

THE SCRATCHING POST (RESCUE AND SHELTER APPEAL FOR CATS)

England & Wales · Charity number 1105653

Details

Status Registered

Legal form Other

Registered 2004-08-26

Register [View on the Charity Commission register](#)

Contact

Address Woodbine Cottage
Honey Lane
Waltham Abbey
EN9 3QT

Phone 01992626110

Email SUSAN.DELANEY@AOL.CO.UK

Website www.scratchingpost.co.uk

Activities

Objects: FOR THE BENEFIT OF THE PUBLIC TO RELIEVE THE SUFFERING OF MALTREATED, ABANDONED AND UNWANTED CATS IN NEED OF SOME CARE AND, IN PARTICULAR, TO PROVIDE AND MAINTAIN RESCUE HOMES OR OTHER FACILITIES FOR THE RECEPTION, CARE AND TREATMENT AND WHERE SUITABLE THE REHOMING OF SUCH ANIMALS.

Activities: For the benefit of the public to relieve the suffering of maltreated, abandoned and unwanted cats in need of care and, in particular, to provide and maintain rescue homes or other facilities for the reception, care and treatment and, where suitable, the rehoming of such animals.

Classification

- **How:** Other Charitable Activities
- **What:** General Charitable Purposes, Animals
- **Who:** Other Charities Or Voluntary Bodies, The General Public/mankind

Geography

- Essex
- Herefordshire
- Hertfordshire
- Throughout London

Finances

Period end	Income	Expenditure	Assets	Employees
2024-12-31	£237,815	£280,184	-	-
2023-12-31	£346,546	£229,177	-	-
2022-12-31	£207,308	£222,014	-	-
2021-12-31	£335,560	£192,561	-	-
2020-12-31	£391,187	£290,143	-	-

Trustees

Name	Role	Appointed
Colin Johnson		2021-01-20
DAVID LORD		2013-07-24
DAVID MILES		2013-07-25
JEAN MILES		
Julie Nava		2020-10-13
Stephen Hayes		2018-01-01

THE SCRATCHING POST (RESCUE AND SHELTER APPEAL FOR CATS)

England & Wales - Charity number 1105653

Accounts

FINANCIAL STATEMENT.

1st January 2024 – 31st December 2024

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Page 5.	Achieved aims.
Page 6.	Manager/founder's report.
Page 7.	Finances explained.
Page 8.	Rescue figures.
Page 9.	Charity Targets and projections 2025.

Charity addresses.

Main address: Woodbine Cottage Honey Lane Waltham Abbey Essex EN9 3QT.

Shelter address: The Scratching Post Woodgreen Road Off Honey Lane Waltham Abbey EN9 3SB.

Helpline no: 01992 626110.

Website: www.scratchingpost.co.uk

Facebook: www.facebookthescratchingpostcatrescue.

Banks.

Lloyds: Manor Croft Parade, 8-9 College Rd, Cheshunt, Waltham Cross EN8 9LR.

Barclays: 78 Turners Hill, Cheshunt, Waltham Cross EN8 9BW.

Charity Aims:

FOR THE BENEFIT OF THE PUBLIC TO RELIEVE THE SUFFERING OF MALTREATED, ABANDONED AND UNWANTED CATS IN NEED OF CARE AND, IN PARTICULAR, TO PROVIDE AND MAINTAIN RESCUE HOMES OR OTHER FACILITIES FOR THE RECEPTION, CARE AND TREATMENT AND, WHERE SUITABLE, THE REHOMING OF SUCH ANIMALS.

Trustees:

Jean Miles

David Lord

Stephen Hayes

David Miles

Colin Johnson

Julie Nava

Trustees Report for year ending 31st December 2024

The Trustees are pleased to present the annual report and financial statements of The Scratching Post for the end of this financial year. The financial statements comply with the Charities Act 2011, the Companies Act 2006, the Memorandum and Articles of Association, and Accounting and Reporting by Charities: Statement of Recommended Practice applicable to charities preparing their accounts in accordance with the Financial Reporting Standard applicable in the UK and Republic of Ireland (FRS 102) effective 1 January 2015. Policy on reserves: The trustees recognise the importance of reserves and aim to hold funds to cover approximately one year running costs. At the current level of expenditure this equates to £280,000 an increase of £51,000 on last year.

Recruitment and appointment of trustees: Anyone wishing to become a trustee is interviewed by the current trustees; generally speaking, recruitment for new trustees occurs if a trustee resigns or if the requirements of the charity are such that particular business skills are deemed necessary. The trustees meet regularly throughout the year and use email and conference calls for matters arising in between meetings.

The trustees wish to express their heartfelt thanks to all fundraisers, volunteers, donators, trusts and legators who contributed financially to the success of The Scratching Post Cat Rescue for the period in question.

Our objectives and activities 2024

- We do not put any cat to sleep, unless it would cause unnecessary suffering to keep it alive.
- We believe that every cat which comes into care should be given the chance of a loving home and happy life.
- All our cats are neutered, microchipped, vaccinated and given a full veterinary check before being rehomed.
- We carry out home checks before rehoming cats, to ensure that every home is suitable for their needs.

The charity targets and projections for Jan – Dec 2024

1. Install cameras in vulnerable spots, including areas to the rear of the sanctuary and giving a better view of all unit entrances. Install internal cameras in all units for the purpose of security and remote monitoring of the cats and kittens.
2. Build a new unit with isolation pens and further donations storage.
3. Create and replace outdoor run shelving giving cats improved enrichment.
4. Rebuild feral unit into a bespoke kitten unit with improved interior. This will include significant building works as the unit is part of original barn building and exterior rear wall may need complete replacement. This will straddle 2024 to 2025.
5. Install cameras in our charity shop as a security and anti-theft measure.
6. Offer trade price microchipping service to owned unchipped in the local community in preparation to the compulsory microchipping coming in place 2024.

Achieved aims.

1. A high technical CCTV system was installed into the shelter. We spent a lot of money on this due to several incidents which caused us to have the best we could installed, i.e. Rubbish discarded outside the gates. Cats being dumped outside. A break in where a kitten was mutilated. We now feel confident that the system covers every area of our grounds and is alarmed.
2. A new building was installed which consisted of an adequate updated isolation unit and a storage area for traps, baskets and paperwork.
3. All outdoor runs have been updated with shelving and secure plastic-coated wire.
4. The updating of our feral unit was delayed due to the high volume of cats and kittens abandoned. We could not empty the space for the work to start. Refurbishment is now underway, although later than expected. The completion of the unit will be within our next report.
5. Our charity shop now has CCTV cameras complete with 2-way audio and alarm system along with 24/7 recording.
6. As the new microchipping law loomed, we offered a low-cost microchipping service and still do offer this service.

Manager/founder Report - 2024

Every year, I have reported on the large volume of overbreeding and abandonment of cats and kittens. This year, as predicted, Britain is in crisis due to the high number of reports. The public calls have informed of not one or two at a premises, but vast numbers, so much so that we could not and still cannot cope, and neither can other rescues. I do not see where this will end except by culling programmes set up by authorities to initiate control of colonies.

90% of cats taken into care are unneutered. This placed a significant strain on the finances of charities. Sadly, veterinary practice prices have increased, preventing even those willing to neuter to struggle with the cost. Social media platforms are rife with either giving away cats/kittens or selling them to make money. As the flooded market is at breaking point, many of these bred have been abandoned in cruel ways. Many reports involve litters of kittens being dumped in wheelie bins, forests, bus stops, shops, and other undesirable places.

Our partnership with Java Whiskers Café has enabled us to take in more cats. Once vet-checked, neutered, and vaccinated, they are taken to the café in London, where they await offers of adoption. This enables us to further tackle our ever-growing waiting list. It also means cats receive attention from those who visit the cafe, additionally more freedom ensuring they are not in pens for long periods of time.

We are now considering another partnership with a new café, 'Meow Lounge,' in Hitchin, as a way of rehoming more cats and widening our boarders for rehoming, which may help us cope with the growing volume of reports.

There are no significant changes with the charity shop. It has continued to prove successful.

Finances Explained 2024

Our end of year finances is for a period of 12 months.

Financially we have seen a steady increase in shop takings. Monetary donations have continued at a steady pace.

In terms of expenditure, energy costs continue to rise, and the cost-of-living crisis has affected us, as it has everyone, in the way of medical costs, cat food, litter, equipment, materials etc. This continues to be something that we monitor to ensure we get best value for money.

