

7th Heaven Animal Rescue Trust

Trustees' Annual Report

1 April 2016 to 31 March 2017



(Some of the animals rehomed 2016-2017)

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 2016 / 2017

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 by 7th Heaven:

24 Cats – average age 5 -10 years old;

7 Dogs – average age 3 - 7 years old;

6 Rabbits

2 Guinea pigs

9 very old cats and 1 abused dog 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 behavioural, or emotional problems, or were older.

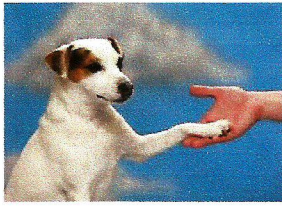
Our charity remains focused on rescuing cats that are older, have medical problems, in dangerous situations or are difficult to home, as there are few options available for them elsewhere. Most of them came from people whose relationships were breaking up, were becoming homeless, going into hospital 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 'Made in Heaven Matchmaking' scheme. If the owners want to keep the animals but are struggling financially we have our Pet Food Bank to help them.

Made In Heaven Matchmaking Scheme



Rehomed:

14 dogs

3 cats

Advised / supported: 30 families

9 families decided to keep their pet following our support

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 approximately 33% of owner changed their mind and decided to keep their pet after discussing their options or problems with us and listening to our advice. The feedback from those who used this service was very positive, that this service alleviates stress from them being able to choose the new owner, the new owner can find the history of the animal and everyone is happy with the level of support we have provided to them throughout. This service is helping towards promoting responsible animal ownership.

Pet Food Bank



128 animals received a substantial supply of free pet food:

68 dogs,

54 cats,

2 rabbits,

2 guinea pigs,

2 budgies

We provided repeat supplies of food to 76 animals on an average 1-2 times:

36 dogs

38 cats

2 rabbits

51 families received generous pet food bank supplies estimated at least £50 per pet

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 2016 / 2017:

Sainsbury's Forestside	£2,409.86
Sainsbury's Carrickfergus	£2,523.47
Jollyes Glengormley	£863.75
Pets At Home/Support adoption for Pets	£1496.31
Tescos, Newtownabbey	£127.85
Belfast Pug Club	£209.41
SSA Pet food bank collection	£301.38
Total	£7932.03

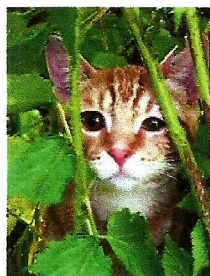
We have delivered all this pet food to pets whose owners are in need and those helping feed the feral and community cats throughout Northern Ireland.

We provide regular updates on our website and Face book 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 128 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. We can then offer support to the pet owners in financial need after they have been referred to us.

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



Shelter:

30 Shelters provided at a cost of £1105.22:

23 Plastic Snugs,

4 large cabin kennels, 2 Medium cabin kennels, 1 small cabin kennel

Approximately 74 feral / community cats were provided with a safe home.

6 shelters were donated and 2 sponsored through donations from compassionate individuals

3 snugs were returned when the cats no longer used / needed them

Neutering:

8 feral cats were neutered and 1 cat received emergency surgery / treatment at a cost of £385.10

Feeding:

181 feral cats were supplied with a substantial supply of food.

158 feral cats received repeat supplies of food on an average 3 - 4 times to each

20 individuals, families or community groups were supplied with pet food to help the feral cats for which they were caring.

The pet food supplies were provided through donations to our pet food banks and groups (above) and from individuals. 7th Heaven paid an extra £48.99 for extra emergency supplies.

1 individual has sponsored a feral cat through Feed a Feral scheme

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.

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'.

The public continue to be very supportive of our Project Wildcat project and, as a result, we have now set up a new sponsorship support 'Feed a Feral' and for a donation of £10 we will provide dry and wet food to this value to a feral or community cat. This is in addition to the opportunity for the public to sponsor the purchase of a snug for £35 or donate a shelter.

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

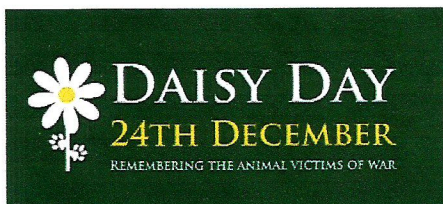


7th Heaven continues to see a huge increase in people having to give up their pets when they move to new accommodation. Landlords seem reluctant to let pets stay in their accommodation and many who do, charge extra insurance, which many tenants cannot afford. This forces people to give up their beloved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

We set up the Pet Friendly Landlord Scheme in 2015/16 to help pet owners in this difficult situation and last year we had contacted the majority of those involved with landlords, including councils, associations and central bodies to ask if there was anything they would be willing to do to help. We received only minimal response. We offered free advertising to any landlord willing to offer a home to a pet owner and have had a few responses. We will continue to do our utmost to help prevent the public having to give up their pets and encourage landlords to see the benefits.

We have just started new research as part of our Pet Friendly Landlord Scheme at the end of 2016/17 looking at the impact that the property search engines have for those looking for accommodation that permits pets. We have contacted 16 sites and will report on the outcome.

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 now and on the days leading up to it, we ask 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 by everyone on this day thinking 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. We ask that you please spare a moment to remember them.

Finance

Income raised	£12,261.53
Payments	£7,989.86
Balance	£4,271.67
Cash Funds brought forward:	£76,110.34
Funds at 31.3.2017	£80,382.01

Income raised:

Sainsbury's

We received the balance of £3690 at the end of the year following our fundraising centered around Sainsbury's Carrickfergus, as we had been voted their Local Charity for the year 2015/16.

We continue to receive pet food donations from kind customers through our donation points set – up in store in Carrickfergus and Forestside, which is helping both the Food Bank and Project Wildcat schemes to become virtually self-funded.

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 2016/17 we received £863.75 pet food donated to our Pet Food Bank donation point, £120.73 from our collection tin and £79.38 from store discounts.

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

Pets at Home

Pets at home and Support Adoption for Pets have supported our charity throughout the year. We received several pet food donations from Newtownabbey and pallets of food and VIP Lifeline vouchers from Support Adoption totaling £1496.31. Support Adoption also delivered pallets of bedding and toys for the animals in our care. We have also able to donate some of these to animals we support through our Pet Food Bank and Project Wildcat schemes.

Their generous support has provided £3581.57 worth of food, toys and bedding.

E-Bay / PayPal

The funds of £707.26 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 through Paypal Giving.

Friendship Scheme and Shelter Sponsorship

We have 19 Friends who continue to support our charity each month; 8 others who continue to donate both large and small amounts each year, 3 who specifically sponsor our kennels, long term residents and Project Wildcat shelters and 1 who has sponsored Feed a Feral.

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. This is why there are no expenses for staff wages.

One of our major expenses last year was for the ongoing refurbishment of the outbuildings housing our charity's rescued animals. £1,520.28 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 the building and internal revamp.

The majority of the £1,493.32 Project Wildcat cost was used for the purchase of 34 shelters of various sizes for feral or community cats. We receive no funding for this, but have now 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 the internet / website access and necessary IT upgrades (NB. there is no charge for the design or upkeep as this is provided by the trustees) and leaflets and business cards for the schemes and 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

14 May 2017