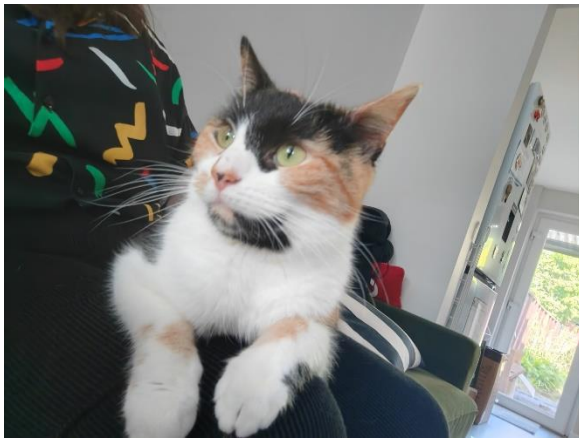


# 7<sup>th</sup> Heaven Animal Rescue Trust

Trustees' Annual Report

1 April 2024 to 31 March 2025



(Some of the animals rehomed 2024 - 2025)

Charity Registration in Northern Ireland: NIC101696

HMRC Registration: XR65507 (March 2003)

7<sup>TH</sup> Heaven Animal Rescue Trust

Registered address:

PO Box 198, Newtownabbey, BT36 9BP

[www.7thheaven.org.uk](http://www.7thheaven.org.uk)

### **Structure, governance and management**

#### **Nature of governing document**

7<sup>th</sup> 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 2024 / 2025

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 safely possible. We also offer help through our various schemes and provide advice where we can. 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 and relief through the support we offer.

Throughout these uncertain times, we continued to ensure the welfare of the animals in our care and provide unprecedented help to the public in financial distress through our Pet Food Bank, Project Wildcat & Made in Heaven Matchmaking Schemes.

### 1. Animals:

#### Rehomed by 7<sup>th</sup> Heaven:

- **25 cats successfully rehomed.**
- **2 feral cats placed in safe environments.**

#### 7<sup>th</sup> Heaven's current long-term residents:

- **41 cats in long-term care, including:**
  - **2 extremely nervous (ages 1–15).**
  - **8 with longer term rehabilitation, but will be rehomed**
  - **9 with chronic health conditions, FIV, IBS (ages 8–16).**
  - **22 supported through foster arrangements.**
- **2 elderly rabbits receiving lifelong sanctuary.**

Our residents often arrive anxious, distressed, or having suffered abuse. Rehabilitation remains a cornerstone of our work, requiring time, patience, and compassion. We continue to provide each animal with a high standard of care, ensuring they experience love, safety, and dignity.

We remain focused on rescuing cats that are abused, neglected, or medically compromised, elderly or difficult to home. abandoned due to homelessness, hospitalisation, or bereavement, victims of hoarding or unsafe environments. This year's focus was mainly supporting a large multi-household of cats after their owner passed away suddenly.

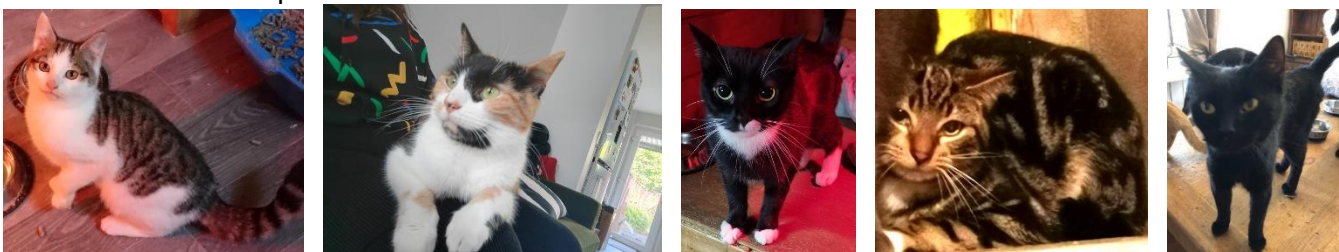
Although we still try to find them all a home, we acknowledge that some may remain in long-term care with us, especially those who may have ongoing high medical costs, so we have set aside larger spaces including an 'oldies' home' where they can live out the remainder of their life in comfort and company. Their owners can be secure in the knowledge that they will be loved, get well looked after and will not be put down, as we have a 'No Kill' policy.