We are very privileged to have fantastic supporters that keep us supplied with much of our cat food. We do spend a good deal on specialist foods, particularly fresh meat, fish and prescription diets.

Even though we have an internal vet this has not significantly reduced our medical costs, but this does make it easier for more cats to be veterinary supervised and is of course less stressful to the animals in our care.

We have just under 2 years' running costs in our account, securing our short-term future.

The Scratching Post 1st Jan – 31st Dec 2024 Rescue Figures

Number of cats in care at the start of 2024	= 105
Cats surrendered into the rescue unwanted by owners	= 88
Stray cats reported and taken into the rescue	= 322
Kittens born at the shelter by rescued pregnant cats	= 38
Cats leaving shelter	= 457
Of which were domestic	= 436
Of which were feral	= 9
Reunited with owners	= 5
Sick or injured beyond saving	= 7
Cats left in rescue still needing homes	= 96

Projections for January 2025 to December 2025

1. Complete refurbishment of feral unit.
2. Refurbishment of pens in our community unit.
3. Completely gut and rebuild the food storage unit. Which as per our feral unit the back wall needs replacing, plus the floor. This will be a major project.
4. Ongoing maintenance, including yearly painting of the outside of buildings.

THE SCATCHING POST (RESCUE & SHELTER APPEAL FOR CATS

REGISTERED CHARITY NO 1105653

RECEIPTS AND PAYMENTS ACCOUNT Page 1 of 2

From 1st January 2024 to 31st December 2024

	Shop Income		Lloyds Acc/Shelter Appeal Fund		Barclays Account		Petty Cash	
	Receipts	Payments	Receipts	Payments	Receipts	Payments	Receipts	Payments
Charity Shop Sales	£85,500.00		£85,500.00					
Charity Shop Rent				£16,800.00				
Donations Recieved			£101,755.00		£7,300.00		£0.00	
Charity Fete			£12,800.00					
Marquee Hire for Fete				£1,200.00				
Venue Donation				£1,280.00				
Gift Aid			£11,500.00					
Legacy			£10,000.00					
Grants Received								
Membership Fees			£1,960.00					
Sale of used Stamps			£750.00					
Sale of Rags			£1,650.00					
Stat, Newsletter Printing & Postage				£1,960.00				
New Building (unit & Garage Store				£7,200.00				
Maintainance & Building/Upgrading				£9,800.00				£0.00
Screwfix				£1,819.00				
Wickes				£4,104.00				
B & Q				£746.00				
Shop Furniture/Fittings				£285.00				
CCTV System Shop upgrade				£850.00				
Hire of Skips/cage lorry at Shelter				£2,600.00				
Fosterers Expenses				£1,140.00				
Building Insurance Shop				£1,361.00				
Public Liabilty insurance Shop & Shelter				£3,160.00				
Off site storage units				£3,462.00				
Sub total c/fwd	£85,500.00	£0.00	£225,915.00	£57,767.00	£7,300.00	£0.00	£0.00	£0.00

The Scratching Post Reg.Charity No.1105653..Receipts & Payment Account Page 2 of 2
 From 1st January 2024 to 31st DECEMBER 2024/cont

	Shop Income		Lloyds Acc/Shelter Appeal Fund		Barclays Account		Petty Cash	
	Receipts	Payments	Receipts	Payments	Receipts	Payments	Receipts	Payments
b/fwd	£85,500.00	£0.00	£225,915.00	£57,767.00	£7,300.00	£0.00	£0.00	£0.00
Fire Extinguishers Service Shelter Shop				£364.00				
Cat food(often donated by members)				£1,670.00				
Cat Litter (often donated by members)				£1,850.00				
Electricity for Shelter				£21,940.00				
Shelter Land Rent				£9,600.00				
Waste Disposal Cheaper Waste				£3,744.00				
Payment to H.M.Customs N.I. & Taxa				£13,500.00				
Staff Salaries Shelter				£66,316.00				
Visiting Vet (weekly) on site ops				£14,400.00				
Shop Manager				£25,397.00				
BOC (Veterinary gas supplies/rent)				£320.00				
Zotis Veterinary Equiptment Supplies				£3,227.00				
MSD Veterinary Supplies				£9,321.00				
NVS Veterinary Supplies (Vacs + Meds)				£18,711.00				
IDEXX Laboritories (Sampls)				£340.00				
Photon				£584.00				
Medivet				£860.00				
North Weald Veterinary costs				£1,308.00				
Water Rates Shelter				£2,080.00				
Charity Vehicle Tax/Insurance				£925.00				
Shelter Complete CCTV system				£24,680.00				
Telephone Helpline						£1,980.00		
Totals	£85,500.00	£0.00	£225,915.00	£278,904.00	£7,300.00	£1,980.00	£0.00	
Closing Balance	£85,500.00	£0.00	£225,915.00	£278,904.00	£7,300.00	£1,980.00	£0.00	

SUMMARY ANNUAL INCOME FOR YEAR 01/01/2024 to 31/12/2024	Receipts	Payments	Balance	Plus opening balances from 01/09/2019	Closing Balance 31/12/2024
Lloyds Current Account	£225,915.00	£278,204.00	-£52,289.00	£415,364.91	£363,076.00
Lloyds Savings Account	£4,600.00		£4,600.00	£25,145.76	£29,745.00
Barclays Account	£7,300.00	£1,980.00	£5,320.00	£8,467.72	£13,788.00
Total	£237,815.00	£280,184.00	-£42,369.00	£448,978.39	£406,609.00

Charity Commission. The examination includes a review and examination of the accounting records kept by the charity and a comparison of the accounts presented with those records. It also includes consideration of any unusual items or disclosures in the accounts, and seeking explanations from your treasurer, or you as trustees, concerning such matters. The procedures undertaken do not provide all the evidence that would be required in an audit and consequently no opinion is given as to whether the accounts present a 'true and fair view' and the report is limited to those matters set out in the statement below.

Independent Examiner's Statement

In connection with my examination, no matter has come to my attention: (1) which gives me reasonable cause to believe that in any material respect the requirements: a) to keep accounting records in accordance with Section 130 of the 2011 Act: and b) to prepare accounts which accord with the accounting records and comply with the accounting requirements of the 2011 Act have not been met; or (2) to which, in my opinion attention should be drawn in order to reach a proper understanding of the accounts.

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'J Richardson', written in a cursive style.

J Richardson. Independent Examiner Oct 2022

JanRichardson65@aol.co.uk

THE SCRATCHING POST (RESCUE AND SHELTER APPEAL FOR CATS)

England & Wales - Charity number 1105653

Accounts

FINANCIAL STATEMENT.

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Trustees:

Jean Miles

David Lord

Stephen Hayes

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Colin Johnson

Julie Nava

Trustees Report for year ending 31st December 2023

The Trustees are pleased to present the annual report and financial statements of The Scratching Post for the end of this financial year. The financial statements comply with the Charities Act 2011, the Companies Act 2006, the Memorandum and Articles of Association, and Accounting and Reporting by Charities: Statement of Recommended Practice applicable to charities preparing their accounts in accordance with the Financial Reporting Standard applicable in the UK and Republic of Ireland (FRS 102) effective 1 January 2015. Policy on reserves: The trustees recognise the importance of reserves and aim to hold funds to cover approximately one year running costs. At the current level of expenditure this equates to £229,000 an increase of £7000 on last year.

Recruitment and appointment of trustees: Anyone wishing to become a trustee is interviewed by the current trustees; generally speaking, recruitment for new trustees occurs if a trustee resigns or if the requirements of the charity are such that particular business skills are deemed necessary. The trustees meet regularly throughout the year and use email and conference calls for matters arising in between meetings.

The trustees wish to express their heartfelt thanks to all fundraisers, volunteers, donators, trusts and legators who contributed financially to the success of The Scratching Post Cat Rescue for the period in question.

Our objectives and activities

- We do not put any cat to sleep, unless it would cause unnecessary suffering to keep it alive.
- We believe that every cat which comes into care should be given the chance of a loving home and happy life.
- All our cats are neutered, microchipped, vaccinated and given a full veterinary check before being rehomed.
- We carry out home checks before rehoming cats, to ensure that every home is suitable for their needs.

