and a growth in legacies, donations and other income.

There are too many groups and individuals to whom sincere gratitude is due for friendship and support in 2003 for me to list them here. You know who you are, and I thank you. I also know you'll understand why PDSA will be back next year for more of your support for pets in need of vets!

Marily Rydston

# Case study

One small puppy attracted worldwide media attention in April 2003 after managing to swallow an eight-inch-long kitchen knife. Jake, a Staffordshire Bull Terrier puppy, was brought into the Liverpool PDSA PetAid hospital in Huyton where staff operated immediately to remove the lethal blade. Happily, Jake quickly bounced back to full health. His story received coverage not only in the national press in Britain but also in America, Japan and Germany.

Every working day free veterinary treatment from PDSA PetAid hospitals and practices is available to the sick and injured pets of those unable to afford private vet's fees. However, in an emergency, any animal is given essential life-saving treatment regardless of whether the owner qualifies for free PDSA treatment – 24 hours a day, 7 days a week.

It takes a great deal of specialist equipment and knowledge to offer this kind of emergency service and PDSA is committed to keeping its PetAid hospitals up to date, replacing or refurbishing PetAid hospitals as they age.

In February Coronation Street star, William Roache, MBE, who plays Ken Barlow, officially opened a new purpose-built PetAid hospital in Derby to replace old, outdated facilities. The down-to-earth actor took a keen interest in the new PetAid hospital and was delighted to confirm that his interest in animal welfare began as a child with membership of Busy Bees – the predecessor to Pet Protectors, PDSA's club for young people.

PDSA is committed to extending the availability of free PetAid services to all those eligible for and needing veterinary help. In June 2003 PDSA

opened the forty-sixth PetAid hospital, The Coco Markus Centre, in Vange, Basildon to pet patients. This new hospital cost £950,000 to build and £100,000 to equip; it has two operating theatres and four veterinary consulting rooms. The purpose-built PetAid hospital benefitted from a most generous donation of £750,000 from the Estate of the late Mrs Coco Markus. The PetAid hospital attracted a notable level of public support and captured intense local media interest, when it opened.

In 2003 PDSA also arranged for 25 private veterinary practices to join the PetAid practice scheme providing free PDSA-funded veterinary treatment in communities too small to justify a PDSA PetAid hospital. The new practices covered locations from Scotland to North Wales and Kent.

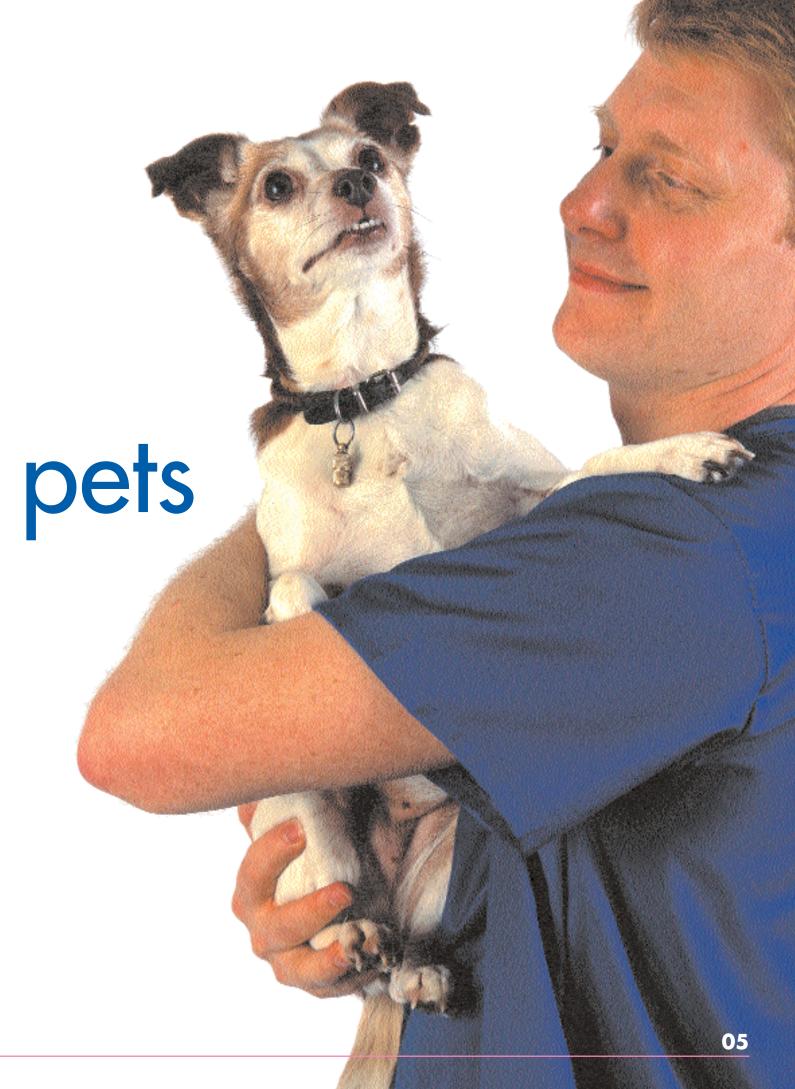
It is a key priority for PDSA to maintain PDSA PetAid services in every community in which they are available on a stable, sustainable and long-term basis. Rather than close PetAid hospitals in Northampton, Southampton and Bournemouth because of falling caseloads, 2003 also saw the launch of the Partnership project at these sites with PDSA joining forces with private practice to offer free

