

7th Heaven Animal Rescue Trust

Trustees' Annual Report

1 April 2015 to 31 March 2016



(Some of the animals rehomed 2015-2016)

Charity Registration in Northern Ireland: NIC101696

HMRC Registration: XR65507 (March 2003)

7TH Heaven Animal Rescue Trust

Registered address:

PO Box 198, Newtownabbey, BT36 9BP

www.7thheaven.org.uk

Structure, governance and management

Nature of governing document

7th Heaven Animal Rescue Trust, which is also recognised as a charity by HM Revenue and Customs in Northern Ireland, is operated under the rules of its Trust Deed dated 24 March 2003.

Organisational structure

The Trust is governed by the Trustees.

A new Trustee may be appointed by resolution of a meeting of all the Trustees, passed by a majority of those present

Trustees:

Mrs Heather McMurray: Chair

Mr Stephen McMurray: Treasurer

Mrs Lorna Peppiatt: Secretary

Objectives

The Charity is established for the protection of all small domestic animals from abuse, neglect and distress by providing for their care and treatment in a safe environment with the aim to rehoming and in particular:

- A No Kill policy will operate except when an animal is suffering unnecessarily and when no further treatment is available and only following consultation with a veterinary surgeon and permission of 2 trustees
- To provide or make arrangements for the provision of animals which cannot be rehomed

Achievements and Performance 2015 / 2016

7th Heaven has continued to be inundated with requests to help the abused, neglected, distressed, unwanted or abandoned animals throughout Northern Ireland. We can't help them all, but we will always try to take in, care for and re-home as many as possible. We hope that in doing so, we will be promoting compassion and empathy in the public, whilst also giving a sense of companionship and well-being to those recipients of the re-homed animals

Animals:

Rehomed 2015/16: 49 Cats; 15 Dogs; 2 Rabbits
15 older cats have been provided with a long-term home

Our charity is set up to help animals in difficult situations. The animals generally coming into the charity will be anxious, distressed, or have been abused. This means that we need to spend a considerable time in rehabilitating them before they will be ready for rehoming. Whilst in our care, we aim to provide them with love, attention and the best quality living environment.

Several of the abused dogs we took in were following on from lengthy Council prosecutions, or had been abandoned by relatives following their owner's death or ill-health. The remainder had been handed over by their owners due to a change in their situation or illness, where they were no longer able to look after them. The dogs we took in were difficult to rehome as many had behavioral, or emotional problems, or were elderly (between 8 – 12 years old).

Over the last few years, the charity has also focused our attention on rescuing cats that are older, have medical problems or are difficult to home, as there are few options available for them elsewhere. Most of them came from people whose relationships were breaking up, were becoming homeless, going into hospital or who had died. There was no one else to care for them, and their only other option was to put them down. Although we still try to find them all a home, we acknowledge that some may remain in long-term care with us, so we have set aside the larger building where they can live out the remainder of their life in comfort and company. Their owners can be secure in the knowledge that they will get well looked after and will not be put down, as we have a 'No Kill' policy.

All received love, attention and whatever treatment necessary whilst in our care, with the aim of rehoming them to suitable, responsible owners. This, of course, is of great benefit to the animal but also has great rewards for the new owner who gets companionship and a lot of pleasure out of caring for an animal and from the affection it shows in return.

Other activities:

We can't help all the animals but we try to assist as many as we can. Where we can't actually bring them in, we try to help re-home them via our 'Matchmaking' scheme. If the owners actually want to keep the animals but are struggling financially we have our Pet Food Bank to help them.

Made In Heaven Matchmaking Scheme



Rehomed: Dogs - 19, cats - 6, ferret -1
Advised / supported: 72 families

Our free 'Made In Heaven' Matchmaking Service offers owners who are concerned where their pet will end up the chance to become more involved in the re-homing process. Ultimately they have the choice of where their pets are going to be homed whilst holding on to them in their own home environment until that is achieved. This not only helps the animal by preventing them becoming stressed in kennels but also helps the owner get peace of mind. We also discovered that in many occasions, the owner changed their mind and decided to keep their pet after discussing their options with us and listening to our advice. The feedback from those who used this service was very positive, alleviates stress from them being able to choose the new owner and everyone is happy with the level of support we have provided to them throughout.

Pet Food Bank



177 animals (2 rabbits, 77 cats, 96 dogs, 2 ferrets) received a good supply of free pet food. 39 families received ongoing support.

Our Pet Food Bank is designed to support people in financial hardship by providing free pet food, to enable them to hold onto their pets. This means they don't have to endure the stress of seeing their animal suffer distress by being put into kennels or pounds. Whilst we aim to provide temporary help to those in need, we acknowledge that there may be a few who may require a longer period of help, mainly due to benefits stopping suddenly, losing their job or prolonged illness. We assess each person's requirements individually.