The charity targets and projections for January – December 2023

1. Appoint a new veterinary surgeon capable of meeting our needs, as our current vet is looking to move on.
2. Upgrade Kitten Creche and Feral unit. This is likely a 2 year project as much depends on the condition of the current buildings.
3. Construct a waiting area for visitors waiting for their second vaccination appointment. Currently there is nowhere dry and warm to wait.
4. Develop a programme of on-going maintenance. Our buildings are all wooden and require a programme to ensure they are kept weatherproof, varnished and wear and tear is fixed.
5. Purchase storage facility for the excess donations from our charity shop that is weatherproof.
6. Install new gates. We have a couple of outdoor cats who are vulnerable and need to ensure they are unable to leave the yard area.

Achieved aims.

1. New veterinary surgeon appointed October 2023. Our new vet is an experienced practitioner and the changeover has been smooth.
2. The kitten creche unit has been completely gutted, with new interior walls, larger pens and a reasonable sized communal area installed, alongside cupboards to store food etc in. The revamp of the feral unit

exterior has been completed with air locked doors and new run. The interior work will commence 2024-2025.

3. A weather protected waiting area was built and is full in use, ensuring visitors and cats can wait in comfort. Our resident cats also use this as a sleeping area. We also installed an outdoor heater for this area.
4. A programme of maintenance is in place. This includes a yearly painting programme to ensure all wooden structures are annually re weather proofed.
5. Storage facility purchased, built and in use.
6. New yard gates built and installed. This has ensured that the yard cats are secure and prevents people just walking in without seeing a member of staff.

Manager/founder Report - 2023

We continue to take in a large number of surrendered cats and kittens for a variety of reasons, although largely due to people moving or taking on a cat then finding they cannot cope for financial reasons. We have had a significant number of unneutered stray cats and kittens brought in. Many of these have had medical issues needing veterinary care. Rehoming is broadly in line with previous years. However, our waiting list of cats needing a rescue space has been the highest ever this year, resulting in some cats not getting help when they need it.

In 2023 our charity shop has continued to flourish with takings increasing by 46%, bringing in much needed income to secure the present cats' care as well as enabling us to prepare for unseen future expenditure. We get a large amount of good quality donations which we sell either in the shop or at our annual fete. However, we also do receive a large amount of unsellable items requiring disposal. Our annual fete was the busiest ever. The event is becoming well known and respected in the local community and beyond. The organisation of this takes significant time, but always worth it when it helps us establish us within the community.

Our partnership with Java Whiskers cafe has enabled us to take in more cats. Once vet checked, neutered and vaccinated, they are taken to the cafe in London, where they stay for 3 months or more and are available for rehoming at that point. This partnership has not only enabled us to take in more animals, but has also opened our rehoming to a wider area. The café has a capacity of 30 as they have an adult and a kitten lounge area. They employ a welfare assistant to ensure all cats' needs are met.

Our on site veterinary practice has continued to grow in terms of procedures we are able to undertake. We have been able to blood test and diagnose conditions and target treatments much quicker by having this in place. Every cat is vaccinated, vet checked and microchipped before rehoming. All unneutered cats are neutered prior to rehoming. This year our vet had undertaken an increasing number of dental procedures, saving us a significant amount of money, as dentals can be quite expensive. Although the initial cost of setting up a theatre was costly, a positive consequence has been in reducing our external veterinary costs as well as reducing the stress on cats and the difficulties in getting 20+

veterinary appointments per week. We have also hosted several veterinary students as part of their university practice to gain shelter experience.

Finances Explained 2023

Our end of year finances is for a period of 12 months.

Financially we have seen a significant rise in both shop takings and monetary donations. As predicted, the shop is now thriving as it is in a prime location and as the only charity shop in the area, we are able to select the best donations to resell. In addition, brand new donated items are kept to sell at our annual fete, the total takings of which has also increased by 25%. Shop takings have increased by 46%.

We received 2 legacies this year, totalling £95k. Such donations are not predictable. Legacy donations are ring fenced to ensure a financially secure future as a precautionary measure against rising costs.

In terms of expenditure, energy costs continue to rise, and despite continually changing providers to get improved deals, the costs are high. £20000 to heat and light the shelter and rising. This continues to be something that we monitor to ensure we get best value for money.

This year, for the first time we have managed to almost completely undertake feline operations and treatment onsite with our registered veterinary practice and surgeon. Only specialist operations have been referred to external vets. This means a decrease in external veterinary payments, but an increase in the purchase of veterinary equipment and medications for use on site. However, individual operations work out significantly cheaper using our on site vet, particularly with dental and amputation procedures. In addition, the practicalities of not getting 20+ cats per week to an outside vet has enabled us to treat more animals and avoid the stress to them.

We have just under 2 years' running costs in our account, securing our short term future.

The Scratching Post 1st Jan – 31st Dec 2023 Figures

INTAKE

SURRENDERED TOTAL	258
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STRAY TOTAL	126
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INTAKE TOTAL	384
Start total Jan 2023	134

OUTTAKE

OUTTAKE TOTAL	523
TOTAL REHOMED	506
Rehomed domestic	500
Rehomed feral homes	6
Reunited	12
Sick or injured adults euthanised	5

Number of cats/kittens remaining at shelter end of 2023 = 103 (includes cats in foster care at Java Whiskers)

The charity targets and projections for January – December 2024

1. Install cameras in vulnerable spots, including areas to the rear of the sanctuary and giving a better view of all unit entrances. Install internal cameras in all units for the purpose of security and remote monitoring of the cats and kittens.
2. Build a new unit with isolation pens and further donations storage.
3. Create and replace outdoor run shelving giving cats improved enrichment.
4. Rebuild feral unit into a bespoke kitten unit with improved interior. This will include significant building works as the unit is part of original barn building and exterior rear wall may need complete replacement. This will straddle 2024 to 2025.
5. Install cameras in our charity shop as a security and anti-theft measure.
6. Offer trade price microchipping service to owned unchipped in the local community in preparation to the compulsory microchipping coming in place 2024.

THE SCATCHING POST (RESCUE & SHELTER APPEAL FOR CATS

REGISTERED CHARITY NO 1105653

RECEIPTS AND PAYMENTS ACCOUNT Page 1 of 2

From 1st January 2023 to 31st December 2023

	Shop Income		Lloyds Acc/Shelter Appeal Fund		Barclays Account		Petty Cash	
	Receipts	Payments	Receipts	Payments	Receipts	Payments	Receipts	Payments
Charity Shop Sales	£92,135.20		£92,135.20					
Charity Shop Rent				£14,400.00				
Donations Recieved			£101,668.14		£2,561.45		£0.00	
Charity Fete			£12,857.65					
Marquee Hire for Fete				£1,290.60				
Venue Donation				£1,285.76				
Gift Aid			£34,674.25					
Legacy x 2			£95,500.00					
Grants Received			£0.00					
Membership Fees			£1,876.00					
Sale of used Stamps			£675.00					
Sale of Rags			£2,150.75					
Stat, Newsletter Printing & Postage				£1,745.56				
Maintainance & Building/Upgrading								£0.00
Screwfix				£1,759.45				
Wickes				£9,782.55				
B & Q				£1,460.56				
Shop Furniture/Fittings				£2,295.00				
CCTV System Shop				£795.65				
Hire of Skips/cage lorry at Shelter				£2,850.00				
Fosterers Expenses				£1,260.45				
Building Insurance Shop				£1,237.50				
Public Liabilty insurance Shop & Shelter				£2,880.00				
Off site storage units				£3,960.00				
Sub total c/fwd	£92,135.20	£0.00	£341,536.99	£47,003.08	£2,561.45	£0.00	£0.00	£0.00

The Scratching Post Reg.Charity No.1105653..Receipts & Payment Account Page 2 of 2
From 1st January 2023 to 31st DECEMBER 2023/cont

