

Trustees' Annual Report for the period: 01/01/2022 to 31/12/2022

Charity name: Silk Cat Rescue

Charity registration number: 1180331

Objectives and Activities

	SORP reference	
Summary of the purposes of the charity as set out in its governing document	Para 1.17	For the benefit of the public to relieve the suffering of feral, stray and unwanted cats who are in need of care and attention, in particular, to provide and maintain rescue homes or other facilities for the reception, care and treatment of cats.
Summary of the main activities in relation to those purposes for the public benefit, in particular, the activities, projects or services identified in the accounts.	Para 1.17 and 1.19	Homing – the rescue, rehabilitation and rehoming of stray and unwanted cats and kittens Neutering –i) the neutering and release of feral and garden cats to humanely controlled environments and ii) encouraging and assisting, where possible, in the neutering of domestic cats Education – improving understanding of cats and their needs and prevention of cruelty and suffering to cats and kittens
Statement confirming whether the trustees have had regard to the guidance issued by the Charity Commission on public benefit	Para 1.18	The trustees are mindful of the Charity Commission guidance that our activities should benefit the public

Additional information

Contribution made by volunteers	Para 1.38	The charity is run entirely by volunteers from their own homes. The charity does not own land or property. This permits the charity to keep overheads to an absolute minimum. The charity is managed by a committee of four voluntary trustees. Volunteers manage the day-to-day care and rehoming of cats and kittens and with fundraising and publicity.
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Achievements and Performance

	SORP reference	
Summary of the main achievements of the charity, identifying the difference the charity's work has made to the circumstances of its beneficiaries and any wider benefits to society as a whole.	Para 1.20	Homing Cats come into our care from a variety of sources – for example, strays, unwanted, abandoned, evictions, bereavement, via Social Services, police and vet referrals. Whilst we are unable to accommodate all requests, we help if we can. If we are unable to accept a cat, advice and alternative suggestions are always offered. Before being rehomed, all cats undergo a health check from a qualified veterinary surgeon, are neutered (if not already), wormed and defleaded, vaccinated, microchipped and for peace of mind, all are homed with four weeks of free health insurance from Petplan. All cats that come into our care are assessed as to their homing suitability (eg. with small children, inexperienced owners, dogs and other pets.) We will only home a cat if we feel there is a good match with their new environment and new owners. We do not normally home animals on, or near, busy roads to reduce the risk of traffic accidents. Everybody who adopts a cat or kitten is given verbal and written advice about how to settle a new cat into the family. Cats will always be accepted back into care should their new owner's circumstances change or newly adopted cats fail to integrate into their new family - in such cases, we will offer to refund the money given as an adoption donation. <i>In the period under review, 53 cats and kittens were rehomed.</i>

		Neutering At every opportunity we encourage volunteers and members of the public to neuter their cats - it is beneficial to the long term health of the animal and helps limit the number of unwanted cats and kittens. Unowned cats can become a nuisance in the community and on factory sites when they are roaming, fighting with neighbouring cats and having unwanted litters of kittens in inappropriate places. Most are semi-feral or feral; a few have had a home at some point. Cats are trapped then spayed or castrated, treated for parasites and ear-tipped for identification before being released back into their territory after recovery. On rare occasions, if the original trap site is considered unsafe for release, cats can be relocated to other safer sites e.g. farms, smallholdings and stables. Kittens young enough to be easily socialised are taken into foster care and subsequently placed for adoption. Truly feral cats do not fare well in confinement and cannot be successfully socialised. They are released as soon as possible. Any trapped cats suffering from serious medical problems (e.g. an injury not able to be fixed with a single treatment) are usually euthanised with agreement of a veterinary surgeon if that is the best welfare option overall. There are many benefits to TNR. Once neutered, a cat has a better quality of life, reduced fighting and disease. Female cats are prevented from having up to three litters a year. Nuisance behaviour is reduced or eliminated, thus improving the public's perception of cats. This year our volunteers continued to grow our TNR programme. <i>In the period under review, a total of 21 cats received help under our TNR programme.</i> Advice and Education The charity periodically produces a free newsletter which highlights our recent work and also gives advice on cat-related topics. All cats and kittens are rehomed with a comprehensive information pack and new owners are actively encouraged to stay in touch so we can help with the integration into their new homes. Owners often ring and ask about behavioural and medical problems associated with their pets and, if appropriate, we do our best to signpost advice and help.
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Official organisations sometimes also contact us and ask for help when faced with situations, for example, involving tenants and their cats.

Fostering Facilities

Last year we reported our volunteers had made a start building a bank of foster cabins. This work continued over the winter and our first cats were admitted in early April.