PDSA-funded veterinary care to the pets of eligible clients and a full veterinary service to fee-paying clients all under the one PDSA roof.

Roy Trustram Eve, Chairman, said, "Combining the charitable service and a value-for-money private practice under one roof enables PDSA to utilise more fully the resources of these PetAid hospitals and maximises the veterinary care provided to their local communities. The operational efficiencies and new income streams this offers are key to funding expansion of PetAid services into new areas of significant need."

ER for pets

Providing a pet's version of a
Casualty Department in locations
the length and breadth of Britain is
a complex but rewarding task.
Meeting the enormous challenge is
Jan McLoughlin, who was
appointed Director of Veterinary
Services in April, following the
retirement of Gairn Ross, OBE. Jan
is supported by Stoke-on-Trent vet,
Richard Hooker, who was
appointed as PDSA's first Chief
Veterinary Surgeon in June.





# Case study

Rabbits are known for their hopping ability, but when Kandi jumped out of his owner's arms it all went horribly wrong. By landing badly, Kandi fractured his hind leg and it required all the skill of veterinary staff at the East Glasgow PDSA PetAid hospital for Kandi to make a full recovery.



PDSA believes that all pet owners have a responsibility for the care and wellbeing of their animals. The charity is therefore committed to helping owners keep their pets healthy through promoting responsible pet care.

### **PDSA PetCheck programme**

In 2003 the PDSA PetCheck vehicle, generously donated by Julie and Robert Breckman, again toured the country, staffed by PDSA veterinary nurses providing advice and information on pet ownership and PDSA National PetCheck Week in September. Nearly 700 private veterinary practices joined PDSA PetAid hospitals in offering free health checks to pets and providing pet owners with advice about pet health.

PDSA National PetCheck Week was launched by diet and fitness expert, Rosemary Conley, who firmly believes that healthy lifestyles are important for humans and pets alike. "It's too easy to take good health for granted and then not understand why we, or our pets, become ill," she

said, "Raising awareness of responsible pet ownership is an integral part of the PDSA mission. Increasing general pet care knowledge for all pet owners will ultimately lead to improved health and wellbeing for the nation's pets."

PDSA delivers a responsible pet care message every month through informative leaflets and posters available from PDSA PetAid hospitals and PDSA shops and by post from the PDSA website www.pdsa.org.uk The messages are also supported by

# Keeping them healthy

free health checks for dogs. Over 1,800 PetChecks were undertaken, focusing on diet, weight, grooming and dental care.

In April the Blue Peter dogs, Mabel and Lucy, were 'PetChecked' by PDSA Veterinary Nurse, Philippa Herbert, during an episode of the BBC children's programme, while presenters, Matt Baker and Konnie Huq, explored the PetCheck vehicle, parked outside the famous Blue Peter studios in London.

Data from the PetChecks undertaken revealed a high proportion of overweight dogs and also that a high number of pets had never seen a veterinary surgeon. Concern over these findings led to the very first said. "So many ailments and illnesses in humans and animals are preventable with improved eating habits and more exercise."

A free information leaflet, PDSA Diet and Fitness for you and your pet, written in association with Rosemary, was available during the week. Demand for the leaflet was huge and PDSA's Call Centre in Sunderland distributed more than 176,000 copies to pet owners all over Britain.

### Responsible pet care

In November, PDSA launched another new responsible pet ownership initiative, aimed at increasing pet owners' knowledge of key pet care subjects. Chief Veterinary Surgeon, Richard Hooker, extensive media and PR activity. Topics covered in 2003 were vaccinations and pet first aid.

