

Trustees' Annual Report for the period: 01/01/2023 to 31/12/2023

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.
---------------------------------	-----------	--

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, 63 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 work on our TNR programme. <i>In the period under review, a total of 20 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.
--	--	--

		Official organisations sometimes also contact us and ask for help when faced with situations, for example, involving tenants and their cats. Fostering Facilities Having established our new cat hotel, the trustees discussed using home fosterers to support our work and increase capacity. However, for the time being at least, we have decided to stick with the ‘centralised’ approach which, if nothing else, makes it more practicable to monitor and maintain animal welfare standards. The Prince’s Trust We continued our relationship with Cheshire Fire and Rescue where we facilitate a “work placement” for selected participants as part of the Prince’s Trust tri-annual, 13 week course hosted in Macclesfield. 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. This year, again, we welcomed three participants - all very different individuals and with different long term aspirations. We hope to continue the relationship next year. Working with others We maintain our links with other local rescue charities - bilateral sharing of surplus food and loaning of equipment has helped to reduce our expenses and theirs too. Support and advice is freely exchanged. We continue to benefit from our enrollment in Battersea’s Academy, making use of their many online courses to keep up to date with current rescue thinking and techniques. Our partnership with PetPlan continues and means we can home our cats with four weeks’ complementary health insurance.
--	--	--

Summary

	2019	2020	2021	2022	2023
Rehoming - cats and kittens homed	7	39	49	53	63
Trap Neuter Return - cats helped	-	-	9	21	20

Financial Review

Review of the charity's financial position at the end of the period	Para 1.21	During the year under review our activity increased and we had more medically complex cases. This coupled with a large increase in cat litter and food costs meant our spend, year on year increased by over 20%. However, by increasing our adoption fees and increasing our efforts in fundraising this rise in costs was more than offset. We were fortunate to receive another generous grant towards our TNR programme and a couple of very generous, unexpected, individual donations. The net result is that our end of year position is financially comfortable. This year, because our income exceeds £25k for the first time, we are required to have our accounts "Independently Examined" and we are grateful to https://charityindependentexamination.co.uk for helping us through the process.
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 £24,226 unrestricted reserves (18 months) but with our preferred veterinary practice raising prices by 10% at the end of 2023 these reserves are not as generous as first appears. We are also hoping, at some stage, to obtain a new high quality, low maintenance 'isolation pen' which will need significant capital expenditure, we think, in the order of £10k.
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. 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	Charitable incorporated 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

--

Declarations

The trustees declare that they have unanimously approved this report.

Signed on behalf of the charity's trustees:

Signature(s)

	
---	--

Full name(s)

Irene North	
-------------	--

Position
(eg Secretary, Chair)

Chair of Trustees	
-------------------	--

Date

1st May, 2024	
---------------	--



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 £)	
	01/01/23		31/12/23		

(note: columns may not add exactly due to rounding)

Section A - Receipts and payments

	Unrestricted funds	Restricted funds	Endowment funds	Total funds	Last year
A1 Receipts					
Donations - regular giving	1,060	-	-	1,060	1,215
Donations - adoption fees	7,460	-	-	7,460	5,555
Donations - other	6,318	-	-	6,318	3,254
Fundraising	5,065	-	-	5,065	1,447
Grants	-	4,000	-	4,000	2,280
Misc	1,390	-	-	1,390	536
Sub total	21,293	4,000	-	25,293	14,288
<i>(Gross income for Annual Report)</i>					
A2 Asset and investment sales (see table)					
	-	-	-	-	-
	-	-	-	-	-
Sub total	-	-	-	-	-
Total receipts	21,293	4,000	-	25,293	14,288
A3 Payments					
Vets bills	8,650	-	-	8,650	10,088
Vets bills (grant funded)	-	2,636	-	2,636	-
Cat Care Consumables	3,798	-	-	3,798	1,384
Administration	349	-	-	349	373
Fundraising costs	10	-	-	10	49
Travelling	236	-	-	236	197
Other charitable activities	25	-	-	25	860
Sub total	13,067	2,636	-	15,703	12,951
A4 Asset and investment purchases (see table)					
	-	-	-	-	-
	-	-	-	-	-
Sub total	-	-	-	-	-
Total payments	13,067	2,636	-	15,703	12,951
Net of receipts/(payments)	8,226	1,364	-	9,590	1,337
A5 Transfers between funds	-	-	-	-	-
A6 Cash funds last year end	16,000	-	-	16,000	16,000
Cash funds this year end	24,226	1,364	-	25,590	16,000

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	20,432	1,364	-
	Paypal	3,794	-	-
		-	-	-
	Total cash funds	24,226	1,364	-
	(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	28th April, 2024



Section A

Independent Examiner's Report

Report to the trustees

Charity Name
Silk Cat Rescue

On accounts for the year
ended

2023

Charity no
(if any)

1180331

Set out on pages

Pages 1 and 2 only

(remember to include the page numbers of additional sheets)

I report to the trustees on my examination of the accounts of the above charity ("the Trust") for the year ended **31 / 12 / 2023**.

Responsibilities and
basis of report

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

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

Independent
examiner's statement

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

- the accounting records were not kept in accordance with section 130 of the Charities Act; or
- the accounts did not accord with the accounting records.

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.

Signed:

Date:

4th May 2024

Name:

Ebrahim Piperdy (AFA) (MIPA) (MAAT)

Relevant professional
qualification(s) or body
(if any):

Institute of Financial Accountants (IFA)
Institute of Public Accountants (IPA)
Association of Accounting Technicians (AAT)

Address:

39 Hartington Street, Chatham, Kent, ME4 5PH

Section B

Disclosure

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

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

None as not applicable.