We have Pet Food Bank donation points in Sainsbury's Forestside and Carrickfergus and in Jollyes Glengormley. These have been a huge success, providing pet food to all in need.

Value of pet food donated 2015 / 2016:

Sainsbury's Forestside	£2,961.51
Sainsbury's Carrickfergus	£2,925.45
Jollyes Glengormley	£927.33
Jollyes, Newry	£89.93
Pets At Home	£500.00
Heatherlea Pet Store	£210.00
Belfast Pug Club	£162.52

Total £7776.74

We have delivered all this pet food to pets whose owners are in need and those helping feed the feral and community cats throughout Northern Ireland.

We provide regular updates on our Facebook pages, 7th Heaven Animal Rescue Trust and Seventh Heaven, both on the pets helped and the donations gratefully received.

We would like to thank everyone who donated pet food to help feed them throughout the year. You are helping keep pets in their owner's homes and prevented 177 animals needing to be re-homed. We would also like to thank Citizen Advice Bureaux staff and other organisations for their numerous, necessary referrals to us for support to the pet owners when individuals approach them in financial need and they check if they have pets.

In addition to helping re-home domestic animals and supplying free pet food to pet owners we also assist feral cats in the community via our Project Wildcat Scheme

Project Wildcat Scheme and Feral Cat Month



Shelters provided: 35 Plastic Snugs, 6 large cabin kennels, 3 Medium cabin kennels, 2 small cabin kennels

This has provided a home for approximately 189 feral / community cats

10 feral cats were neutered; several cats received emergency surgery / treatment.

312 feral cats were supplied with free food.

1 snug has been donated and 2 gifted through donations.

Project Wildcat was set up to help feral cats and those who care for them by providing free shelter, neutering and food. Many more cats are neutered by the Trap, Neuter and Return individuals who contact us to provide shelter and food after this has been done. The public have been very supportive of this project and, as a result, we have now set up a scheme whereby they can now make a donation specifically for the purchase of shelters to be donated to anyone looking after feral cats.

We identified quite some time ago that there were a large number of feral cat colonies throughout the country and, although many were being fed by volunteers or local people, the cost to them was substantial. Therefore, as the Pet Food Bank donations were becoming a success, we decided that we had enough supplies to be able to offer pet food to the feral community too. Although we feed the ferals all year round we decided to highlight their plight by designating October as 'Feral Cat Month'.

From the positive feedback and support we have received about Project Wildcat and Feral Cat Month Schemes, they are a major success. We are the only people in Northern Ireland who provide this service and the obvious need for it means we will continue to help feral/community cats as part of our core services.

Pet Friendly Landlord Scheme



7th Heaven has been seeing a huge increase in people having to give up their pets when they move to new accommodation. Landlords throughout Northern Ireland seem reluctant to let pets stay in their accommodation and many who do, charge extra insurance, which many tenants cannot afford. This forces people to give up their beloved pets when their circumstances are beyond their control.

At the end of 2015/16, 7th Heaven contacted landlords and housing associations throughout Northern Ireland and have set up a scheme offering free promotion of suitable rented accommodation for pet owners.

Daisy Day



7th Heaven designated the 24th December as Daisy Day – a time to remember all the animals killed and injured in war. We have chosen the daisy as it symbolises innocence and, like the animal victims of war, they are numerous and always overlooked. We want everyone to say a prayer or spare a thought for the innocent animal victims of human war at this traditional time of peace.

On the 24th December each year from now on and on the days leading up to it, we are asking everyone if they could like and share our Daisy Day facebook page and encourage others to do so. We are hoping, maybe, that we could create a better awareness of their plight and if everyone on this day could think of those animals taken from us by man's conflicts, we could create a 'daisy-chain' of compassion, our thoughts the links of love joining us all together, across borders, race and religion. Maybe we could create a world where man no longer solves disputes by force or resolves differences by weapons. Maybe then the animals will stop suffering and dying at our hands. Please spare a moment to remember them.

Animal Welfare

During the year we were asked to take part in the ongoing review of the Animal Welfare Act with Department of Agriculture and Rural Development, Justice and other charities and organisations. Our charity put forward a number of proposals including: mandatory sentencing of animal cruelty, a linked up approach between PSNI & the councils including contacts and treatment of feral / domestic cat cruelty; call for a convicted offenders list; action of greyhound cruelty; promotion and education to prevent animal cruelty.

Finance

Income raised	£9,120.87
Payments	£17,759.57
Balance	- £8,638.70
Cash Funds brought forward:	£84,759.04
Funds at 31.3.2016	£76,120.34

Income raised:

Sainsbury's

The majority of our 2015/16 fundraising centered around Sainsbury's Carrickfergus, as we had been voted their Local Charity for the year. The Carrick store offered us use of their car park once a month to run a Car Boot Sale. This was a popular event attended by local residents and sellers, even when the weather was bad. Other opportunities to raise funds, receive pet food donations, promote the animals needing a home and raise awareness of our schemes included the Local Charity launch, a sponsored Cycle, in-store collections and a Christmas Craft Fair.