### Ask the Vet

The PDSA website www.pdsa.org.uk contains a veritable host of pet care information and advice, from planning a safe garden to choosing a pet, from neutering to dental care. The website now regularly receives over 1.7 million hits every month representing more than 15,000 unique visitors. The most popular pages in 2003 were the Ask the Vet questions and answers where visitors to the website can submit questions to PDSA Senior Veterinary Surgeon, Elaine Pendlebury, who then posts her reply on the site.



# Case study

When fat cat, Boy, arrived at Aberdeen PDSA PetAid hospital weighing a staggering 7 kilograms, it was clear he needed to lose some weight. Support and guidance from veterinary staff helped Boy's owner, Karen Gerrard, put him on a strict diet. At 5.5 kilograms he has now lost nearly a quarter of his body-weight, and is much happier and healthier

The task of providing free treatment to 4,500 sick and injured pets every working day is so immense that PDSA needs every penny donated.

By selling a mix of new and donated goods, PDSA shops contribute more than £1.8m towards the costs of PetAid services each year. Nine new PDSA shops opened in 2003, bringing the total to 170. PDSA shops maintain high

Roberts), gave her time to call for more donations of clothes and bricà-brac to PDSA shops, as well as asking people to make a cash donation while they were shopping. Keen bargain hunters also had the first chance to shop online, at PDSA's new e-shop, www.eshop.pdsa.org.uk for best-selling PDSA-branded cards, toys and seasonal new goods. The online shop was designed and

Challenge of a Lifetime, trekking along the Great Wall of China.

PDSA also received support of a different kind from a number of celebrities during 2003. Famous people gave their time to meet supporters at the PDSA stand at Crufts including Coronation Street star, Malcolm Hebden (Norris Cole), EastEnder and long-time PDSA supporter, Pam St Clement,

standards of presentation and the 2003 National Retail Display competition was very closely fought. The Worthing PDSA shop and its display encouraging people to try their hands at volunteering was chosen as the winner.

Overall results for 2003 show that the Waltham Cross shop was the top profit maker, the Barnet shop had the most sales per square foot and Waltham Cross was the top-selling shop.

Celebrity supporter and Coronation Street star, Sue Nicholls (Audrey

produced in-house and makes it possible for shoppers all over Britain to buy PDSA-branded goods.

The 81 PDSA fundraising groups also worked hard to raise funds with a mixture of fairs, fun dog shows, sponsored walks and charity auctions. Groups of keen walkers completed PDSA's Three Peaks Challenge in June by climbing Britain's three highest peaks within 24 hours. Individual PDSA supporters raised sponsorship money by running in the London Marathon, and by taking part in the 2003 PDSA

and the original Big Brother winner, Craig Phillips.

A galaxy of stars also agreed to be photographed with their precious pets by Lord Lichfield for the first ever PDSA Pet Pawtraits calendar - actresses, Amanda Holden, Jenny Seagrove, Wendy Richard and Lucy Speed; radio DJs, Johnny Vaughan and Sara Cox; actor, William Roache; television presenters, Gail Porter, Linda Barker and Paul O'Grady; and chef, Antony Worrall Thompson. The calendar was sold online as well as through PDSA shops.



# Case study

Breezy, a one-year-old cross-breed dog, needed six weeks of treatment and two operations after being frightened by New Year's Eve fireworks. The terrified dog seriously injured her leg while trying to jump over a child's stair gate in flight from the noise. She was taken to Blackpool PDSA PetAid hospital as an emergency out-of-hours case and went straight into surgery. The healing process was long and complicated, but eventually, Breezy made a full recovery.



Sharing life with a pet is a big commitment but one that brings many rewards. Pets can teach us a lot about the good things in life, especially loyalty, love and the importance of good health.

Many PDSA supporters have also made a big commitment to support their favourite charity on a long-term basis. PDSA now has more than 58,000 Best Friends who make regular monthly donations to PDSA for pets in need of vets.

There are many others who give to PDSA in different ways, through cash donations, gifts in wills, using a PDSA credit card or by giving a certain amount of time each week donated their time and expertise to become PDSA volunteers. These generous people know that their support is vital to PDSA's long-term success and new PDSA awards for volunteers help to recognise this fact.

Nominations for the title of outstanding voluntary team and individual volunteer were gathered throughout the year and the winners were the Musselburgh PDSA shop and Bournemouth Fundraising Group Chair, Cindy Jermon.

