

CAT CHAT, the Cat Rescue Resource

Registered Charity no 1100649

Address: PO Box 358 Ramsgate, Kent CT12 6YP

TRUSTEES' ANNUAL REPORT for the financial year 8.6.23 - 7.6.24

THE CHARITY'S OBJECTIVES ARE:

1. To promote the efficiency and effectiveness of charities whose purposes are to promote animal welfare, by the provision of an internet website, IT support and facilities.
2. To advance the education of the public in matters of animal welfare by the provision of a website and information service.

Public Benefit Statement

Cat Chat is committed to assisting members of the public in all matters relating to cats, cat rescue and cat welfare, and the advancement of public education through our website information, help desk, social media pages, and via our qualified advisors. The Charity's Trustees confirm their due regard to the public benefit guidelines published by the Charity Commission.

Specific services offered by Cat Chat for the benefit of the public are:

1. A comprehensive area-by-area database of cat rescue and rehoming facilities in the UK and Ireland.
2. Provision of a public database of cats needing homes, searchable by county / town / shelter.
3. Advice and information pages e.g. health & behaviour, lost & found, neutering, fostering, rehoming. Other cat-related articles are provided on our Blog.
4. Veterinary advice; our qualified volunteer veterinary advisor assists the public via email with specific (non-urgent) advice.
5. Helpdesk: our email help desk volunteers provide advice to the public on all other cat related issues.
6. We maintain active social media pages, enabling the provision and exchange of advice and information on a wide range of cat related topics.
7. A web-links directory covering pet help & services, pet health & behaviour, pet care, plus an A - Z of rescue organisations helping a wide variety of animals.

CAT CHAT 2023-2024 ANNUAL REVIEW

Introduction

Cat Chat ended its 2023-2024 financial year at a time of growing challenges for cat owners and the shelters which support them.

The impact on pet welfare of the rise in the cost of living has worsened in the last year. More pet owners than ever are facing rocketing prices for pet food and vets bills and as a result, many are being forced to give up their pets. All the rescue organisations are reporting increasing numbers of cats coming in for rehoming and most shelters are full, with waiting lists.

"Great news - Boss-Cat has now been homed after only a week on our Cat Chat page. We are over the moon! Many thanks."

Whinnybank Cat Sanctuary, Fife

Cat Chat has experienced this upsurge first hand with Mandy Cotter (Co-founder/CEO) commenting "This year I've never known

such a constant stream of people contacting our Help Desk needing to give their cats up. It paints a grim picture". A view further underlined by the surge of media coverage being given to the plight of over-stretched shelters and abandoned animals.

Against such a sombre background, Cat Chat's services are in greater demand

than ever and the charity remains determined to offer as much advice and assistance as is possible to as many owners, cats and shelters who need help.

"Arya and Lucy have been adopted thanks to your wonderful website. We can't thank you enough for your help!"

Bushy Tail Cat Aid, Watford



As always Cat Chat looks ahead. We never lose sight of our vision statement...

“ To Help Cats Out of Shelters into Homes , ,

Finances

The Trustees of Cat Chat present this review of the charity's financial year June 2023-June 2024. Once again we are pleased to report that the charity's finances remain stable and acknowledge the careful management of resources. The major expenditure remains funding the development of the new website, and as this is critical to the future of the charity, the Trustees underline their support for the project.

The continuing funding from our regular donors, headed by the Friends of Cat Chat, is greatly appreciated. Cat Chat is also grateful to our loyal sponsors whose ongoing support is the charity's lifeline:

Burns Pet Nutrition, The Cat Butler, The Cat Gallery, CEVA Animal Health, Erin House, FindPetBoarding, Kitty Collars, Pets Reunited, Protectapet and Tippaws.

The Cat Gallery in York, and its generous customers, deserve a special thank you. Peter and Alison who own the gallery have supported Cat Chat for over 20 years and have again nominated us as one of their "Chosen Charities" for 2024.

