

CONSTITUTION

1. For the benefit of the public to rescue, rehabilitate, rehome or otherwise provide for the welfare and relief of suffering of unwanted or unowned cats in need of care and attention in and around Uttlesford District Council area, Essex, and to provide accommodation and facilities for those purposes.
2. To promote humane behaviour towards cats by advising and educating the public on welfare matters and the prevention and relief of cruelty and suffering.

CATS

Toe Beans helped 143 cats throughout the year. Cats coming into Toe Beans are cared for by Foster Carers in their own homes and some in addition have catio's. We lost the use of one of our catio's when a volunteer chose to go and help another cat charity and refused to return the catio. Rehoming has been successful (1 on a supported adoption) and we are always pleased to hear how they have settled.

Of the 143 cats that Toe Beans helped throughout the year, 4 were rehomed on a Home-to-Home basis, this is where we help an owner who for whatever reason can no longer look after their cat, but continue to look after it until we find a suitable home, 7 were feral cats and 33 came from the streets, the rest were found or handed over. We had 1 cat that tested for FIV and was rehomed as an indoor cat. Strays are tested for FIV & FeLV and cats that are judged to be at risk, injured or ill, or after discussion with a vet, as per Cats Protection Vet Guide 2019 are also tested.

All cats are neutered (if old enough), vaccinated, defleaed, wormed and microchipped before they go to their new homes.

Trapping has occurred to some extent throughout the year with the help of a local independent trapper with whom we have a good relationship.

Microchipping, was initially through our vet practice but we now have a good relationship with a local microchipping company who visits the cats in their own homes and for a very fair price.

Examples of cats we have cared for:

Success stories

Stray to home: Donut

Donut was found after straying miserably in a car park for months. Unfortunately, no owners were found despite us advertising him on social media, putting up posters, searching lost databases and contacting vets. He wasn't in the best of health when he came to Toe Beans. He was very underweight and had a swollen mouth, a growth on his cheek and diarrhoea. After numerous vet visits and lots of TLC, Donut started to put on weight and looked much better in himself. He had some teeth removed as he had a few rotten ones and a broken canine. He also had the growth removed and sent off for testing. Donut stayed in long-term foster with us until he was well enough to be re-homed. Donut's growth was cancerous but luckily for him it was a rare, non-aggressive cancer. He was re-homed on a supported adoption, which means Toe Beans will pay any vet's bills related to the cancer. Donut is now living with a family and is enjoying his very best life.

Found kittens: Domino and Dash

Domino and Dash were found as feral kittens aged around 12 weeks. They were terrified, would hiss and occasionally bite or slap with their paws. Found in a remote area, they had not had any human contact. They were fostered in one of our foster carers' homes, and the family worked hard to turn the feral kittens into pets. This was a long process and there were lots of times when progress went backwards, especially if they met new people, but eventually they were deemed friendly enough to go to their forever home. We found a home that was understanding and would be happy for the boys to take the time they needed to come out of their shells and trust humans. Domino and Dash settled well and became happy pets.

Trap, neuter, return: Dudley

Dudley was a stray who had been living in a small community for a few years. Locals had got used to his presence and nobody seemed bothered about him hanging around. But then, due to his hunger, Dudley started taking risks. He would break into people's homes to steal food and started terrorising local cats. When he ate all the ducklings on the village pond, several people reported Dudley to us. After searching for an owner, we realised he was a stray. We set a trap to capture him at sunset and within the hour Dudley had been caught. He was starving hungry. He turned out to be an unneutered tom cat with a few war wounds – but no microchip. The person who allowed us to trap him on their land was happy for Dudley to be returned if he was neutered. So we got Dudley neutered, as well as having him FIV and FeLV blood-tested. He was given a clean bill of health. He was also microchipped, with our charity's contact details linked to the chip on the database. Dudley was returned and the person who found him set up a feeding station and bed in one of their outbuildings. Dudley is still feral but much happier and far less aggressive now.

Abandoned cats: Barbie and Ken

Barbie and Ken were found abandoned in a small, locked cat carrier in thick undergrowth. A member of the public heard them crying as she was walking her dog. She immediately took them to a vet, who called us for help. We went to collect them. It was established that they were an unneutered male and female, around a year to 18 months old. We ran a social media campaign asking for the owners to come forward, with no judgment, but the appeal proved fruitless. Barbie and Ken had been traumatised by their ordeal and spent a long time hiding. We got them vet-checked, blood-tested and neutered. They spent time in our care getting lots of TLC and learning to trust humans again. After a period in foster care, we noticed Barbie was very dominant over Ken and we felt he was not able to be himself around her. When we separated them and put Barbie with a new foster carer, both started to flourish as single cats. We eventually found them new homes, where they are both very happy.