Understanding the nature of commitment to pet welfare starts early and PDSA's club for young people, Pet Protectors, encourages this. Young Fundraiser of the Year 2002 because I love animals. I was thrilled to learn that I had not only won the Young Fundraiser of the Year title through my fundraising activities but I was also Pet Protector of the Year. As the top Pet Protector I was invited to visit Crufts, where I had a wonderful time visiting the PDSA stand and seeing the many different breeds of dogs. It will be something I will never forget. I now urge all my friends who love animals to join the Pet Protectors Club, it's the best pet club ever!"

Enthusiasm and support for PDSA come from young and old alike. In 2003 gifts in wills totalled £25m, an enormous contribution to the cost of providing free treatment for sick

Making a commitment

to volunteer in a PDSA shop or fundraising group. All are equally important and are key to enabling PDSA to provide free veterinary care to sick and injured animals. In 2003 more than 4,500 people and Pet Protector of the Year, Seonead Adams (12), is an excellent example of the energy young people bring to PDSA. After winning both titles, she said, "I joined the Pet Protectors Club in and injured pets. It is difficult to overstate the importance of legacy income to PDSA as two in every three sick and injured pets are treated thanks to gifts in wills.



# Case study

Snowy the cat began to have trouble breathing and his condition rapidly deteriorated during surgery to investigate an old leg injury. PDSA veterinary staff discovered that Snowy's diaphragm, a wall of muscle separating his chest cavity from his stomach, had been ruptured, probably due to a road accident when he was living as a stray. Left untreated, the injury would eventually have proved fatal, but happily, vets repaired the damage and Snowy is no longer in danger.





PDSA has worked hard to earn the right to be known as Britain's leading veterinary charity but it owes its continued success to the energy and determination of those who support its work and dedicate their efforts to the care of sick and injured animals.

In October four members of staff received certificates of appreciation from the PDSA Council of Management for 25 years' service.

the British Veterinary Nurse Association Congress in October.

In July Halesowen volunteer, Jane Bergin, was named the Young Volunteer of the Year at the Association of Charity Shops' annual conference. Jane has volunteered her time at the PDSA shop in Harborne, Birmingham, since 1991 and says volunteering helped her overcome shyness and build self-confidence.

December with the presentation of the sixtieth PDSA Dickin Medal, known as the 'animals' Victoria Cross'.

Royal Army Veterinary Corps sniffer dog, Buster, a five-year-old Springer Spaniel, received the award for his services in Iraq, where he located a hidden cache of arms, drugs and explosives. After Buster's find, attacks on British troops in the area stopped and soon afterwards, they were able to replace their steel helmets with berets.

Earlier in the year, the PDSA Dickin Medal was awarded posthumously to Sam, a Royal Army Veterinary Corps guard and patrol dog, for his outstanding gallantry during the conflict in Bosnia-Herzegovina in April 1998.

2003 also marked the sixtieth anniversary of the PDSA Dickin Medal and, to mark the occasion, PDSA commissioned a limited edition bronze by sculptress, Caroline Wallace. The bronze portrays Beauty DM, pioneer World War II search and rescue dog, with her handler, PDSA Superintendent Bill Barnet, leader of a PDSA Animal Rescue Squad during the London Blitz.

On Remembrance Day PDSA representatives joined other animal charity, military and veterinary groups to march past the Cenotaph in London as part of the Animals in War contingent.

A job well done

Linda Capewell, Head Nurse at Sheffield PDSA PetAid hospital, Elaine Pendlebury, Senior Veterinary Surgeon Veterinary Communications, Pat Varndell, Cleaner at Southsea PetAid medical unit and Judith Holmes, Head Nurse at Brighton PetAid hospital all joined PDSA in 1978 and are remarkable in their loyalty and dedication to PDSA.

After studying for and undertaking a national nursing dermatology exam, Mary Mullender, Veterinary Nurse at Quinton PDSA PetAid hospital in Birmingham, was awarded the Leo Shield, presented by Leo Animal Health to the candidate achieving the highest marks. Mary received the shield at Honorary President of the Basildon and District Fundraising Group, was named Most Enthusiastic Volunteer by the United Nations International Volunteer Association. Angela Smith, MP for Basildon, and John Baron, MP for Billericay, presented the award in December.