	Shop Income		Lloyds Acc/Shelter Appeal Fund		Barclays Account		Petty Cash	
	Receipts	Payments	Receipts	Payments	Receipts	Payments	Receipts	Payments
b/fwd	£92,135.20	£0.00	£341,536.99	£47,003.08	£2,561.45	£0.00	£0.00	£0.00
Fire Extinguishers Service Shelter Shop				£324.16				
Cat food(often donated by members)				£1,453.55				
Cat Litter (often donated by members)				£1,855.60				
Electricity for Shelter				£19,548.75				
Shelter Land Rent				£9,600.00				
Waste Disposal Cheaper Waste				£1,872.00				
Payment to H.M.Customs N.I. & Taxa				£10,850.45				
Staff Salaries Shelter				£66,733.92				
Visiting Vet (weekly) on site ops				£13,200.00				
Shop Manager (self employed)				£21,077.40				
BOC (Veterinary gas supplies/rent)				£246.24				
Zotis Veterinary Equipment Supplies				£1,241.59				
MSD Veterinary Supplies				£6,544.64				
NVS Veterinary Supplies (Vacs + Meds)				£10,558.21				
Identicare (Microchips)				£2,649.37				
IDEXX Laboratories (Sampls)				£233.80				
Photon				£3,085.02				
Medivet				£680.45				
Goddards Vets				£1,000.00				
Essex Animal Care				£1,317.06				
North Weald Veterinary costs				£2,855.69				
Water Rates Shelter				£410.00				
Charity Vehicle Tax/Insurance				£915.00				
Verve Electricals				£1,891.00				
Shop WiFi / Card Reader				£180.00				
Telephone Helpline						£1,850.00		
Totals	£92,135.20	£0.00	£341,536.99	£227,326.98	£2,561.45	£1,850.00	£0.00	
Closing Balance	£92,135.20	£0.00	£341,536.99	£227,326.98	£2,561.45	£711.00	£0.00	

SUMMARY ANNUAL INCOME FOR YEAR 01/01/2023 to 31/12/2023	Receipts	Payments	Balance	Plus opening balances from 01/09/2019	Closing Balance 31/12/2023
Lloyds Current Account	£341,536.99	£227,326.98	£114,210.01	£301,154.90	£415,364.91
Lloyds Savings Account	£2,448.00	£0.00	£2,448.00	£22,697.76	£25,145.76
Barclays Account	£2,561.45	£1,850.00	£711.00	£7,756.72	£8,467.72
Total	£346,546.44	£229,176.98	£117,369.01	£331,609.38	£448,978.39

Independent Examiners Report (year ending 31st December 2024)

The Scratching Post Re. Charity No. 1105653

My examination was carried out in accordance with the directions given by the Charity Commission. The examination includes a review and examination of the accounting records kept by the charity and a comparison of the accounts presented with those records. It also includes consideration of any unusual items or disclosures in the accounts.

In connection with my examination, no matter has come to my attention: (1) which gives me reasonable cause to believe that in any material respect the requirements: (a) to keep accounting records in accordance with Section 130 of 2011 Act: and (b) to prepare accounts which accord with the accounting records and comply with the accounting requirements of the 2011 Act have not been met; or (2) to which, in my opinion attention should be drawn in order to reach a proper understanding of the accounts.

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'J Richardson', with a stylized flourish extending to the right.

J Richardson. Independent Examiner

e-mail JanRichardson65@aol.co.uk

THE SCRATCHING POST (RESCUE AND SHELTER APPEAL FOR CATS)

England & Wales - Charity number 1105653

Accounts

The Scratching Post (Rescue & Shelter appeal for cats). Reg. Charity No. 1105653.

My examination was carried out in accordance with the directions given by the Charity Commission. The examination includes a review and examination of the accounting records kept by the charity and a comparison of the accounts presented with those records. It also includes consideration of any unusual items or disclosures in the accounts, and seeking explanations from your treasurer, or you as trustees, concerning such matters. The procedures undertaken do not provide all the evidence that would be required in an audit and consequently no opinion is given as to whether the accounts present a 'true and fair view' and the report is limited to those matters set out in the statement below.

Independent Examiner's Statement

In connection with my examination, no matter has come to my attention: (1) which gives me reasonable cause to believe that in any material respect the requirements: a) to keep accounting records in accordance with Section 130 of the 2011 Act; and b) to prepare accounts which accord with the accounting records and comply with the accounting requirements of the 2011 Act have not been met; or (2) to which, in my opinion attention should be drawn in order to reach a proper understanding of the accounts.

J Richardson. Independent Examiner Oct 2022

JanRichardson65@aol.co.uk

THE SCATCHING POST (RESCUE & SHELTER APPEAL FOR CATS

REGISTERED CHARITY NO 1105653

RECEIPTS AND PAYMENTS ACCOUNT Page 1 of 2

From 1st January 2022 to 31st December 2022

	Shop Income		Lloyds Acc/Shelter Appeal Fund		Barclays Account		Petty Cash	
	Receipts	Payments	Receipts	Payments	Receipts	Payments	Receipts	Payments
Charity Shop Sales	£47,996.00		£47,996.00					
Charity Shop Rent				£14,400.00				
Donations Recieved			£80,529.43		£5,600.00			
Charity Fete			£6,960.22					
Marquee Hire for Fete				£1,090.00				
Legacy			£55,000.00					
Grants Received			£4,000.00					
Membership Fees			£1,786.00					
Sale of used Stamps			£825.00					
Sale of Rags			£1,850.65					
Stat, Newsletter Printing & Postage				£1,465.00				
Maintainance & Building/Upgrading				£3,142.73				
Building Materials/ Timber at Shelter				£3,850.50				
Hire of Skips/cage lorry at Shelter				£1,360.35				
Fosterers Expenses								
Building Insurance Shop				£1,100.00				
Public Liabilty insurance Shop & Shelter				£2,560.00				
Off site storage units				£4,960.00				
Sub total c/fwd	£47,996.00	£0.00	£198,947.30	£33,928.58	£5,600.00	£0.00	£0.00	£0.00

The Scratching Post Reg.Charity No.1105653..Receipts & Payment Account Page 2 of 2
 From 1st January 2022 to 31st DECEMBER 2022/cont

	Shop Income		Lloyds Acc/Shelter Appeal Fund		Barclays Account		Petty Cash	
	Receipts	Payments	Receipts	Payments	Receipts	Payments	Receipts	Payments
b/fwd	£47,996.00	£0.00	£198,947.30	£33,928.58	£5,600.00	£0.00	£0.00	£0.00
Fire Extinguishers Service Shelter Shop				£245.00				
Cat food(often donated by members)				£1,850.85				
Cat Litter (often donated by members)				£1,150.00				
Electricity for Shelter				£14,338.54				
Shelter Land Rent				£9,600.00				
Rates for Shop								
Waste Disposal Cheaper Waste				£1,872.00				
Payment to H.M.Customs N.I. & Taxa				£11,685.00				
Staff Salaries (Shelter + Shop)				£87,635.68				
Visiting Vet (weekly) on site ops						£9,070.26		
BOC (Veterinary gas supplies/rent)				£216.00				
Zotis Veterinary Equipment Supplies				£8,258.10				
MSD Veterinary Supplies				£9,550.00				
NVS Veterinary Supplies (Vacs + Meds)				£21,198.72				
Medivet				£1,206.66				
Woolpack Vets Veterinary costs				£352.90				
Reed Vets Veterinary costs				£452.00				
North Weald Veterinary costs				£5,102.64				
Water Rates Shop								
Water Rates Shelter						£310.29		
Charity Vehicle Tax/Insurance				£915.00				
Verve Electricals				£1,450.76				
Telephone shop + card reader				£175.00				
Telephone Helpline				£1,450.36				
Totals	£47,996.00	£0.00	£198,947.30	£212,633.79	£5,600.00	£9,380.55	£0.00	
Closing Balance	£47,996.00	£0.00	£198,947.30	£212,633.79	£5,600.00	£9,380.55		

SUMMARY ANNUAL INCOME FOR YEAR 01/01/2022 to 31/12/2022	Receipts	Payments	Balance	Plus opening balances from 01/09/2019	Closing Balance 31/12/2021
Lloyds Current Account	£198,947.30	£212,633.79	-£13,686.49	£315,154.90	£301,154.90
Lloyds Lottery Account	£2,760.33	£0.00	£2,760.33	£19,937.43	£22,697.76
Barclays Account	£5,600.00	£9,380.55	-£3,780.55	£11,537.27	£7,756.72
Total	£207,307.63	£222,014.34	-£14,706.71	£346,629.60	£331,609.38

Charity Commission. The examination includes a review and examination of the accounting records kept by the charity and a comparison of the accounts presented with those records. It also includes consideration of any unusual items or disclosures in the accounts, and seeking explanations from your treasurer, or you as trustees, concerning such matters. The procedures undertaken do not provide all the evidence that would be required in an audit and consequently no opinion is given as to whether the accounts present a 'true and fair view' and the report is limited to those matters set out in the statement below.

