

FRIENDS OF FERALS (SHEFFIELD)

Caring for the feral cats in Sheffield
Charity Registration Number: 1170938

Friends of Ferals 

RECEIPTS AND PAYMENTS ACCOUNTS

YEAR ENDED 31 JULY 2024

FRIENDS OF FERALS (SHEFFIELD)

REFERENCE AND ADMINISTRATION DETAILS

REG CHARITY NO: 1170938

PRINCIPAL ADDRESS: C/O Joanne Gardner
82, Ellis Street
Rotherham YORKS S60 5DT

WEB SITE <https://www.facebook.com/friendsofferals/>

TRUSTEE: Margaret Skinner (Chairperson)
Joanne Gardner
Nicola Speke

GOVERNING DOCUMENT: Trust deed dated 21 November 2016

BANK: Nat West Bank
42 High Street
Sheffield
S1 2GE

INDEPENDENT EXAMINERS: Mrs Sarah Smith MSc BSc FCCA FCIE MNAVP
TSA (Oakham) Ltd
Temple House
8 Main Street
Cold Overton
LEICS
LE15 7QA

FRIENDS OF FERALS (SHEFFIELD)

Independent Examiners Report to the Trustee of Friends of Ferals (Sheffield)

I report to the trustees on my examination of the accounts of Friends of Ferals (Sheffield) for the year ended 31 July 2024.

Responsibilities and basis of report

As the charity trustees of Friends of Ferals (Sheffield) you are responsible for the preparation of the accounts in accordance with the requirements of the Charities Act 2011 ('the 2011 Act').

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

Independent examiner's statement

I have completed my examination. I confirm that no material matters have come to my attention in connection with the examination giving me cause to believe that in any material respect:

- 1) accounting records were not kept in respect of the Friends of Ferals (Sheffield) as required by s130 of the Act; or
- 2) the accounts do not accord with those records.

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.

Sarah Smith

Date: Thursday 8th May 2025

Sarah A Smith (Mrs) MSc BSc FCCA FCIE MNAVP

TSA (Oakham) Ltd
Temple House
8, Main Street
Cold Overton
LEICS LE15 7QA

FRIENDS OF FERALS (SHEFFIELD)

TRUSTEES ANNUAL REPORT FOR THE PERIOD ENDED 31 JULY 2024.

The report of the trustee for the year ended 31 July 2024 includes the information given on the Reference and Administration page, (page 1).

The charity is run by trustees within the principles of a Charitable Trust Deed dated November 2016.

Objects:

- to help control the huge number of feral and abandoned unneutered cats in and around the city of Sheffield, and monitor their health and wellbeing.
- to remove cats from crisis situations in areas of danger to safety by way of placements at stables, homes or back to site where safe.
- to help small rescues, with trapping advice, the use of specialist equipment and the funding of equipment, food and veterinary treatment. We have maintained our critical partnerships with small rescues in the South and West Yorkshire, North Derbyshire, and North Nottinghamshire areas which uphold our Mission Statement.
- to assist in areas of social and economic deprivation, with neutering, microchipping and veterinary funding. We always find that a little advice, a small gesture works wonders when people feel that they have nowhere else to turn to for help when all the cat they take in may need is neutering, microchipping and basic treatment.
- to promote humane behaviour and educate the public regarding neutering and basic cat care.

Activities and Achievements in support of the objects:

Our tenth year has again been a very good year from a life-saving, information-sharing and maintaining a stable financial position. But very difficult with the loss of our cat unit resulting from the devastating Catcliffe floods. Our few volunteers battled through, trapping and rehoming street cats in very difficult circumstances but we lost everything, specialist trapping equipment, medications, specialist cat carriers and pens. The river broke its banks and the unit suffered a direct hit.

We have not been able to find another centre despite our best efforts but have increased the number of fosterers who have proved to be such a positive in a negative situation. Despite everything that this year has thrown at us, we have still been able to maintain our standing in the local community, helping abandoned unneutered cats from under-privileged areas. Apart from operating a trap, neuter, return to safe areas policy, we have assisted members of the public who were unable to cover what we consider are unreasonably high vet bills, whose cats would otherwise suffer from painful and chronic diseases and face an unknown future. We continue to work hard placing ferals on to stables/small holdings, all neutered, bloodtested, microchipped and brought back to health.