VOLUNTEERS

All volunteers carry ID cards.

FOSTER CARERS

The year started with 3 Foster carers looking after 5 cats. Throughout the year we have successfully advertised and recruited foster carers and ended the year with 12. Not all stay as they find giving up the cat, they have cared for too hard to bear, but safe to say we have now have an experienced and stable group, with a couple in the pipeline. Feedback from the foster carers is that it is a demanding but rewarding job. Without our foster carers we would not have been able to help the cats that need us.

TRUSTEES

The three trustees remained throughout the year and in August we were joined by another, who has trustee experience in another area. Her experience will be of great benefit to Toe Beans.

LOST & FOUND TEAM

We use social media as a tool for recording lost and found cats in the area. With this information we can try to help match cats to their owners. When owners post that their cat is missing we send a link to them from our website with advice <https://toebeanscatrescue.org/lost-found/tips-for-finding-a-missing-cat> and the same when people “find” a cat <https://toebeanscatrescue.org/lost-found/found-a-cat> We also use our FaceBook page to post for owners whose cats have gone missing. Most return within 48 Hours, we find. The team recorded 269 missing, lost and found cats, with 56% having a known outcome.

Found cats without a microchip that are brought into Toe Beans care are all checked with the national pet register databases for any matches and all relevant vets are written to see if the cat is known to them. Guidelines from the RSPCA say we can rehome a cat after 7 days but we prefer to wait longer than this and its more likely to be 28 days, with a minimum of 14 days.

Compulsory microchipping does not become law until summer 2024. There are still too many cats that are not microchipped, even if they are, owners are not realising that the microchip is not registered.

In addition, when a deceased cat, the result of a cRTA is notified to us, a volunteer will respond and we will endeavour when chipped to inform the owner, otherwise the cat is taken to a local vet. For cats that are ‘found’, we send out a volunteer to check for a microchip and reunite the owner with their cat whenever possible. In all we scanned 34 cats, 8 were deceased and the rest were reunited or came into our care.

PUBLICITY

The majority of Toe Beans publicity is via the Social Media outlets, i.e., Facebook with a business page, (is our main source for disseminating information), NextDoor and Cat Chat. We streamlined the number of different pages that we had to make it more manageable and in March 2023 updated our logo. We will update our web page in the near future. We are also able to publicize Toe Beans when doing fundraising activities. We will continue to look for the right person to help with our social media, to add Instagram and TikTok to reach a wider audience.

We did have some local newspaper publicity when a cat Reggie was reunited with his owner after 12 months. He was found in Henham but his home was in Cambridgeshire more than 30 miles away. Reggie was microchipped and his data up to date.

FUNDRAISING

We had a few events to raise funds, a stall at the Thaxted Fete & Dog Show, a raffle set up by one of the volunteers, a boot sale and a bottle tombola at a charity event before Christmas. As well as fundraising these events help with the publicity of Toe Beans as mentioned before. These events do need a lot of volunteer hours, in the preparation, transportation, staffing the stall and packing up.

We have still not been able to find a fundraising co-ordinator, this has been a challenge to fill, but we have managed the events with our existing volunteers stepping in to fill the gap.

We had several successful fundraising events at Pets @ Home Saffron Walden having been chosen at the end of last year to be their chosen Charity for the year.

A grant was received from The Pets at Home Foundation. We also purchased a laptop with the Sainsbury's grant money from 2022.

CONCLUSION

The Trustees would also like to thank **all** those who were volunteers in 2023 for their input and support. Especially to our Manager/Co-ordinator who with her enthusiasm and capacity to tackle anything has undoubtedly carried us through the tough time as we started afresh after the vicissitudes of the previous year. Thank you to our treasurer too who has kept us on the right path and navigated us through the changeover of our bank account.

Toe Beans has gone from strength to strength during this year. Re-establishing ourselves within the community with a good reputation. More and more are saying to us that they have heard of Toe Beans and have heard of the good work that we do for the cats in Uttlesford. We streamlined our activities and prioritised others to take into consideration the availability of those involved, volunteers give their time willingly and should not be taken advantage of.

We have re-established good relationships with other local cat rescues and support each other, especially during the summer months when we were inundated with requests for help.

We still have plenty to do but ended the year 2023 on a high note, with a band of happy volunteers. 4 trustees and 20 volunteers.