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J Richardson. Independent Examiner Oct 2022

JanRichardson65@aol.co.uk

THE SCRATCHING POST (RESCUE AND SHELTER APPEAL FOR CATS)

England & Wales - Charity number 1105653

Accounts

FINANCIAL STATEMENT.

1st September 2019 - 31st December 2020.

Please note changes to our financial year. This report covers a 16-month period. The decision to change from to a calendar year is to make it easier for the charity to reconcile all reports and activities in all areas.

Page 1. Charity contacts and information.

Page 2. Trustees report.

Pages 3-4. Review of Objectives and activities, targets.

Page 5-6. Manager/founders report.

Page 7. Finances explained.

Page 8/9. Rescue figures.

Page 10. Charity Targets for 2019 - 2020.

Charity addresses.

Main address: Woodbine Cottage Honey Lane Waltham Abbey Essex EN9 3QT

Shelter address: The Scratching Post Woodgreen Road Off Honey Lane Waltham Abbey EN9 3SB.

Helpline no: 01992 626110.

Website: www.scratchingpost.co.uk

Banks.

Lloyds: Manor Croft Parade, 8-9 College Rd, Cheshunt, Waltham Cross EN8 9LR.

Barclays: 78 Turners Hill, Cheshunt, Waltham Cross EN8 9BW.

Charity Aims:

FOR THE BENEFIT OF THE PUBLIC TO RELIEVE THE SUFFERING OF MALTREATED, ABANDONED AND UNWANTED CATS IN NEED OF CARE AND, IN PARTICULAR, TO PROVIDE AND MAINTAIN RESCUE HOMES OR OTHER FACILITIES FOR THE RECEPTION, CARE AND TREATMENT AND, WHERE SUITABLE, THE REHOMING OF SUCH ANIMALS.

Trustees:

Jean Miles

David Lord

Stephen Hayes

David Miles

Colin Johnson

Julie Nava

Trustees Report for year ending 31st December 2020.

The Trustees are pleased to present the annual report and financial statements of The Scratching Post for the end of this financial year. The financial statements comply with the Charities Act 2011, the Companies Act 2006, the Memorandum and Articles of Association, and Accounting and Reporting by Charities: Statement of Recommended Practice applicable to charities preparing their accounts in accordance with the Financial Reporting Standard applicable in the UK and Republic of Ireland (FRS 102) effective 1 January 2015. Policy on reserves: The trustees recognise the importance of reserves and aim to hold funds to cover approximately one year running costs. At the current level of expenditure this equates to £290,000.

Recruitment and appointment of trustees: Anyone wishing to become a trustee is interviewed by the current trustees; generally speaking, recruitment for new trustees occurs if a trustee resigns or if the requirements of the charity are such that particular business skills are deemed necessary. The trustees meet regularly throughout the year and use email and conference calls for matters arising in between meetings.

The trustees wish to express their heartfelt thanks to all fundraisers, volunteers, donators, trusts and legators who contributed financially to the success of The Scratching Post Cat Rescue for the period in question.

Our objectives and activities.

- We do not put any cat to sleep, unless it would cause unnecessary suffering to keep it alive.
- We believe that every cat which comes into care should be given the chance of a loving home and happy life.
- All our cats are neutered, microchipped, vaccinated and given a full veterinary check before being rehomed.
- We carry out home checks before rehoming cats, to ensure that every home is suitable for their needs.

The charity targets and projections for September 2019 – August 2020 -Review.

1. Increase the number of trustees to ensure effective governance and support.
2. Commence operations onsite and thereby reduce veterinary care costs.
3. Create a new isolation unit for unwell cats/kittens.
4. Develop an easier to navigate and maintain website
5. Purchase a charity vehicle for transporting cats to feral homes, to the vets and for trapping large colonies using grants to be applied for.
6. Upgrade the lighting and heating to more environmentally friendly and cheaper to run systems following application for a grant.
7. Appoint an administrative assistant to support with fundraising, grant applications and Gift Aid applications.

Achieved aims.

1. We welcome on board two new trustees - Julie Nava and Colin Johnson. Both have been dedicated volunteers for a number of years and bring with them a vast amount of experience and professionalism and are both an asset to the charity.
2. Through money raised and grants awarded has enabled the charity to purchase necessary equipment for the veterinary practice to advance with more intensive surgery needed for some rescue cats. Our first dental procedure was performed onsite in August 2020. Since then, our vet has been able to perform on average two a week along with other necessary operations.
3. The new isolation unit is now complete with fully protected pens, heating and all the requirements for infectious cats on site, thus preventing cross contamination. This has been constructed a safe distance from other units to prevent infection spread from any contagious cats. Additionally, this unit, while empty, has been used for emergency placements whilst awaiting veterinary assessment. This is especially relevant when emergencies have been called into our centre out of usual hours.
4. Our new website is now operational and has received excellent feedback from being concise and user friendly.
5. The charity vehicle was purchased in May 2020. This has been extremely beneficial for transport for the charity needs.
6. New energy efficient LED lighting and heaters have now been installed throughout the centre. These are cost effective, saving the charity on finances.
7. In October 2019 we welcomed into our team a new administration assistant. Her position has been extremely multitasked as with guidance and training she also assists our onsite vet with administration, thus saving money to employ a further assistant. She has been an asset to the charity in fundraising and bringing in new skills and experience and contributing many unpaid voluntary hours.

Manager/founder Report.

Many cat rescue charities were forced to close their doors once Covid lockdown came into place in March 2020. We continue to work, adapting ourselves to manage within the challenges of the government restrictions for safety. With a skeleton staff and volunteers the charity has developed a new way of operating in accordance with these guidelines. We undertook meeting potential adopters using available internet platforms instead of personal visits to homes. Once checks were in order, an invite was sent to a private internet site to view the rescue cats. This proved successful and reflects in our homing figures for this period.

With the uncertainty of future covid rules we are unable to predict if this will continue.

In April 2020 our shop manageress, Paula Brotherson sadly passed away after contracting Covid. This, along with the past financial struggle, caused us to rethink the charity shop's future. We made the decision to close and surrender the lease. Once we were permitted to do so we began clearing the shop in readiness for closure. This has proved an ongoing project whilst adhering to lockdown restrictions. The shop had been open since the start of the charity in 2004, so this has been a sad and hard decision, but we felt due to changing times, this was necessary.

The impact of vets closing through lockdown has had a disastrous effect on the volume of reported unneutered cats. This had already shown to be an ongoing increase each year. The explosion in population has taken its toll on rescues who have seen a huge increase in colonies and abandonment. It has been challenging to cope with. We are still experiencing problems with veterinary practices having limited availability for neutering. Never have things been so bad and worrying as to where this will lead. Additionally, the quiet roads with limited traffic through lockdown seem to have given cats a false sense of security. The now busy roads have led to many killed or injured with the volume of traffic once restrictions were eased. We have taken a high number of injured cats taken into our care. Sadly, we have had reports of several of our passed homed cats being injured and killed on roads. Along with the lack of neutering, we have seen an even larger increase of kittens this year. We have been at saturation point all year and sadly with online selling at an all-time high,

we struggle to rehome the kittens in our care. Many of these unscrupulous on-liners are selling kittens too young to leave their mothers. We receive a higher number of calls of people wanting to get rid of sick kittens or not being able to cope with them. The knock-on effect has resulted in a higher number of kitten deaths. It seemed while people were at home many acquired kittens and once work recommenced, they were unable to keep them. A higher rate has been called into rescue or just abandoned.

With people working from home and being confined, it seems they have not been spotting abandoned cats or feeding them. We have seen a higher number of starvations amongst strays and abandoned cats. Especially pregnant stray females unable to produce healthy or live kittens due to lack of nutrition, hence our high rate of kitten losses.

Whilst we have always worked in surrounding areas of our catchment area, we found this year has been necessary to go even further afield due to the lack of rescues operating and the reports of serious cases called into us. Along with this we have had a high number of destitute cats when owners have died of Covid. Although the year proved to be challenging, we also were able to rehome a larger number of cats, which is shown in our homing figures for this year.

Finances Explained.

Our end of year finances is for a period of 16-months and are not of a usual year recording due to Covid changes.