A total of £4,627.76 was raised during the year, including £684 through our in-store collection tins. £3,690 of this held by the company until the end of the Partnership and was paid to the charity June 2016. In addition the regular donations of pet food received through our Pet Food Bank donation point in-store brought the total donations of food and funds to £8,212.78.

Sainsbury's Forestside store permitted an in-store awareness day in October and £76.91 was donated in addition to pet food. Through the regular donations of pet food received through our Pet Food Bank donation point they also promote in-store, the total donation of funds and pet food was £3,038.42.

We would like to thank Sainsbury's customers for their generosity throughout the year and to Sainsbury's and their staff, especially their Charity Champions, for making this possible.

Jollyes

In 2015/16 we received £927.33 pet food donated to our Pet Food Bank donation point, £59.38 from our collection tin and £293.28 from store discounts.

We are grateful to Jollye's customers and staff in Glengormley, who have supported us for many years.

E-Bay / PayPal

The funds of £825.81 from E-Bay sales and PayPal / Giving Fund donations have continued to provide significant contribution towards income raised, with several individuals regularly donating each month.

We would like to thank everyone who donated funds from their sales, items for selling through our E-Bay charity site and for on-going regular support.

Friendship Scheme and Shelter Sponsorship

We have 19 Friends who continue to support our charity each month; 31 others who continue to donate both large and small amounts each year, 4 who specifically sponsor our kennels, long term residents and Project Wildcat shelters.

Other

We have recently set up other ways to raise funds and help our charity including (details are on our website):

- Amazon Wish List
- Give as You Live
- Payroll Giving in Action
- Pets at Home VIP Club Lifelines

We do not charge to take in or re-home any animal. As our motto states, "Animals are not commodities to be bought or sold. They are beautiful creatures with beautiful souls". We are not their 'owners' merely their 'guardians' and, therefore, have no moral right to put a price tag on their head. This is why we do not and never will charge for our animals. Nor do we do not charge for any of our schemes or support we provide. We do not receive any government support. So we would particularly like to thank everyone who donated funds to 7th Heaven. This is important to our charity to help us provide everything necessary to help animals both in our care and people and animals supported through our schemes.

Payments out:

We will make no personal profit from an animal's misery, which is why nobody involved in our charity gets paid which is why there are no expenses for staff wages.

Our major expense last year was for the ongoing refurbishment of the outbuildings housing our charity's rescued animals. £8,011.86 of funds was used to modernise some of the larger buildings to make it more comfortable for the longer term and older residents. This included upgrading to PVC windows and doors, larger outside runs, internal revamp and equipment such as bunk beds and scratch posts.

The majority of the £2,429.84 Project Wildcat cost was used for the purchase of 47 shelters of various sizes for feral or community cats. We receive no funding for this, but have recently set up the facility for the public to donate shelters or donate funds to support this scheme.

We incurred additional costs including the cost of new internet / website access (there is no charge for the design or upkeep as this is provided by the trustees), professional logo design for Daisy Day, leaflets and

business cards for the schemes and banners for events. We continue to keep printing costs low by preparing the newsletter for publishing and designing our own leaflets ourselves and using the excellent printing service of Print NI to produce high quality colour newsletters, posters and leaflets.

Thanks

We would also like to acknowledge all the people who have helped us in other ways. We really appreciate the regular donations of pet food direct from individuals to feed our long term and elderly residents. We also receive regular supplies of bedding which the animals are especially appreciative of. This all helps keep our costs low, Thanks to all the good Samaritans out there who did not look the other way but contacted us when they found a lost, ill or abandoned animal and many who provided a shelter for them until we could find room to take them in or a new home. We would especially like to thank everyone who has offered each of our rescue animals a new chance and a loving home.

Statement of Trustees' Responsibilities

The trustees are required to prepare financial statements for each financial year, which give a true and fair view of the state of affairs of the charity and of the incoming resources and application of resources of the charity for that period. In preparing these financial statements, the trustees are required to:

- select suitable accounting policies and then apply them consistently;
- make judgements and estimates that are reasonable and prudent;
- state whether applicable accounting standards have been followed, subject to any material departures disclosed and explained in the financial statements; and
- prepare the financial statements on the going concern basis unless it is inappropriate to presume that the charity will continue in business.

The trustees are responsible for keeping proper accounting records that disclose with reasonable accuracy at any time the financial position of the charity and enable them to ensure that the financial statements comply with the Charities Act. The trustees are also responsible for safeguarding the assets of the charity and hence for taking reasonable steps for the prevention and detection of fraud and other irregularities.

The Trustees declare that they have approved the trustees' report above

Signed on behalf of the charity's trustees:

Stephen McMurray

Trustee/ treasurer

05/07/2016