TREASURER'S FINANCE REPORT

2023 was a very successful year for Toe Beans Cat Rescue in terms of rescuing, and rehoming cats and kittens through adoptions. This is reflected in the Receipts and Payments figures where we experienced an increase in income by £11,244 and expenditure by £9,954 compared to the previous financial year.

Income was generated through donations from the public, donations received from people adopting cats and kittens, fundraising projects and grants. In addition, Toe Beans also received memorial donations during the year. During 2023, Toe Beans were successful in obtaining a grant of £5,507 from Pets at Home. The slight reduction in the monetary value of general donations was offset by an increase in fundraising activity, and particularly the support of a regular fundraising scheme in the form of the PayPal Giving Fund.

Vets bills were the main expenditure for Toe Beans Cat Rescue. Increase in the value of these payments can be attributed to a growth in demand for our services. There was also some inflationary pressure resulting in increased cost prices. Despite donations from the public of items such as cat food and litter, we did have to increase expenditure in this area during the year. Further increases in costs were seen in office expenses (purchase of laptop, postage) and promotion (ID and business cards, website), however these costs were offset by a reduction in cat transportation and finance payments. The laptop was purchased through the grant awarded in the previous financial year. Finance costs mainly related to the receipt of donations received via PayPal. Toe Beans also purchased insurance which included liability cover.

There was an excess of Receipts over Payments at the year end. This was aided by the receipt of the grant for £5,507 from Pets at Home. These funds are earmarked for specific expenditure during 2024, with £4,200 for expenditure on vets invoices, and £1,307 on catios.

At the end of the financial year, Toe Beans had an outstanding financial liability of £442 which related to outstanding vets fees and expenses incurred but yet to be invoiced. This liability was sufficiently covered by the credit balance held in the Toe Bean's bank account and the intention is to clear this liability early in the new accounting period.

Toe Beans has yet to register with HMRC for Gift Aid, and this will be further considered by the Trustees in 2024.

TOE BEANS CAT RESCUE
ACCOUNTS FOR THE YEAR ENDING
31ST DECEMBER 2023

Toe Beans Cat Rescue Statement of Receipts and Payments 1/1/2023 to 31/12/2023

<u>Receipts (£)</u>	2023	2022
Adoption Donations	14,101	8,350
General Donations	4,124	6,996
Memorial Donations	1,054	—
Fundraising	7,805	3,501
Grants	5,507	2,500
<u>Total Receipts (£)</u>	32,591	21,347
<u>Payments (£)</u>		
Cat Food/ Inc litter (2022)	649	308
Consumables - Including litter	268	—
Consumables - Medicine	215	401
Veterinary costs	24,546	13,910
Re-homer vet costs	177	—
Cat vaccinations	415	—
Microchipping	668	—
Cat Transport costs	120	1,485
Delivery of catio	102	—
Catios		476
Equipment	240	658
Office Equipment & Expenses	501	232
Training	—	8
Website	78	12
ID Cards	188	—
Business Cards	59	—
Postage	69	—
Insurance	339	334
Finance costs	17	189
Event costs - Fundraising	100	688
Other Fundraising costs	—	96
<u>Total Receipts (£)</u>	28,751	18,797
Excess Receipts over Payments (£)	3,840	2,550

Notes To Financial Figures For Toe Beans Cat Rescue 1/1/23 to 31/12/23

(1) - Fundraising £

The following is a breakdown of funds received and listed under the heading of Fundraising

Amazon Europe	83
Easy Fundraising	44
Pets at Home collection	112
PayPal Giving Fund	5,198
London Marathon	269
Sue's Book sale	100
Thaxted Fayre	301
PayPal Inc	169
Fundraising stall	110
Boot sale	101
Collection box	33
Sundry Fundraising	163
Charities Aid Foundation	100
Charitable Giving Benevity	537
Tombola	415
Craft market	40
Agria Pet Insurance	30
Total	7,805

(2) - Grants

The following grants were received during the year.

Pets at Home	5,507
Total	5,507

(3) - Creditors

The creditors figure relates to outstanding vets bills and expenses as at the 31st December 2023.
This outstanding amount is expected to be paid within one month of the year end.

Toe Beans Cat Rescue Statement of Asset and Liabilities 1/1/2023 to 31/12/2023

	2023	2022
<u>Assets (£)</u>		
Bank Account	9,975	5,902
Paypal Account	20	253
<u>Total Assets (£)</u>	<u>9,995</u>	<u>6,155</u>
<u>Liabilities (£)</u>		
Creditors	442	817
<u>Total Liabilities (£)</u>	<u>442</u>	<u>817</u>