April 2022 - our first resident, Charlie, checks out the new foster block:



The five new cabins and play areas are sized to current DEFRA standards. The living quarters have thermostatically controlled space heating in addition to individual heat pads, a combination which worked well over the coldest of nights.

All the cabins have low level windows overlooking the fields behind the shelter to provide stimulation for fostered cats and, in addition, they have numerous enrichment toys to make their stay as stress free as possible.

One of our new penthouse cabins with play area under:



The five cabins have a common safety corridor to stop the loss of a cat or kitten in the case of escape and also provides an area for consumables, such as food and PPE, and clean litter trays. The corridor also contains the daily record sheets for each cat in care and communal equipment such as a first aid kit and extinguisher.

December 2022 - the safety corridor gets a Christmas makeover:



		The Prince's Trust Early in 2022, we were proud to offer help to The Prince's Trust facilitating a two week placement for participants as part of their 13 week courses hosted in Macclesfield by Cheshire Fire and Rescue. Over their two week placement with us the students follow a structured programme and, as well as learning about animal husbandry, learn about how the charity runs, its policies and its governance. We welcomed three participants over the course of 2022 - all very different and with different aspirations. For some, even getting to the rescue at the agreed time every morning proved quite a challenge but we think they all benefited from the experience. We hope to continue the relationship next year. Working with others Over the year we have continued to build our links with other local charities - sharing surplus food and loaning equipment has helped to reduce our expenses and theirs too. Support and advice is freely exchanged. We have enrolled in Battersea's Academy so we can keep up to date with current rescue thinking and techniques. We've continued our partnership with PetPlan so we can home our cats with four weeks' complementary health insurance. Ukraine In the summer, we provided short term foster care for a cat belonging to a lady and her family who had fled Ukraine at the start of the war. They were going back home for a month to meet up with their conscripted husband/father. It's not something we would normally do but felt, in this instance, the circumstances warranted it.
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Summary

	2019	2020	2021	2022
Rehoming - cats and kittens homed	7	39	49	53
Trap Neuter Return - cats helped	-	-	9	21

Financial Review

Review of the charity's financial position at the end of the period	Para 1.21	During the year under review our overall income remained comparable to last year whilst expenditure increased in line with activity. However, because we were awarded a large grant at the end of 2021 towards our TNR programme, our end of year position was slightly improved and remains comfortable.
Statement explaining the policy for holding reserves stating why they are held	Para 1.22	The charity's policy is to hold a minimum of between six and twelve months of unrestricted reserves to provide a buffer against unexpected events.
Amount of reserves held	Para 1.22	At the end of the year, we held £16,000 unrestricted reserves (9 months.)
Reasons for holding zero reserves	Para 1.22	Not applicable
Details of fund materially in deficit	Para 1.24	None
Explanation of any uncertainties about the charity continuing as a going concern	Para 1.23	None

Additional information (optional)

You may choose to include further statements where relevant about:

The charity's principal sources of funds (including any fundraising)	Para 1.47	1. Donations from adopters and the general public, either one-off or by standing order. 2. Fundraising - sale of good quality donated goods through our eBay shop continued to do well and helped us finance our work. A local micro-brewery / pub have started to run regular pub-quizzes on our behalf which supplements our income. 3. Grants from other organisations and charitable trusts
A description of the principal risks facing the charity	Para 1.46	The charity's principal risk is receiving a large, unexpected vet bill for a cat taken into our care. Routine veterinary costs are generally known and predictable; however, if a veterinary surgeon advises that a cat needs particularly expensive treatment, to mitigate the risk, the trustees will make an informed decision, in conjunction with the vet, on whether to proceed with treatment or, if a better welfare option, put the animal to sleep.

Structure, Governance and Management

Description of charity's trusts:		
Type of governing document (trust deed, royal charter)	Para 1.25	Constitution, adopted 16 th October, 2018
How is the charity constituted? (e.g unincorporated association, CIO)	Para 1.25	Incorporated charitable organisation
Trustee selection methods including details of any constitutional provisions e.g. election to post or name of any person or body entitled to appoint one or more trustees	Para 1.25	Trustees are appointed by resolution at a meeting of the trustees. Trustees are appointed for a term of four years but to ensure continuity, the terms are staggered.