Additional sources of funding include some kind legacies, donations made through Easyfundraising and other similar portals, plus the charity's own webshop.

Governance

Governing Document: Constitution dated 29 October 2003. Cat Chat is led by a Board of seven Trustees. During the financial year 2023-2024 the Board held five meetings plus the AGM.

"Feral Mark and Lazarus were seen on your Overlooked section and have gone to the most amazing home. Thank you SO much!!!"

Cat's Guidance, Wigan

Patrons: Sir Roger and Lady Gale and Bagpuss

Cat Chat remains very grateful to Sir Roger and Lady Gale for their continuing generosity in standing as the charity's Patrons. Sir Roger has been a Patron since 2003 and Lady Gale since 2013.

Our gratitude also to the Postgate Family who represent our third Patron, the beloved Bagpuss. 2024 marked Bagpuss's 50th birthday and is also the 20th year since he was persuaded by his creator, the late, great Oliver Postgate, to become a Patron of Cat Chat.



Marley

Three-year-old Marley had already had two homes prior to arriving at Mitzi's Kitty Corner, Totnes. Thanks to appearing on Cat Chat's 'Overlooked Cats' section he found his third-time-lucky home, where he is truly adored.

Champions

Cat Chat would like to acknowledge the following people who have championed the work of the charity over recent years. Ian Anderson, Tom Cox, Susan Hampshire, Sir David Jason, Suzi Perry and Dr Pete Wedderburn.

Partnerships

Blush.net has now been in partnership with Cat Chat for four years and generously continues to manage the charity's Google Ads Grant Account. Blush has skillfully maximised the effectiveness and reach of Cat Chat's Google Ad campaigns. As an on-line only charity, the importance of this assistance cannot be underestimated and Cat Chat remains very grateful to the team at Blush.

Radio Caroline This historic radio station has now been in partnership with Cat Chat for six years. During that time they have generously helped with the creation of our radio ads, donated additional air time and assisted our collaborations with other radio stations. They have kept the cat rehoming message to the fore on air, and Cat Chat is enormously grateful for their ongoing help.



Sapphire and Benji

Mum & son Sapphire and Benji were handed in to Shropshire Street Cats, Market Drayton. Taking on two cats at once is a big ask, but the pair were adopted together after being seen on Cat Chat.

Animal Welfare Community

Cat Chat greatly values its collaborations across the animal welfare community which have continued throughout this year. With the current pressures on the sector as it deals with the huge increase in animals surrendered or abandoned, such collaborations remain crucial.





Pumpkin

Pumpkin was being given away free online - a very dangerous thing to do. Luckily she was rescued by Precious Paws Cat Rescue York and homed through Cat Chat, and now has a safe, loving home.

2023-2024 STATISTICS

Shelters, Visitors, Followers

649,090	Monthly number of website pages viewed (average)
224,641	Monthly number of visitors to the website (average)
1,120	Shelters listed
457	Active individual shelter's homing pages
11,654	Facebook followers (at year end)
3,200	X (was Twitter) followers (at year end)
1,266	Instagram followers (at year end)

Admin, Volunteers, Trustees, Patrons

2	Staff (part-time) / 1 Web Developer
20	Volunteers (excl. trustees & staff)
7	Trustees
3	Patrons

*"A huge thank you,
Fern was seen on your
Overlooked Cats section.
She left this morning
for an amazing new life
ahead. Thank you for the
work you do."*

*Axholme Cat Rescue
Doncaster*

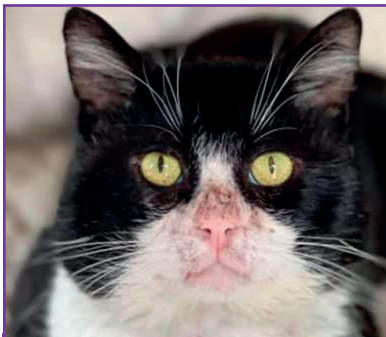
Looking Forward... Cat Chat at 25

2025 marks Cat Chat's 25th anniversary. An important milestone for the charity which was one of the first - if not *the* first - website in the UK devoted solely to rehoming cats. The charity was ground-breaking then and over the last 25 years Cat Chat has become a key player in animal welfare. To mark this important anniversary Cat Chat will be launching its brand new website early in 2025. This has been a massive and complex project led by the Cat Chat team in association with web developers Footsteps of Colchester and will, we believe, prove to be a game-changer for cat rehoming websites.