This year, we observed a marked increase in requests for help, driven by:

- The unexpected death of their owner left approx. 40 cats in need of urgent rehoming
- Owners unable to afford veterinary care
- Rising homelessness and housing insecurity
- Landlords refusing to allow pets
- Stray and pregnant cats being abandoned
- Rash pet purchases from the public, not realising the live-changing impact and having to surrender

Of growing concern is the continued exploitation of dogs for breeding to fund drug addictions. We have raised this issue with relevant welfare bodies and urge further action to prevent animals being used as income sources under abusive conditions.

Here's some of the pets we rehomed:



### Other activities:

While we cannot reach every animal in need, we are committed to helping as many as possible. Through our ***Made in Heaven Matchmaking scheme***, we support rehoming for those we cannot take in directly. For owners who wish to keep their pets but face financial hardship, our ***Pet Food Bank*** provides essential supplies. Alongside these efforts, our ***Project Wildcat*** initiative extends care to feral cats in the community, ensuring they too receive the support they deserve.

## 2. Made In Heaven Matchmaking Scheme



### Animals rehomed:

- **22 cats & 7 ferals - with microchips details transferred to the new owners.**
- **1 pet pig.**
- **Actively seeking homes for 4 dogs, 13 cats and 2 feral cats.**
- **Advice and support provided to 10 families with 2 rabbits, 2 guinea pigs; 6 dogs. 2 dogs being kept by owners following our advice & support.**
- **£297.51 contributed towards medical treatments, enabling several owners to retain and care for their older pets.**

Our free *Made in Heaven Matchmaking Service* gives owners peace of mind by allowing them to remain involved in the rehoming process. Pets stay in their familiar home environment until a suitable match is found, reducing stress for the animal and offering reassurance to the owner. This is normally used to support owners with dogs, but it was crucial in helping co-ordinate urgent rehoming when a person passed away, leaving over 40 cats needing urgent help, treatment and rehoming. We couldn't take them all in, so spent several months solely caring for the ones in with us & trying to find homes for the others & supporting them in the meantime. Many families have chosen to keep their pets after receiving our advice, support, or specialist input. Feedback has been overwhelmingly positive: owners value being able to select the new home, new families appreciate learning the animal's history, and all parties benefit from the compassionate support we provide throughout. This service not only promotes responsible ownership but also offers an effective alternative during times of crisis. By enabling direct rehoming, it has helped prevent overcrowding in sanctuaries and ensured smoother transitions for animals and their families.

## 3. Pet Food Bank



- **141 pet food provisions delivered to people in crisis during 2024/25.**
- **99 dogs and 42 cats received a substantial amount of free pet food.**
- **13 repeat requests supported, with some families receiving additional help up to 4 times.**
- **50 families with pets received in excess of a month's supply of pet food.**
- **The pet food supplies were provided through donations to our pet food bank, from groups (below) and compassionate individuals.**
- **7<sup>th</sup> Heaven contributed an additional £561.70 for special or extra food in exceptional circumstances.**

Our Pet Food Bank exists to help people in financial hardship keep their pets at home, sparing both owners and animals the distress of separation. Each case is assessed individually, ensuring tailored support. Demand has risen sharply, driven by illness, the cost-of-living crisis, sudden loss of income, and particularly delays in benefit claims. More than 49 organisations now refer people in difficulty to us for pet food assistance.



Due to reduced and irregular donations, rising costs, and increased demand, we reviewed our conditions in March 2022 to ensure fairness and sustainability. Key principles include prioritising those most in need, limiting to a one-off supply, any addition requests by exceptional only and on a case-by-case basis, and distributing food based on available supplies. Deliveries are arranged efficiently, and food is only handed directly to the recipient. We are unable to provide support where someone has acquired a new pet despite already facing financial hardship. This policy is in place to encourage responsible ownership and to ensure that limited resources are directed to those most in need. The scheme remains a temporary support measure, encouraging responsible ownership while safeguarding animal welfare.

Thank you to all companies and individuals who continue to donate generously during challenging times.

**Estimated value of pet food / vouchers donated 2024 / 2025:**

Sainsbury's Forestside (ceased January 25)	£1290
Pets at Home VIP vouchers (ceased January 25)	£778.20
Tescos, Ballygomartin, Belfast (food & vouchers)	£211
Tescos, Cityside, Belfast (food)	£65
<b>Total</b>	<b>£ 2344.20</b>

We also received donations of pet food from individuals including: Maureen; Bears Paw Forward, Rosie, Bear, Bonnie, A2B couriers, Harry; Judith, Yvonne; Fay, John & Geraldine; Ayva; Rachel; Kathleen; Alfa-Alfa; Alice & Garfield.