Long-standing volunteer, Bert Hills,

In HM The Queen's New Year's Honours list, Council of Management Trustee, John Butterfill, MP, received a Knighthood, while former PDSA Director of Veterinary Services, Gairn Ross, received an OBE for services to animal welfare.

PDSA's ongoing association with animals in active service during wartime was highlighted in



# Case study

When Molly's abdomen became swollen and she appeared lethargic, the hamster was taken to Swansea PDSA PetAid hospital where it was discovered that she needed an immediate hysterectomy. Veterinary staff performed the operation, a delicate procedure on such a tiny animal but one with a high success rate. Molly began eating the following day and quickly made a full recovery.

# PDSA PetAid service locations

# ▲ PDSA PetAid hospitals

### **Scotland and North West**

Aberdeen Blackpool Dundee Edinburgh Glasgow (East) Glasgow (Shamrock St.) Liverpool (Everton) Liverpool (Huyton) Manchester

### Northern region

Bradford

Hull

Leeds

Sheffield

Sunderland

Gateshead Huddersfield Middlesbrough

### Midlands and Wales

Birmingham (Aston) Birmingham (Quinton) Bristol Cardiff Coventry Derby Leicester Nottingham Stoke-on-Trent Swansea Wolverhampton

### **London and South**

Basildon Bow Brighton Cowplain Croydon Gillingham Hendon Ilford New Cross Plymouth Romford Southend Southsea

Thamesmead

## PDSA PetAid practice locations

Aberdare & district Aberystwyth Aldeburgh & Saxmundham Aldershot & Farnham Andover Anglesey Arbroath Ashford Ashington Newbiggir & Morpeth Ayr & Troon Banbury Bangor, Caernarfon & district Barnstaple Barrow-in-Furness Bath Bexhill-on-Sea Bishop Auckland Blackwood & district Bodmin Boston Bridgnorth Bridlington Bury St Edmunds Buxton Canterbury Carlisle Cheltenham Chesterfield Clacton-on-Sea Colchester

Falmouth & Helston Folkestone Forfar Gainsborough

& Retford Rugeley Galston & Newmilns Glenrothes Gloucester Goole Granthan Greenock Hailsham Harrogate Harwich Helensburgh Hereford Ipswich Irvine & Saltcoats Isle of Wiaht Street Kendal Kettering Stroud Kilmarnock

Kina's Lynn Kirkcaldv & Levenmouth Launcestor Lincoln Liskeard Llandudno Llangollen & district Luton Macclesfield

Malvern Maybole & district Congleton Midsomer Norton & Frome Consett Cumnock & district Montrose Newmarket Doncaster Dorchester

Norwich Dover Dumfries Oswestry Dunfermline Eastbourne Oxford Ebbw Vale & district Pembroke Elain Ely Pitlochry Exeter

Porthcawl

& Bridgend

Redruth & Camborne Rhyl & Prestatyn Rugby

Rye & Ten St Austell St Leonarc & Hastir Salisbury Scarborou Scunthorp Shrewsbu Skegness Skipton Sleaford Southport Stafford Stirling & Glast

Sudbury Swindon Taunton Telford Tewkesbui Thetford Thurso Tiverton Torquay Truro Uttoxeter Wareham & Swan Wells & d

Weston-Su Whitby Whitehay & distric Whitstable Wick Wincheste Windsor Worcester Workingto Penzance & St Ives Wrexham Yeovil

York

# ▲ PetAid partnership hospitals

Southampton Northampton Thornbury Westbury

# PDSA fundraising group and shop locations

### PDSA shops

West Scotland & **Tyne Tees** 

Byker Callande Chester-le-Street Co Durham Fort William Glasgow x 3 Greenock Helensburgh Kilmarnock Newcastle-upon-Tyne Paisley Peterlee Rutherglen Stirling Sunderland Whitley Bay

### Wales & Bristol

Wishaw

Bedminster Caerphilly Cardiff x 2 Gloucester Knowle Merthyr Tydfi Morriston Newport Penarth Port Talbot Portishead Staple Hill Swansea

### **Northwest** Blackpool

Bolton Burton-on-Tren Cheadle Chorlton Derby Grantham Hanley Huyton Leigh Long Eaton Liverpool - Old Swan Oldham - Beeston Prescot Preston Sale Sutton-in-Ashfield

### Southwest

Boscombe Christchurch Exeter x 2 Mutley Plain Newton Abbot Plymouth St Austell Street Taunton Teignmouth Torquay Winton