Thanks and Acknowledgements

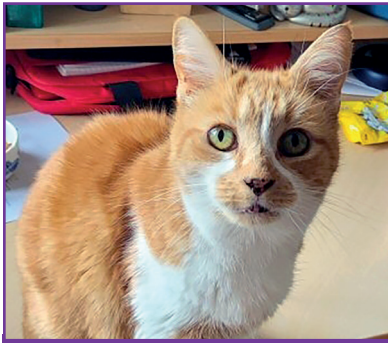
Cat Chat would like to express gratitude to its Volunteers, Trustees and Patrons, all of whom generously donate their time and skills. Thanks also to Cannons Accountants and to Ms Zoe Tudor CIMA for financial services and advice.

Special appreciation also to our two permanent staff members, Bonita Howard (Cat Homing Manager) and Angela James (Cat Homing Assistant) for their continuing loyalty and hard work over many years.



Orlando

FIV positive 'gentle giant' Orlando was rescued from living rough by Bushy Tail Cat Aid, Watford. Now happily homed through Cat Chat, by a couple who had just lost their FIV+ boy.



Honey

Pretty 11-year-old Honey came to Little Cottage Rescue, Luton due to a change in her elderly owner's situation. She found the quiet, adult home she needed thanks to Cat Chat.

Patrons:

Sir Roger Gale MP, Lady Suzy Gale, and the Postgate Family representing Bagpuss.

Trustees:

Mrs M Ovens (Chair) (appointed 13.12.05)
Ramsgate, Kent

Mrs M Bull (appointed 18.03.08)
Ramsgate, Kent

Mrs J Love-Hinsley FCCA (Treasurer) (appointed
13.12.05) Grove Ferry, Kent

Mrs A James (appointed 13.05.08)
Whitstable Kent

Miss M P Cotter (Co-Founder)
(founded 08.06.00 / trustee from charity registration
12.11.03) Ramsgate, Kent

Ms L Mahmood
(Social Media Co-ordinator)
(appointed 03.12.14)
Staplehurst, Kent

Mr S L Wise (Co-Founder)
(founded 08.06.00 / trustee from charity registration
12.11.03) Ramsgate, Kent

Accountant/Treasurer

Mrs J Love-Hinsley FCCA
Grove Ferry Inn, Grove Ferry Road, Upstreet
Canterbury, Kent, CT3 4BP

Independent Accounts Scrutineer

Ms Z Tudor CIMA
29 Canterbury Road East
Ramsgate, Kent, CT11 0JX

"Our gorgeous Poppy has been adopted, after being seen on Cat Chat. A big thank you for all you do on behalf of the cats we all care for so much."

*Lancashire Paws
Cat Rescue*

The Trustees declare this to be an accurate report of the activities of Cat Chat for the financial year ended 7 June 2024.

SIGNED ON BEHALF OF THE CHARITY'S TRUSTEES

MRS. M. OVENS (CHAIR)

..... DATE.....

MRS J. LOVE-HINSLEY (TREASURER)

..... DATE.....



Salt & Pepper

Salt & Pepper become inseparable whilst in rescue at Maesteg Animal Welfare Society, Bridgend. They found the perfect home together after being seen on Cat Chat.



*"I would like to commend to you, my friends, this most feline website:
www.catchat.org
where they will help you to find a cat-friend, if you are a person, or a person-friend, if you are a cat."*

Bagpuss (Cat Chat Patron)

"Rhea's new family found her on Cat Chat. Thank you so much for providing such a superb platform to help cats find homes."

