

Economic Development Statement

Wadars, Hangleton Lane, Ferring. BN12 6PP

Wadars, a registered charity, has been an integral part of the local community of Worthing and the surrounding villages for fifty years, providing care and protection of animals of all kinds, in need of care and attention by reason of sickness, maltreatment, poor circumstances or other similar causes.

Our work centres on the rescue and rehoming of stray and unwanted domestic pets, including dogs, cats, rabbits and guinea pigs, the rescue and rehabilitation of wildlife in peril, the provision of appropriate veterinary treatment for both, the rehoming of pets into suitable homes, and the release of wildlife back into their natural environment. We also undertake an awareness, education and community engagement programme to promote responsible pet ownership and the protection of wildlife in its natural environment.

Historically, having no premises of our own, we have used commercial catteries and kennels for our domestic animals. This has meant significant additional costs to our homing program and (at least) a 20 mile round trip for each animal going in and out of our adoption process, and significant travelling for our potential adopters.

More significantly, is the impact on the wildlife in our care. When we receive a call from a member of the public about a wild animal in distress, a member of our animal welfare team assesses the animal for injuries and wherever possible, releases the animal back into its natural environment. Where there is an injury or ill health, we have the animal assessed and treated by a vet. The journey for the wild animal to the closest rehabilitation centre takes at least an hour in an animal ambulance, after which time, the outcome for many wild animals can be euthanasia, if it has not already died en-route.

Bringing all of the animal care into one area at Hangleton Lane, Ferring, gives us the opportunity to provide all of the services in one location, removing the need for journeys to and from catteries and kennels more than 10 miles away and to other wildlife centres, which are at least an hour away.

This has an impact both on the welfare and outcomes of the animals in our care, as well as reducing carbon emissions and traffic. The development of the cattery earlier this year has already more than doubled our rehoming of unwanted and stray cats and kittens.

We shall be providing additional employment opportunities plus major opportunities for volunteering and student work placements in the heart of West Sussex. The land which we have acquired already provides the right environment for our animal welfare work, in particular our wildlife work, and will enable us to deliver educational opportunities to the wider public in a natural setting.