**Here's some of the donations received:**



Fay & John

Ayva

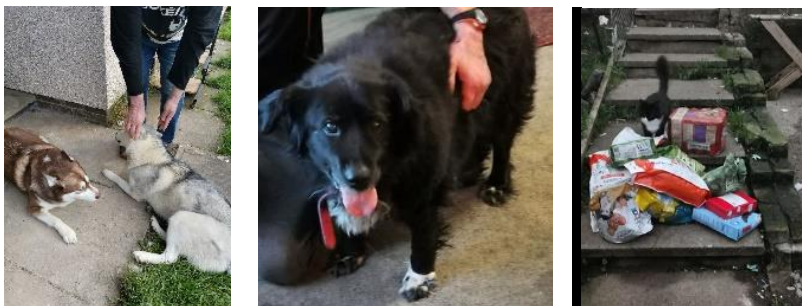
Alice & Garfield

Tesco, Cityside

We have distributed all donated pet food to animals whose owners are in need, as well as to those caring for feral and community cats across Northern Ireland. Regular updates are shared on our website and Facebook pages (*7th Heaven Animal Rescue Trust* and *Seventh Heaven*), highlighting both the pets helped and the donations so kindly received.

We extend heartfelt thanks to everyone who donated pet food throughout the year. Your generosity has helped keep pets in their homes and prevented many animals from needing to be rehomed. We are especially grateful to Community Advice, Antrim & Newtownabbey, and other organisations for their vital referrals, ensuring support reached those who needed it most.

Here are some of the pets we were able to help. As we depend on owners allowing us to take photographs, and many understandably wish to keep their circumstances private, not all of the animals supported are shown, but we do keep detailed records of supplies given out.



#### 4. Project Wildcat Scheme and Feral Cat Month



##### Shelter:

- 6 Plastic, waterproof Snugs provided free of charge, giving safe, dry homes to 14 feral / community cats.

##### Feeding:

- 428 pet food provisions delivered to feral/community cats during 24/25. All received a substantial amount of free pet food with repeat supplies up to 3 times per year. We continue to provide support to many of these colonies throughout Northern Ireland for many years.
- 15 individuals, families and community groups were supplied with food for the feral cats in their care.
- During 7<sup>th</sup> Heaven's *Feral Cat Month* in October, 120 cats received donated food and 1 snug was provided

The pet food supplies were provided through donations to our pet food bank, and from compassionate individuals.

7<sup>th</sup> Heaven contributed an additional £959.69 to sustain this scheme.

Project Wildcat was established to support feral cats and those who care for them by providing free shelter, neutering, and food. We identified long ago the significant number of feral colonies across Northern Ireland, many cared for by volunteers at considerable personal cost. Our scheme also assists Trap, Neuter, and Return groups, supplying shelters and food once cats have been neutered.

While we provide food year-round, October is designated as *7th Heaven's Feral Cat Month*, raising awareness of their plight and distributing all donated food to feral cats across Northern Ireland.

The positive feedback and strong support we have received confirm the success of Project Wildcat and Feral Cat Month. As the only animal charity in Northern Ireland offering this service, we remain committed to continuing it as a core part of our mission to protect and care for feral and community cats.

Here's some of the cats supported and shelters and pet food provided:



#### 5. 7th Heaven's Winter 2024 Support to small rescue groups in Northern Ireland

This winter grant provided vital relief to small rescue groups facing soaring veterinary and neutering costs. By sharing resources, 7th Heaven helped ensure:

- 241 animals received food, shelter, or veterinary care.
- Rescue groups could continue their tireless work during a financially challenging year.
- Collaboration across Northern Ireland bolstered support for vulnerable animals.