Dudley Erdington Harborne King's Heath Kingstanding Leicester Northfield Oswestry Shirley Solihull Stafford Stourbridge Uttoxeter Wellington Weoley Castle Wolverhampton

Weston-Super-Mare

### Midlands **South Coast** Ashford Bognor Regis

Briahton Chatham Eastbourne Gosport Newcastle-under-Lyme Havant Maidstone Newhaver Northend Orpington Portswood Ryde Shanklin Shirley Southsea St Leonards Worthing

### London & South Midle Aldershot

Banbury

Cheylesmore

Kentish Town

Nuneator

Oxford

Pinner

Purley

Rugby

Stevenage

West Ealing

Watford

Coventry

Harrow

Hendon

Barnet

& Anglia Barking Barkingside Basildon Clacton-on-Sea Colchester Diss Fast Ham Harold Hill **Ipswich** Leigh-on-Sea Loughton Sudbury Waltham Cross

### **Scotland East** Aberdeen x 3 **Broughty Ferry**

**London East** 

Edinburgh x 3 Elgin Galashiels Glenrothes Inverurie Lochee Montrose Musselburah Pitlochry Northeast

Barnsley

Bramley

Brighouse

Doncaster

Hull x 2

Otlev

Leeds x 2

Rotherham

Sheffield

Shipley

Whitby

York

Scarborough

Mexborough

Headingley

## ★ PDSA fundraising groups

Aldeburgh Andover Ayrshire Barcombe (East Sussex) Bearsden /Milngavie Bembridge (Isle of Wight) Birmingham Birmingham Aston Bishop Auckland Blackpool Bolton Bournemouth Bridlington Brighton Bristol Cambridgeshire Cardiff Chichester Clacton-on-Sea Cornwall Croydon Denby (Derby)

Derby

Doncaste

Edinburgh Exeter Formby Gateshead Gillingham  ${\sf Glasgow}$ Greenock Halifax Hereford Hertfordshire High Peak Inverness Isle of Lewis Leicester Lincoln Liverpool (Everton) Liverpool (Huyton) Llandudno Lochaber Morecambe Newcastle New Forest North Staffs

Norwich

Workingtor

Wrexham

York

Drumchapel (Glasgow)

Nottingham Oxford Plymouth Portsmouth Preston Romford Salisbury Sheffield Swansea Swindon Southampton Southend-on-Sea Southport Stafford Stockport Tayside Teeside Telford Trafford Wessex (Winchester Whitby Wirral Wolverhampton

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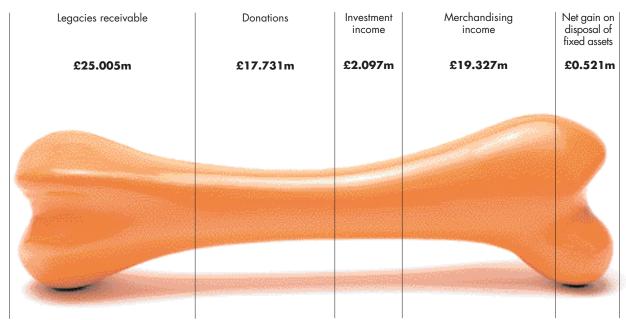
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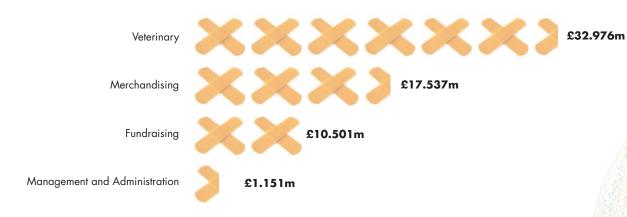
Exmouth

# Income and expenditure

Total incoming resources £64.681m



# Total outgoings £62.165m



The above information is a summary of the statutory accounts of PDSA for 2003. A copy of the full audited accounts can be obtained from Communications Department, PDSA, Whitechapel Way, Priorslee, Telford, Shropshire TF2 9PQ.



To find out if you qualify for free PDSA veterinary care, freephone **0800 731 2502**. For more information on the charity and its work email: pr@pdsa.org.uk freephone: **0800 917 2509** visit: www.pdsa.org.uk **PDSA Head Office** Whitechapel Way Priorslee, Telford Shropshire TF2 9PQ for pets in need of vets Registered charity no. 208217 Print kindly sponsored by Livesey Ltd Shrewsbury 01743 235651 Design by Underdog Creative Ltd 01244 661856 Main photography by Chris Harrison 0161 274 3077 (unless stated) © PDSA