We have helped set up one-woman rescues in South and West Yorkshire with equipment, food and medications and will continue to work with other small rescues in an endeavour for them to survive these unbelievably difficult times.

To ensure continuation of our charity's current activities within the local community, especially at this precarious time, the Trustees have established a policy, at the advice of our accountant, whereby the unrestricted funds not committed or invested in tangible fixed assets should be 18 months of the resources expended

FRIENDS OF FERALS (SHEFFIELD)

TRUSTEES ANNUAL REPORT FOR THE PERIOD ENDED 31 JULY 2024. (CON)

-trapping, neutering, veterinary treatment and daily feeding of feral colonies, from online auction funding and voluntary donations

This year again has seen a further increase in cats giving birth on the streets as a lasting effect of the global pandemic. We are constantly inundated with calls for help and trapping continues on a daily basis from dawn until late at night. It is taking all the charity's resources to keep on top of the previous week's calls.

- Relocating

Placing ferals in stables is a lengthy process and is something most other rescues are unable to do. We have it down to a fine art after years of practice. Following the initial visit to assess suitability, chicken coops are placed to give the cats somewhere safe, secure and comfortable in which to live out their first few weeks of restriction while getting used to their new homes. Visits are carried out on a regular basis at the same time as delivering supplies to ensure the cats are settled and in good health.

- Fosterers

Each case is different and we would not return cats to a dangerous situations that they previously experienced. We are keen to return cats to to gardens and companies where their safe future can be ensured. Although the feral work is an integral part of what our rescue does, when assessing cats in a colony we find that not all are born feral, some are intact strays that have mixed into the colony. These cats that have been exposed to humans may stay in foster care for a longer period but often make good pets and are re-homed. Those that can't return to gardens or companies or go to stables where their safe future can be ensured, and are not rehomeable are looked after by long term foster parents who are dedicated to them for their lifetimes.

- information and advice given on our website and face book page

Our Facebook presence continues to grow and has become an excellent forum for detailing our activities. It is also very popular with our supporters.

We have found that our Facebook has proved to be so popular that we have agreed to use it as a website, with up to date information, especially regarding the importance of neutering and microchipping.

We have made great strides to increase our members on our facebook auction page which is also very popular and covers the cost of most of our veterinary and food bills, We are responsible for the provision of food for over 100 cats every day at an annual cost of over £11k.

Our supporters also use this as an approachable medium for seeking advice and sharing their stories and experiences.

- our supporters

The trustees extend their heartfelt thanks to their loyal Friends of Ferals who have helped by running the auction site, donating, adopting or fostering cats and in the vital frontline work of trapping and feeding the colonies.

FRIENDS OF FERALS (SHEFFIELD)

TRUSTEES ANNUAL REPORT FOR THE PERIOD ENDED 31 JULY 2024. (CON)

We hope that by getting our prevention messages out into the community, we can stop things from hitting crisis point in families and communities, reducing the number of emergencies we have to respond to at short notice and also reducing the number of cats that have to be destroyed in South Yorkshire every week. We know that by working with people at the earliest opportunity we can support them to access the services they need to reduce unwanted hardship. Volunteers, as ever are a huge part of our organisation, we have some very dedicated supporters who have been with the charity since the very beginning of FOF. We owe them all a great debt of gratitude. There have been incredible acts of selflessness, dedication and commitment to our purpose and our cats that have further cemented our true understanding of why we do what we do, when we need it the most. Thank you from the bottom of our hearts

Financial Review:

Inevitably the cost of living crisis has continued to affect the charity's activities particularly the cost of veterinary services, cremations and food. However support for this individual organisation has remained very strong with donations and the auction bringing in £42,471 (2023: £43,707). This represents a small decrease of 2.8%. Expenditure was £42,838, (2023:£40,057).

The charity recorded a small deficit of £367 compared to an operating surplus of £3,650 the previous year. The charity has also been very badly affected this year by the flooding incident.

The remaining free reserves of £48,386 represent 13.5 months normal expenditure.

This is a very small decrease from the previous year which was 14 months.

The trustees are confident that the reserves held are sufficient to meet the liabilities of the charity for at least 12 months from the signature date of these accounts.