Group	Animals helped	How	Cost
The Official Bangor Seafront Cats	21 feral cats	Food	£300
TC's Forever Home	24 cats, 2 dogs, 1 turkey, 4 hens (long stay)	Vet bill	£500

Claws	27 cats/ kittens	Food, cat milk, litter	£500
Precious Pussy Cat Rescue	24 cats & feral cats (long stay)	Food / Vet bill	£500
Belfast Kitten Rescue	9 cats	Neutering costs	£132.54 + Patricia's £150 donation
Christopher Robb- Kitten Crusader	97 cats rescued last year	Contribution to vet bill & food	£500.81
Susan McKeown	17 cats (12 old) +14 to be rehomed (Long stay)	Contribution to vet bill & food	£500
North Coast Cat Rescue	8 feral cats	Vet neutering costs	£500
<b>8 Groups supported</b>	<b>241 animals helped</b>	<b>Total grant expenditure:</b>	<b>£3,583.35</b>

### Overall animal support 2024/25

Across all schemes — rehoming, sanctuary care, food bank support, Project Wildcat, and Winter Rescue Grants — **7th Heaven directly helped 960 animals** this year. This included:

- **Rescuing and rehoming pets** from long rehabilitation into safe, loving homes.
- **Providing lifelong sanctuary** for animals who cannot be rehomed.
- **Delivering food and shelter** to feral/community cats across Northern Ireland.
- **Supporting families in crisis** with pet food supplied to keep pets in their homes.
- **Strengthening small rescues** with financial aid during a difficult winter.

This consolidated impact demonstrates the breadth and depth of 7th Heaven's mission: keeping pets safe, loved, and secure — whether in homes, foster care, or feral colonies.

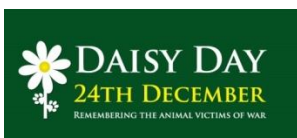
### 6. Pet Friendly Landlord Scheme



7th Heaven continues to see a growing number of people forced to give up their pets when moving to new accommodation. Many landlords remain reluctant to allow pets, and those who do often require additional insurance that tenants cannot afford. This leaves families facing heartbreaking choices through no fault of their own. To address this, we established the *Pet Friendly Landlord Scheme* in 2015/16, contacting councils, associations, and central bodies to encourage greater flexibility. While responses have been limited, we continue to offer free advertising to any landlord willing to welcome pet owners.

Our aim is simple: to prevent pets being surrendered due to housing restrictions and to highlight the benefits of pet-friendly tenancies. There is nothing more rewarding than helping keep pets with their families, safe in the homes where they belong.

### 7. Daisy Day



7th Heaven has designated 24th December as *Daisy Day* — a time to remember all the animals killed or injured in war. The daisy was chosen as its symbol: representing innocence, and like the animal victims of conflict, countless and too often overlooked. Each year, on this traditional day of peace, we invite everyone to pause, say a prayer, or spare a thought for the innocent animals who suffer in human wars. In the days leading up to Daisy Day, we encourage people to like and share our dedicated Facebook page, helping to raise awareness of their plight. Our hope is to create a “daisy-chain” of compassion — thoughts and links of love joining us across borders, races, and religions. By remembering these victims together, we aspire to a world where disputes are no longer resolved by force or weapons, and animals no longer suffer at our hands.

We ask that you please spare a moment each year to remember them.



## 8. Finance

Income raised	<b>£4655.43</b>
Payments	<b>£12512.88</b>
Balance	<b>- £7857.45</b>
Cash Funds brought forward:	<b>£54184.95</b>
Funds at 31/3/2025	<b>£46327.50</b>

### Income raised:

#### Friendship Scheme and Shelter Sponsorship

- 24 *Special Friends* provide monthly support to our charity
- 2 sponsors contribute annually towards our kennels and long-term residents
- 18 additional donors gave both large and small amounts last year

We are deeply grateful to all who continue to support us through these schemes. Their generosity provides stability for our ongoing work and ensures that animals in long-term care receive the support they need.

Looking ahead, we will be focusing our fundraising on feral cats through our *Feed a Feral (£10)* and *Sponsor a Feral Cat Shelter* initiatives. These schemes will help us sustain Project Wildcat, providing food and safe shelter for feral and community cats across Northern Ireland.

### Fundraising Events

We extend our heartfelt thanks to all who supported our fundraising efforts this year.

- Susan & Vic for hosting *Merry May Day* in Holywood, raising £150 on the day
- Louise & Dibbles Cat Sitting for selling our Christmas 2024 Calendar, with proceeds of £477

These generous contributions provided vital funds, helping us continue our mission to care for and protect animals in need.