Additional information (optional)

You may choose to include further statements where relevant about:

Policies and procedures adopted for the induction and training of trustees	Para 1.51	Trustees are advised to study Charity Commission guidance CC3a and, if appropriate, attend locally sourced training.
The charity's organisational structure and any wider network with which the charity works	Para 1.51	Governance of, and decisions about, the charity's activities are made by a committee comprising of the trustees.
Relationship with any related parties	Para 1.51	
Other		

Reference and Administrative details

Charity name	Silk Cat Rescue
Other names the charity uses	None
Registered charity number	1180331
Charity's principal address	10 Long Lane Pott Shrigley Cheshire SK10 5SD

Names of the charity trustees who manage the charity

Trustee name	Office (if any)	Dates acted if not for whole year	Name of person (or body) entitled to appoint trustee (if any)
Irene North	Chair of Trustees		Appointed by meeting of Trustees
Michael Raymond North			Appointed by meeting of Trustees
Sonja Margaret Coffait			Appointed by meeting of Trustees
Katie Jane Mazzieri			Appointed by meeting of Trustees

Director name
None

Names of trustees holding title to property belonging to the charity

Trustee name	Dates acted if not for whole year	
None		

Funds held as custodian trustees on behalf of others

Description of the assets held in this capacity	None
Name and objects of the charity on whose behalf the assets are held and how this falls within the custodian charity's objects	
Details of arrangements for safe custody and segregation of such assets from the charity's own assets	

Exemptions from disclosure

Reason for non-disclosure of key personnel details

Not applicable

Other optional information

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Declarations

The trustees declare that they have unanimously approved this report.

Signed on behalf of the charity's trustees:

Signature(s)

	
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Full name(s)

Irene North	
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Position
(eg Secretary, Chair)

Chair of Trustees	
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Date

6th October, 2023	
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Charity Name		No (if any)		CC16a
Silk Cat Rescue		1180331		
Receipts and payments accounts				
For the period from	Period start date	To	Period end date	(all figures to nearest £)
	01/01/22		31/12/22	

Section A - Receipts and payments

	Unrestricted funds	Restricted funds	Endowment funds	Total funds	Last year
A1 Receipts					
Donations - regular giving	1,215	-	-	1,215	420
Donations - adoption fees	5,555	-	-	5,555	4,485
Donations - other	3,254	-	-	3,254	1,636
Fundraising	1,447	-	-	1,447	3,527
Grants	1,500	780	-	2,280	4,300
Misc	536	-	-	536	384
Sub total	13,508	780	-	14,288	14,753
<i>(Gross income for Annual Report)</i>					
A2 Asset and investment sales (see table)					
	-	-	-	-	-
	-	-	-	-	-
Sub total	-	-	-	-	-
Total receipts	13,508	780	-	14,288	14,753
A3 Payments					
Vets bills	7,043	3,045	-	10,088	7,782
Cat Care Consumables	1,384	-	-	1,384	1,449
Administration	373	-	-	373	297
Fundraising costs	49	-	-	49	20
Travelling	197	-	-	197	25
Trap Neuter Return	-	-	-	-	255
Other charitable activities	80	780	-	860	74
Sub total	9,126	3,825	-	12,951	9,903
A4 Asset and investment purchases (see table)					
	-	-	-	-	-
	-	-	-	-	-
Sub total	-	-	-	-	-
Total payments	9,126	3,825	-	12,951	9,903
Net of receipts/(payments)	4,382	- 3,045	-	1,337	4,850
A5 Transfers between funds	-	-	-	-	-
A6 Cash funds last year end	11,618	3,045	-	14,662	9,813
Cash funds this year end	16,000	-	-	16,000	14,662

Section B - Statement of assets and liabilities at the end of the period

Categories	Details	Unrestricted funds	Restricted funds	Endowment funds
B1 Cash funds	Current account	15,329	-	-
	Paypal	670	-	-
		-	-	-
	Total cash funds	16,000	-	-
	(agree balances with receipts and payments account(s))	OK	OK	OK
		Unrestricted funds	Restricted funds	Endowment funds
B2 Other monetary assets	Details			
		-	-	-
		-	-	-
		-	-	-
		-	-	-
		-	-	-
		-	-	-
B3 Investment assets	Details	Fund to which asset belongs	Cost (optional)	Current value (optional)
			-	-
			-	-
			-	-
			-	-
B4 Assets retained for the charity's own use	Details	Fund to which asset belongs	Cost (optional)	Current value (optional)
			-	-
			-	-
			-	-
			-	-
			-	-
			-	-
B5 Liabilities	Details	Fund to which liability relates	Amount due (optional)	When due (optional)
			-	
			-	
			-	
			-	

Signed by one or two trustees on behalf of all the trustees:

Signature	Print Name	Date of approval
	Irene North, Chair of the Trustees	11th Oct, 2023