The trustees acknowledge the challenge to build the reserves up to 18 months given the loss of equipment experienced this year. However, they are confident that the support for the charity is very high and look forward to serving the community and rebuilding during 2025.

Public Benefit:

The trustees bear in mind the Charity Commission guidance on public benefit when making decisions regarding the use of funds.

The charity helps all local communities experiencing the management problems of unwanted, abandoned and feral cats. It also helps individual cat owners of limited financial means with veterinary care particularly neutering. The management, treatment and re-homing of feral cats manifestly benefits both the human and animal populations of Sheffield and environs.

Maggie Skinner

Mrs M Skinner
8th May 2025

FRIENDS OF FERALS (SHEFFIELD)

Receipts and Payments Accounts

For the Period 1 August 2023 to 31 July 2024

	NOTE	TOTAL	TOTAL
	Unrestricted	2024	2023
	Fund		
	£	£	£
Receipts			
Voluntary donations and auction	40,471	40,471	39,807
Grants	0	0	0
Fundraising events and commissions paid	2,000	2,000	3,900
Sale of Van	0	0	16,000
Total Receipts	42,471	42,471	59,707
Payments			
<i>Fund raising expenses incl platform fees</i>	572	572	337
<i>Direct charitable costs</i>			
Veterinary fees	16,466	16,466	13,635
Cat Care and equipment	2,000	2,000	1,395
Crematorium	858	858	798
Cat food and litter	11,145	11,145	10,617
Equipment (Office/Unit)	0	0	734
Donations	3,352	3,352	2,402
Printing postage and stationery	1,514	1,514	1,225
Fuel, vehicle repairs and hire	2,489	2,489	3,903
Garage rent and storage	3,220	3,220	3,905
Website maintenance	0	0	35
Insurance (vehicle, volunteers and public liability)	647	647	521
Independent Examination	575	575	550
Total Payments	42,838	42,838	40,057
Net Receipts, (Payments)		-367	19,650
Cash Funds brought forward		48,753	29,103
Cash Funds carried forward		48,386	48,753

FRIENDS OF FERALS (SHEFFIELD)

Statement of Assets and Liabilities at 31 July 2024

	NOTE	2024 £	2023 £
Cash Funds			
Nat West Account		44,744	44,261
Paypal Account		3,642	4,492
		<u>48,386</u>	<u>48,753</u>
 Tangible Assets			
VW Vans and Ebikes		19,400	26,400
Equipment (cats)		5,626	6,762
Equipment (office/unit cameras)		550	4,252
	3	<u>25,576</u>	<u>37,414</u>
 <u>Total Assets</u>		<u><u>73,962</u></u>	<u><u>86,167</u></u>
 Liabilities			
Independent Examiners Fee		475	470
Annual Return		110	105
		<u>585</u>	<u>575</u>

Approved by the trustees and signed on their behalf.

Maggie Skinner

Name	Mrs M Skinner
Position	Chairperson
Date	8th May 2025

FRIENDS OF FERALS (SHEFFIELD)

Notes to the Accounts for the Year Ended 31 July 2024

1 Accounting Policies

These accounts have been prepared on a receipts and payments basis in accordance with the Charities Act 2011.

2 Payments to trustees

The trustees receive no remuneration, direct or indirect benefits from the charity.

Out of pocket expenses are reimbursed to trustees and include fuel for their own vehicles in order to attend the sites, postage, cat food, equipment and veterinary fees.

3 trustees received £2,409 (3 trustees in 2023: £5,125)

3 Tangible Assets

Equipment is stated at cost.

VW Caddy Grey (GF20 AVE)	16,000
Decathlon E-bikes (2)	3,400
Pens, traps and other equipment	2,940
Large galvanised pen (protect-a-pet)	2,686
	<u>25,026</u>

Cameras and accessories*	550
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Carried forward 31 July 2024	<u>25,576</u>
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Cat shelters and specialist equipment purchased by the charity are donated to stables and small re-homing organisations to house the cats.

Historical costs are recorded without depreciation (wear and tear).

* Most of the equipment in this category was lost in the flooding.

The comparative value at 31 July 2023 was £4,252

4 Funds

The charity has no Restricted Funds.