The increase to our monthly running costs from £15,500 to £18,000 would reflect the setting up of the veterinary practice, which has been costly. Also, the increase of wages due to additional staff. There is an overlap from the charity veterinary practice and using outside practices for more intensive procedures while set up occurs. We do not expect the amount for outside practices to alter on future finances as we are not equipped for more intensive investigations that are unable to be performed on site.

Our shop sales are low because of the periods of lockdown where we were unable to open. However, we were grateful to receive the government grant which helped to ease this financial burden.

Although we experienced the cancellation of fund-raising activities for the year, the charity was able to improvise with sale of cat items from our onsite shop for people rehoming from us, as they were unable to shop for supplies. Supporters of the charity also assisted with monetary donations to help us survive.

We were fortunate to receive grant money which, along with money raised, the charity was able to purchase of our vehicle.

We continue to have a low purchase of food and litter shown on our accounts. With thanks to our very good supporters who always help by donating these supplies along with other needs for us to work. Within the lockdown period we received phenomenal help and are very grateful for this support.

We also feed, scan and neuter many stray and colony cats outside of the rescue. We also reunite additional lost cats with owners. Because these do not come into the centre they are not recorded on our figures.

The charity has been privileged to receive a few grants and legacies this last period which has helped towards purchasing veterinary equipment and medication for our practice.

It is the first time in the charity's history that there is one year's running costs in the accounts.

As this report is for a 16-month period, we have broken our figures down into 1st, the end of 2019, to follow on from the previous year's report (3 months reporting) and 2nd for our new year which runs from Jan to Dec (12 months reporting)

The Scratching Post 1st Sep 2019 – 30th Nov 2019 Figures

Intake	217
Surrendered	108
Stray	70
Feral	19
Kittens	11
Rehomed	216
Reunited with owners.	3
Sick or injured cats euthanised	5

Number of cats/kittens remaining at shelter end of December 2019 = 61

The Scratching Post 1st Jan 2020 – 31st Dec 2020 Figures

INTAKE

SURRENDERED TOTAL	337
Owner died	67
Unwanted Adults (no reason recorded)	88
Given away on social media	21
Allergies	10
Moving	16
Breeder surrendered	22
New baby	3
Domestic violence	4
Financial	3
Divorce	3
Returned	31
Unwanted kittens	69

STRAY TOTAL	532
Stray Adults	385
Abandoned	35
Dumped locally (woods/cattery)	7
Stray kittens	105

KITTENS BORN ON SITE	93
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INTAKE TOTAL	1023
Start total Jan 2020	61
Surrendered total	337
Stray total	532
Kittens born	93

OUTTAKE

OUTTAKE TOTAL	940
TOTAL REHOMED	880
Rehomed domestic	772
Rehomed feral homes	87
Reunited	21
Sick or injured adults euthanised	13
Kittens born dead/ euthanised	41

Number of cats/kittens remaining at shelter end of 2020 = 83

The charity targets and projections for January – December 2021

- To install CCTV system with Wi-Fi.
- With the higher number of pregnant females reported, in addition to the charity constantly saturated with kittens we plan for a maternity unit to be built. This will keep worried pregnant females away from lively kittens and reduce the numbers in our kitten unit. This will include air conditioning and camera.
- Wear and tear over the years from the elements has caused our outside units to deteriorate. All need refitting with stronger shelves-----Upgrade outside runs.
- Further advances to our vet practice to purchase a scanner for abdominal scanning.

THE SCATCHING POST (RESCUE & SHELTER APPEAL FOR CATS

REGISTERED CHARITY NO 1105653

RECEIPTS AND PAYMENTS ACCOUNT Page 1 of 2

From 1st January 2021 TO 31ST DECEMBER 2021

	Shop Income		Lloyds Acc/Shelter Appeal Fund		Barclays Account		Petty Cash	
	Receipts	Payments	Receipts	Payments	Receipts	Payments	Receipts	Payments
Shop Rent (Enfield Jan to March)			£3,600.00	£3,600.00				
Shop Sales Waltham Abbey)	£24,036.66		£24,036.66					
Donations received			£95,996.14		£42,336.92			
Xmas Fete November					£6,850.75			
Marquee Hire Fete				£1,090.00				
Petty Cash + Collection Boxes			£2,850.55					
Amazon			£1,569.90					
Legacy x 2			£110,000.00					
Grants Received x 2			£11,000.00					
Membership Fees			£1,722.00					
Sale of used Stamps			£615.50					
Sale of Rags			£2,560.00					
Tax Refunded on Gift Aid			£29,500.00					
Stat, Newsletter Printing & Postage				£1,285.50				
Building Materials/ Timber at Shelter						£1,650.80		
Hire of Skips/cage lorry at Shelter (new build)				£1,220.00				
Fosterers Expenses								
Building Insurance Shop				£720.00				
Public Liability insurance Shop & Shelter				£2,145.00				
Off site storage units				£2,800.00				
Sub total c/fwd	£24,036.66	£0.00	£283,450.75	£12,860.50	£49,187.67	£1,650.80	£0.00	£0.00

The Scratching Post Reg.Charity No.1105653..Receipts & Payment Account Page 2 of 2
 From 1st January 2021 to 31st DECEMBER 2021/cont

	Shop Income		Lloyds Acc/Shelter Appeal Fund		Barclays Account		Petty Cash	
	Receipts	Payments	Receipts	Payments	Receipts	Payments	Receipts	Payments
b/fwd	£24,036.66	£0.00	£283,450.75	£12,860.50	£49,187.67	£1,650.80	£0.00	£0.00
Fire Extinguishers Service Shelter Shop						£220.00		
Cat food(often donated by members)				£1,450.40				
Cat Litter (often donated by members)				£860.00				
Electricity for Shelter						£10,856.70		
Electricity for Shop (Enfield)						£550.30		
Shelter Land Rent						£9,600.00		
Rates for Shop								
Rent for NewShop				£7,200.00				
Waste Disposal Cheaper Waste						£310.23		
Payment to H.M.Customs N.I. & Taxa				£8,311.60				
On Site Vet 10hrs PW						£9,000.00		
Salaries 6 Staff (Shelter + Shop)				£86,827.84				
Instalation of new CCTV system				£2,382.50				
New Heating Throughout Cattery				£1,670.65				
New log cabin for Maternity Unit						£4,364.60		
Construction & Instalation of Maternity Unit						£1,630.00		
Maintainance & Building at Shelter						£2,330.00		
Veterinary Equip for new Surgery building								
NVS Veterinary Supplies (Vacs + Meds)				£8,500.40		£11,650.75		
Woolpack Vets Veterinary costs				£495.60				
Medivet Veterinary costs				£745.70				
North Weald Veterinary costs				£4,770.75				
Water Rates Shelter				£269.29				
Microchips				£1,986.00				
Charity Vehicle Tax/Insurance						£620.59		
Sum UP Card readers x 2						£198.00		
Telephone Helpline						£1,247.43		
Totals	£24,036.66	£0.00	£283,450.75	£138,331.23		£54,229.40	£0.00	
Closing Balance	£24,036.66		£283,450.75	£138,331.23		£54,229.40		

SUMMARY ANNUAL INCOME FOR YEAR 01/01/2021 to 31/12/2021	Receipts	Payments	Balance	Plus opening balances from 01/09/2019	Closing Balance 31/12/2021
Lloyds Current Account	£283,450.75	£138,331.23	£145,119.52	£170,035.38	£315,154.90
Lloyds Lottery Account	£2,921.60		£2,921.60	£17,015.83	£19,937.43
Barclays Account	£49,187.67	£54,229.40	-£5,041.73	£16,579.00	£11,537.27
Petty Cash			£0.00	£0.00	£0.00
Total	£335,560.02	£192,560.63	£142,999.39	£203,630.21	£346,629.60

The Scratching Post (Rescue & Shelter appeal for cats). Reg. Charity No. 1105653.

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In connection with my examination, no matter has come to my attention: (1) which gives me reasonable cause to believe that in any material respect the requirements: a) to keep accounting records in accordance with Section 130 of the 2011 Act; and b) to prepare accounts which accord with the accounting records and comply with the accounting requirements of the 2011 Act have not been met; or (2) to which, in my opinion attention should be drawn in order to reach a proper understanding of the accounts.

J Richardson. Independent Examiner Oct 2022

JanRichardson65@aol.co.uk

THE SCRATCHING POST (RESCUE AND SHELTER APPEAL FOR CATS)

England & Wales - Charity number 1105653

Accounts

FINANCIAL STATEMENT.