### Tesco, Ballygomartin & Cityside, Belfast

We appreciate the support from both stores and their customers

- Tesco, Ballygomartin and Angela' continued support with occasional pet food donations & vouchers (£211).
- Tesco, Cityside and Ashleigh also provided pet food support (£65).

### Sainsbury Forestside & Pets at Home

We are grateful to Sainsbury's Forestside staff and customers for their long-standing support through the Pet Food Donation Point, and to Pets at Home for their VIP contributions, which both ended in January 2025. Their generosity over the years has provided a vital stream of pet food supplies, directly helping families in need and keeping pets in their homes.

### Financial impact and commitment

With the closure of these 2 pet food sources, the volume of donated food available to us will inevitably reduce. This will place greater reliance on our own funds to purchase supplies, increasing financial pressure on the charity. Despite this challenge, we remain fully committed to sustaining the Pet Food Bank & Project Wildcat schemes. Ensuring pets stay with their families — safe, secure, and loved — and helping the public caring for feral cats remain central to our mission, and we will continue to allocate resources to uphold this support.

### Funding & Platforms

- £160.56 raised through E-Bay sales, Humble Bundle donations via the PayPal Giving Fund, and Amazon Smile.
- £2533.31 through donations and collection tin. We have other ways to raise funds too (details are on our website) and help our charity including PayPal, Collection tin in College Street Café Belfast, Give as you Live, Payroll Giving in Action, Charities Aid Foundation

### Payments out:

7th Heaven makes no personal profit from an animal's misery. Nobody involved in our charity receives wages, and there are no expenses for staff costs. Every penny is directed to the animals and the schemes that support them.

### Core costs 2024/25

- £3571.10 – Food, litter, rabbit bedding for animals in our care.
- £2817.46 – vet bills & treatments for treatment of chronic illnesses of animal in our long-term care.
- £1380 - Electricity (infrared heat lamps installed to keep electric costs under control but still provide warmth for the animals). *Trustees only charge actual costs during winter months and cover other times themselves*



### **Scheme costs**

- £959.69 - Project Wildcat: mainly pet food, following reduced store donations.
- £561.70 - Pet Food Bank: urgent pet food requests, including families affected by the Cost of Living crisis, delayed benefit payments and illness.
- £297.51 - Matchmaking Scheme: medical treatment support for ill cats.
- £3583.35 - Winter 2024 Support to small rescues.

With unprecedented requests for support, we had already expanded our support across Northern Ireland by using ASDA, Tesco, and Sainsbury's click-and-collect and delivery services, ensuring supplies reached those further afield or in urgent need.

### **Administration costs**

- £374.20 – Insurance
- £789.38 - Website domain costs, stationery, printing, postage, PO Box. NB. there is no charge for the design or upkeep of website or for leaflets and business cards for the schemes and events as this is provided by the trustees.

We suspended regular newsletters during the year due to limited resources, apart from our annual Christmas update to all members, donors, and supporters. However, we continue to actively promote our work through:

- Facebook – sharing updates, appeals, and success stories
  - Our website – providing updates and information on schemes, impact, and ways to support
- These channels ensure that, even without regular newsletters, our supporters remain informed and engaged with the charity's work.

## **9. Commitment and Gratitude**

At 7th Heaven, we never charge to take in or rehome an animal. As our motto states: *“Animals are not commodities to be bought or sold. They are beautiful creatures with beautiful souls.”* We are their guardians, not their owners, and we have no moral right to put a price tag on their lives. For this reason, we do not and never will charge for our animals, nor for any of the schemes or support we provide.

We receive no government funding, so we are especially grateful to everyone who donated funds to 7th Heaven. Your generosity enables us to provide everything necessary to care for the animals in our sanctuary and to support families and animals through our schemes.

We also wish to acknowledge those who helped in other ways. Donations of pet food for our long-term and elderly residents, and supplies of bedding, have been invaluable and deeply appreciated by the animals. Thanks also to the many good Samaritans who contacted us when they found lost, ill, or abandoned animals, and to those who sheltered them until we could provide a place or find them a new home — especially during harsh weather. Most of all, we thank everyone who has offered our rescue animals a second chance and a loving home.

This has been an exceptional and difficult year for everyone. With limited means to raise funds and limited volunteer resource, the Trustees kept everything going — from caring for the animals to delivering pet food and shelters. Yet, despite these challenges, we were able to provide an increased supply of 960 pet food provisions during the year, helping people and animals in real and significant need.

### **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, 26 November 2025