*Feline Friends Rescue,
Winchester.*

Cat Chat, the Cat Rescue Resource
Registered Charity no. 1100649
Website: www.catchat.org

Cat Chat - Registered Charity No: 1100649
Income and Expenditure Account for the Year Ended 7th June 2024

	£	£
Income		
Advertising/Sponsorship		1,875.00
Profit on Sale of Merchandise	341.22	
Donations	24,017.49	
Legacy Donations	116,603.00	
Total Donations		140,620.49
Bank Interest Received	715.13	
Total Income		143,551.84
Less Expenditure		
Wages, National Insurance and Pension		21,622.85
Website and Charity Development		53,493.99
Telephone		431.00
Donations		0
Advertising & Sponsorship		1,280.00
Internet and Webserver		10,474.11
Postage, Printing & Stationery		1,837.76
Travel Expenses		156.88
Consultancy and Professional Fees		0
Equipment/Repairs and Maintenance		78.98
Software Fees		1,144.97
Insurance Costs		346.98
Emergency Vet Fund		1,508.84
Paypal/Bank Charges		244.95

General Expenses	248.66
	92,869.97
Depreciation of Equipment	864.54
	93,734.51
Profit for the Year	49,817.33

Cat Chat Registered No: 1100649
Balance Sheet as at 7th June 2024

		£	£
Fixed Assets			
Office Equipment	At Cost	9,352.70	
		9,352.70	
Less Depreciation to Date		4,986.99	
		4,986.99	4,365.71
Current Assets			
Stock of Merchandise		1,432.07	
Balance at Bank		170,582.22	
Cash in Hand		37.67	
Sundry Debtors		324.35	
		172,376.31	
Less Current Liabilities			
Sundry Creditors		284.35	
			172,091.96
			176,457.67
Capital Account			
Capital Account		126,640.34	
Profit for the year		49,817.33	
			176,457.67



Section A

Independent Examiner's Report

Report to the trustees

Charity Name

Cat Chat

On accounts for the year
ended

07/06/2024

Charity no
(if any)

1100649

Set out on pages

(Remember to include the page numbers of additional sheets)

I report to the trustees on my examination of the accounts of the above charity ("the Trust") for the year ended DD/MM/YYYY.

Responsibilities and
basis of report

As the charity's trustees, you are responsible for the preparation of the accounts in accordance with the requirements of the Charities Act 2011 ("the Act").

I report in respect of my examination of the Trust's accounts carried out under section 145 of the 2011 Act and in carrying out my examination, I have followed all the applicable Directions given by the Charity Commission under section 145(5)(b) of the Act.

Independent
examiner's statement

[The charity's gross income exceeded £250,000 and I am qualified to undertake the examination by being a qualified member of [insert name of applicable listed body]]. Delete [] if not applicable.

I have completed my examination. I confirm that no material matters have come to my attention in connection with the examination (other than that disclosed below *) which gives me cause to believe that in, any material respect:

- the accounting records were not kept in accordance with section 130 of the Charities Act; or
- the accounts did not accord with the accounting records; or
- the accounts did not comply with the applicable requirements concerning the form and content of accounts set out in the Charities (Accounts and Reports) Regulations 2008 other than any requirement that the accounts give a 'true and fair' view which is not a matter considered as part of an independent examination.

I have no concerns and have come across no other matters in connection with the examination to which attention should be drawn in this report in order to enable a proper understanding of the accounts to be reached.

* Please delete the words in the brackets if they do not apply.

Signed:

Date:

16/12/2024

Name:

Zoe Tudor

Relevant professional
qualification(s) or body

CIMA

(if any):

--

Address:

29 Canterbury Road East
Ramsgate
Kent, CT11 0JX

Section B

Disclosure

Only complete if the examiner needs to highlight material matters of concern (see CC32, Independent examination of charity accounts: directions and guidance for examiners).

Give here brief details of any items that the examiner wishes to disclose.

--