1st September 2019 - 31st December 2020.

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Pages 3-4. Review of Objectives and activities, targets.

Page 5-6. Manager/founders report.

Page 7. Finances explained.

Page 8/9. Rescue figures.

Page 10. Charity Targets for 2019 - 2020.

Charity addresses.

Main address: Woodbine Cottage Honey Lane Waltham Abbey Essex EN9 3QT

Shelter address: The Scratching Post Woodgreen Road Off Honey Lane Waltham Abbey EN9 3SB.

Helpline no: 01992 626110.

Website: www.scratchingpost.co.uk

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Trustees:

Jean Miles

David Lord

Stephen Hayes

David Miles

Colin Johnson

Julie Nava

Trustees Report for year ending 31st December 2020.

The Trustees are pleased to present the annual report and financial statements of The Scratching Post for the end of this financial year. The financial statements comply with the Charities Act 2011, the Companies Act 2006, the Memorandum and Articles of Association, and Accounting and Reporting by Charities: Statement of Recommended Practice applicable to charities preparing their accounts in accordance with the Financial Reporting Standard applicable in the UK and Republic of Ireland (FRS 102) effective 1 January 2015. Policy on reserves: The trustees recognise the importance of reserves and aim to hold funds to cover approximately one year running costs. At the current level of expenditure this equates to £290,000.

Recruitment and appointment of trustees: Anyone wishing to become a trustee is interviewed by the current trustees; generally speaking, recruitment for new trustees occurs if a trustee resigns or if the requirements of the charity are such that particular business skills are deemed necessary. The trustees meet regularly throughout the year and use email and conference calls for matters arising in between meetings.

The trustees wish to express their heartfelt thanks to all fundraisers, volunteers, donators, trusts and legators who contributed financially to the success of The Scratching Post Cat Rescue for the period in question.

Our objectives and activities.

- We do not put any cat to sleep, unless it would cause unnecessary suffering to keep it alive.
- We believe that every cat which comes into care should be given the chance of a loving home and happy life.
- All our cats are neutered, microchipped, vaccinated and given a full veterinary check before being rehomed.
- We carry out home checks before rehoming cats, to ensure that every home is suitable for their needs.

The charity targets and projections for September 2019 – August 2020 -Review.

1. Increase the number of trustees to ensure effective governance and support.
2. Commence operations onsite and thereby reduce veterinary care costs.
3. Create a new isolation unit for unwell cats/kittens.
4. Develop an easier to navigate and maintain website
5. Purchase a charity vehicle for transporting cats to feral homes, to the vets and for trapping large colonies using grants to be applied for.
6. Upgrade the lighting and heating to more environmentally friendly and cheaper to run systems following application for a grant.
7. Appoint an administrative assistant to support with fundraising, grant applications and Gift Aid applications.

Achieved aims.

1. We welcome on board two new trustees - Julie Nava and Colin Johnson. Both have been dedicated volunteers for a number of years and bring with them a vast amount of experience and professionalism and are both an asset to the charity.
2. Through money raised and grants awarded has enabled the charity to purchase necessary equipment for the veterinary practice to advance with more intensive surgery needed for some rescue cats. Our first dental procedure was performed onsite in August 2020. Since then, our vet has been able to perform on average two a week along with other necessary operations.
3. The new isolation unit is now complete with fully protected pens, heating and all the requirements for infectious cats on site, thus preventing cross contamination. This has been constructed a safe distance from other units to prevent infection spread from any contagious cats. Additionally, this unit, while empty, has been used for emergency placements whilst awaiting veterinary assessment. This is especially relevant when emergencies have been called into our centre out of usual hours.
4. Our new website is now operational and has received excellent feedback from being concise and user friendly.
5. The charity vehicle was purchased in May 2020. This has been extremely beneficial for transport for the charity needs.
6. New energy efficient LED lighting and heaters have now been installed throughout the centre. These are cost effective, saving the charity on finances.
7. In October 2019 we welcomed into our team a new administration assistant. Her position has been extremely multitasked as with guidance and training she also assists our onsite vet with administration, thus saving money to employ a further assistant. She has been an asset to the charity in fundraising and bringing in new skills and experience and contributing many unpaid voluntary hours.

Manager/founder Report.

Many cat rescue charities were forced to close their doors once Covid lockdown came into place in March 2020. We continue to work, adapting ourselves to manage within the challenges of the government restrictions for safety. With a skeleton staff and volunteers the charity has developed a new way of operating in accordance with these guidelines. We undertook meeting potential adopters using available internet platforms instead of personal visits to homes. Once checks were in order, an invite was sent to a private internet site to view the rescue cats. This proved successful and reflects in our homing figures for this period.

With the uncertainty of future covid rules we are unable to predict if this will continue.

In April 2020 our shop manageress, Paula Brotherson sadly passed away after contracting Covid. This, along with the past financial struggle, caused us to rethink the charity shop's future. We made the decision to close and surrender the lease. Once we were permitted to do so we began clearing the shop in readiness for closure. This has proved an ongoing project whilst adhering to lockdown restrictions. The shop had been open since the start of the charity in 2004, so this has been a sad and hard decision, but we felt due to changing times, this was necessary.

The impact of vets closing through lockdown has had a disastrous effect on the volume of reported unneutered cats. This had already shown to be an ongoing increase each year. The explosion in population has taken its toll on rescues who have seen a huge increase in colonies and abandonment. It has been challenging to cope with. We are still experiencing problems with veterinary practices having limited availability for neutering. Never have things been so bad and worrying as to where this will lead. Additionally, the quiet roads with limited traffic through lockdown seem to have given cats a false sense of security. The now busy roads have led to many killed or injured with the volume of traffic once restrictions were eased. We have taken a high number of injured cats taken into our care. Sadly, we have had reports of several of our passed homed cats being injured and killed on roads. Along with the lack of neutering, we have seen an even larger increase of kittens this year. We have been at saturation point all year and sadly with online selling at an all-time high,

we struggle to rehome the kittens in our care. Many of these unscrupulous on-liners are selling kittens too young to leave their mothers. We receive a higher number of calls of people wanting to get rid of sick kittens or not being able to cope with them. The knock-on effect has resulted in a higher number of kitten deaths. It seemed while people were at home many acquired kittens and once work recommenced, they were unable to keep them. A higher rate has been called into rescue or just abandoned.

With people working from home and being confined, it seems they have not been spotting abandoned cats or feeding them. We have seen a higher number of starvations amongst strays and abandoned cats. Especially pregnant stray females unable to produce healthy or live kittens due to lack of nutrition, hence our high rate of kitten losses.

Whilst we have always worked in surrounding areas of our catchment area, we found this year has been necessary to go even further afield due to the lack of rescues operating and the reports of serious cases called into us. Along with this we have had a high number of destitute cats when owners have died of Covid. Although the year proved to be challenging, we also were able to rehome a larger number of cats, which is shown in our homing figures for this year.

Finances Explained.

Our end of year finances is for a period of 16-months and are not of a usual year recording due to Covid changes.

The increase to our monthly running costs from £15,500 to £18,000 would reflect the setting up of the veterinary practice, which has been costly. Also, the increase of wages due to additional staff. There is an overlap from the charity veterinary practice and using outside practices for more intensive procedures while set up occurs. We do not expect the amount for outside practices to alter on future finances as we are not equipped for more intensive investigations that are unable to be performed on site.

Our shop sales are low because of the periods of lockdown where we were unable to open. However, we were grateful to receive the government grant which helped to ease this financial burden.

Although we experienced the cancellation of fund-raising activities for the year, the charity was able to improvise with sale of cat items from our onsite shop for people rehoming from us, as they were unable to shop for supplies. Supporters of the charity also assisted with monetary donations to help us survive.

We were fortunate to receive grant money which, along with money raised, the charity was able to purchase of our vehicle.

We continue to have a low purchase of food and litter shown on our accounts. With thanks to our very good supporters who always help by donating these supplies along with other needs for us to work. Within the lockdown period we received phenomenal help and are very grateful for this support.

We also feed, scan and neuter many stray and colony cats outside of the rescue. We also reunite additional lost cats with owners. Because these do not come into the centre they are not recorded on our figures.

The charity has been privileged to receive a few grants and legacies this last period which has helped towards purchasing veterinary equipment and medication for our practice.

