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6 November 2020

To: All RSPCA Members

Dear Fellow Member,

### **AGM**

I have pleasure in attaching the formal notice of the Society's 191st Annual General Meeting ("AGM") which will take place on **16 December 2020**. In light of the exceptional circumstances of the current COVID-19 pandemic, we have worked hard on developing options on how to deliver this year's AGM in a way that helps protect everyone's health and safety. As a result, the Society's Board and the Charity Commission have agreed that this year's AGM will take place via a virtual online platform hosted by Civica Election Services ("CES"). CES are our independent election scrutineers and they have assisted the Society with our AGMs for a number of years now. This online platform will allow members to attend the meeting remotely (via a computer, tablet or smart phone), vote on resolutions and submit questions. The date of the AGM is slightly later than originally scheduled as we needed more time to put in place the necessary technical support.

We appreciate this is new territory for the Society and that some members may have concerns about the AGM being held online this year. We hope everyone will understand however, that like many other organisations at the present time, we are embracing new technology in order to carry on with our business, while at the same time adhering to current restrictions on social gatherings and public health guidance. We want to make it safe for as many members as possible to attend the AGM. The Society considered all potential options before reaching its decision (including even going so far as considering whether to postpone or cancel the AGM). We concluded that our Rules require an AGM to take place annually and we also recognised what an important occasion in the Society's calendar this event is, especially for our membership.

### **What to do now**

We hope you will join us at the Society's 191st Annual General Meeting. In order to do so, please register with the AGM team by sending an email to [agm2020@rspca.org.uk](mailto:agm2020@rspca.org.uk) (alternatively, if you want to raise a question for consideration but are unable to attend, please use this same address). When emailing please:

- use your preferred email account.  
*We will use this email address to send you further information about the AGM nearer the time<sup>1</sup>.*

***Please see over***

<sup>1</sup> A copy of the Society's Privacy Notice is available at <https://www.rspca.org.uk/utilities/privacy>

Patron HM The Queen

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West Sussex RH13 9RS  
0300 123 0100

DX 157200 HORSHAM 7

A charity registered in  
England & Wales  
Charity no. 219099

[www.rspca.org.uk/advice](http://www.rspca.org.uk/advice)

- state that you wish to attend.
- quote your name, address and membership number.

If possible, in order to assist us administratively in preparing for the day, please register by no later than 4th December.

If you need any help, please contact the Supporter Services team on 0300 123 0346 (Mon-Fri 9am-5pm), or send us your query using the online service on our website which is found at [www.rspca.org.uk/utilities/contactus/askus](http://www.rspca.org.uk/utilities/contactus/askus).

### **What happens next**

Those who have registered their intent to attend the AGM will be contacted nearer the time with further information about the day, including:

- Login details including an access code.  
*This is required to access the online platform hosting the meeting. Please note that this code will be emailed to you.<sup>2</sup>*
- an Agenda.
- an opportunity to familiarise yourselves with the virtual platform in advance of the meeting, together with helpful “how to” information.

### **Trustees’ Report and Accounts 2019**

The Trustees’ Report and Accounts 2019 is available to download on the Society’s website at <https://www.rspca.org.uk/whatwedo/latest/publications/reports>.

Hard copies have been sent out to those members who receive printed copies.

### **Update on the annual election of Trustees**

Earlier this year CES received applications from three candidates to fill three Board vacancies. The nominations were validated and the Society’s Rules provide that, in such circumstances, all three candidates are deemed to have been elected without a vote being taken. Consequently, no voting papers have been sent to members this year and I am pleased to confirm that Barbara Gardner, Karen Harley and David Thomas have been re-elected to the Board for a three year term.

Finally, thank you for your continued support during these unusual times and I hope we will have the pleasure of welcoming you virtually at our 191st AGM.

Yours sincerely,



René Olivieri  
**Chair of the RSPCA Board of Trustees**

Encs: AGM Notice 2020

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<sup>2</sup> Your email address will only be shared with CES for the purposes of participating in the Society’s AGM. Data will be stored for 6 months after the date of the AGM. A copy of CES’s Privacy Notice is available at <https://attend.cesjoinin.com/Privacy>