It is the first time in the charity's history that there is one year's running costs in the accounts.

As this report is for a 16-month period, we have broken our figures down into 1st, the end of 2019, to follow on from the previous year's report (3 months reporting) and 2nd for our new year which runs from Jan to Dec (12 months reporting)

The Scratching Post 1st Sep 2019 – 30th Nov 2019 Figures

Intake	217
Surrendered	108
Stray	70
Feral	19
Kittens	11
Rehomed	216
Reunited with owners.	3
Sick or injured cats euthanised	5

Number of cats/kittens remaining at shelter end of December 2019 = 61

The Scratching Post 1st Jan 2020 – 31st Dec 2020 Figures

INTAKE

SURRENDERED TOTAL	337
Owner died	67
Unwanted Adults (no reason recorded)	88
Given away on social media	21
Allergies	10
Moving	16
Breeder surrendered	22
New baby	3
Domestic violence	4
Financial	3
Divorce	3
Returned	31
Unwanted kittens	69

STRAY TOTAL	532
Stray Adults	385
Abandoned	35
Dumped locally (woods/cattery)	7
Stray kittens	105

KITTENS BORN ON SITE	93
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INTAKE TOTAL	1023
Start total Jan 2020	61
Surrendered total	337
Stray total	532
Kittens born	93

OUTTAKE

OUTTAKE TOTAL	940
TOTAL REHOMED	880
Rehomed domestic	772
Rehomed feral homes	87
Reunited	21
Sick or injured adults euthanised	13
Kittens born dead/ euthanised	41

Number of cats/kittens remaining at shelter end of 2020 = 83

The charity targets and projections for January – December 2021

- To install CCTV system with Wi-Fi.
- With the higher number of pregnant females reported, in addition to the charity constantly saturated with kittens we plan for a maternity unit to be built. This will keep worried pregnant females away from lively kittens and reduce the numbers in our kitten unit. This will include air conditioning and camera.
- Wear and tear over the years from the elements has caused our outside units to deteriorate. All need refitting with stronger shelves-----Upgrade outside runs.
- Further advances to our vet practice to purchase a scanner for abdominal scanning.

THE SCATCHING POST (RESCUE & SHELTER APPEAL FOR CATS

REGISTERED CHARITY NO 1105653

RECEIPTS AND PAYMENTS ACCOUNT Page 1 of 2

From 1st SEPTEMBER 2019 TO 31ST DECEMBER 2020 (16 MONTHS)

	Shop Income		Lloyds Acc/Shelter Appeal Fund		Barclays Account		Petty Cash	
	Receipts	Payments	Receipts	Payments	Receipts	Payments	Receipts	Payments
Shop Sales	£31,248.05				£31,248.05			
Donations received			£76,023.94		£98,381.60			
Petty Cash							£2,650.00	
Amazon					£1,679.69			
Legacy			£84,000.00					
Grants Received x 3			£45,000.00		£8,000.00			
Membership Fees			£560.00					
Sale of used Stamps			£510.60					
Sale of Rags					£2,985.16			
Tax Refunded on Gift Aid			£27,500.00					
Stati,Stamps,Newsletter Printing & Postage				£1,485.50				£239.80
Card Machine/phone rent shelter						£304.00		
Building Materials/ Timber at Shelter				£4,345.60		£2,900.10		
Hire of Skips at Shelter (new build)				£840.00				
Fosterers Expenses				£465.45				
Building Insurance Shop						£720.00		
Public Liabilty insurance Shop & Shelter						£2,125.50		
Off site storage units				£2,800.00				
Sub total c/fwd	£31,248.05	£0.00	£233,594.54	£9,936.55	£142,294.50	£6,049.60	£2,650.00	£239.80

The Scratching Post Reg.Charity No.1105653..Receipts & Payment Account Page 2 of 2
 From 1st September 2019 to 31st DECEMBER 2020/cont (16 MONTHS)

	Shop Income		Lloyds Acc/Shelter Appeal Fund		Barclays Account		Petty Cash	
	Receipts	Payments	Receipts	Payments	Receipts	Payments	Receipts	Payments
b/fwd	£31,248.05	£0.00	£233,594.54	£9,936.55	£142,294.50	£6,049.60	£2,650.00	£239.80
Fire Extinguishers Service Shelter Shop						£220.60		
Cat food(often donated by members)				£2,590.65				
Cat Litter (often donated by members)				£1,250.40				£255.00
Electricity for Shelter						£7,339.95		
Electricity for Shop						£886.21		
Shelter Land Rent				£12,800.00				
Rates for Shop						£1,154.74		
Rent for Shop				£9,585.82		£8,046.54		
Waste Disposal Cheaper Waste						£3,422.46		
Payment to H.M.Customs N.I. & Taxa				£7,555.32		£8,458.82		
Salaries 6 Staff (Shelter + Shop)				£31,447.48		£42,294.10		
Instalation and re-wire all lighting						£2,430.40		
New External Secyrity Lighting						£2,150.00		
Construction and installation Isolation unit						£3,100.50		
Maintainance & Building at Shelter						£1,855.80		£2,155.20
Veterinary Equip for new Surgery building				£10,854.26		£5,705.40		
NVS Veterinary Supplies (Vacs + Meds)				£26,803.09		£27,518.30		
Village Vets Veterinary costs								
Kew Vets						£343.60		
Forest Vets Veterinary costs						£5,766.94		
Goddards Vets Veterinary costs				£320.80				
Woolpack Vets Veterinary costs						£495.60		
Reed Vets Veterinary costs						£180.28		
North Weald Veterinary costs				£9,660.63		£13,200.90		
Water Rates Shop						£181.40		
Water Rates Shelter				£271.20				
Microchips						£1,896.00		
Charity Vehicle Tax/Insurance						£580.60		
New Charity Vehicle				£18,500.00				

Telephone shop + card reader				£724.45				
Gov Covid Grant			£10,000.00					
Telephone Helpline						£1,913.76		
Totals	£31,248.05	£0.00	£243,594.54	£142,300.65	£142,294.50	£145,192.50	£2,650.00	£2,650.00
Closing Balance	£31,248.05		£243,594.54	£142,300.65	£142,294.50	£145,192.50	£2,650.00	£2,650.00

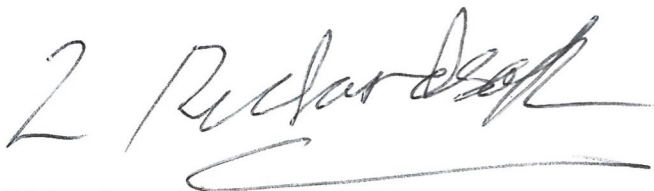
SUMMARY ANNUAL INCOME FOR YEAR 1/09/19 TO 31/8/20	Receipts	Payments	Balance	Plus opening balances from 01/09/2019	Closing Balance 31/12/2020
Lloyds Current Account	£243,594.54	£142,300.65	£101,293.89	£68,740.77	£170,034.66
Lloyds Lottery Account	£2,648.40		£2,648.40	£14,367.43	£17,015.83
Barclays Account	£142,294.50	£145,192.50	-£2,898.00	£19,477.00	£16,579.00
Petty Cash	£2,650.00	£2,650.00	£0.00	£0.00	£0.00
Total	£391,187.44	£290,143.15	£101,044.29	£102,585.20	£203,629.49

The Scratching Post (Rescue & Shelter appeal for cats). Reg. Charity No. 1105653.

My examination was carried out in accordance with the directions given by the Charity Commission. The examination includes a review and examination of the accounting records kept by the charity and a comparison of the accounts presented with those records. It also includes consideration of any unusual items or disclosures in the accounts, and seeking explanations from your treasurer, or you as trustees, concerning such matters. The procedures undertaken do not provide all the evidence that would be required in an audit and consequently no opinion is given as to whether the accounts present a 'true and fair view' and the report is limited to those matters set out in the statement below.

Independent Examiner's Statement

In connection with my examination, no matter has come to my attention: (1) which gives me reasonable cause to believe that in any material respect the requirements: a) to keep accounting records in accordance with Section 130 of the 2011 Act; and b) to prepare accounts which accord with the accounting records and comply with the accounting requirements of the 2011 Act have not been met; or (2) to which, in my opinion attention should be drawn in order to reach a proper understanding of the accounts.

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'J Richardson', with a long horizontal flourish underneath.

J Richardson. Independent Examiner Oct 2021