

Cat Support Group

Northern Ireland · Charity number 100721

Details

Known as	CSG
Status	Received
Registered	2014-09-29
Register	View on the Charity Commission for Northern Ireland register

Contact

Address	Cat Support Group 81 Sandown Road Belfast BT5 6gu BT5 6GU
Phone	07814751786
Email	csgni4paws@gmail.com

Activities

Purposes: The group is established to provide a service to the general public, in that any person with a problem related to feline welfare may seek advice and/or help from the Group. These problems may relate to abandoned cats, injured cats, and control of feral colonies. The Group shall help (from time to time) with the welfare needs of other small animals such as dogs, rabbits or ferrets. We do give financial support to those in genuine need through provision of food/help with veterinary fees etc. The Group shall endeavour to enhance the public's knowledge of feline welfare where deemed to be beneficial to both humans and felines.

What the charity does: The advancement of animal welfare

How the charity works: Advice/advocacy/information,Animal welfare,Volunteer development

Who the charity helps: General public

Finances

Period end	Income	Expenditure	Assets	Employees
2024-12-31	£18,019	£23,861	£0	0

Trustees

Name	Role	Appointed
Miss Sandra Johnstone		
Mr Richard Brown		
Mrs Carol Dougan		
Mrs Heather Cammock		
Mrs Kate McGowan		
Mrs Val Skelton		

Cat Support Group

Northern Ireland - Charity number 100721

Accounts

Cat Support Group

Northern Ireland - Charity number 100721

Accounts

**CAT SUPPORT GROUP (NI)
 RECEIPTS AND PAYMENTS ACCOUNT FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31ST DECEMBER 2023**

	2022	2023		2022	2023
	£	£		£	£
RECEIPTS			PAYMENTS		
Donations	7,553.00	6,861.00	Treatment)		
Sale Stalls	2,041.05	3,035.45	Spay/Neuter)		27,639.41
Membership Fees	1,080.00	930.00	Food		5,420.00
Coin Collections	213.22	155.90	Sheds, Kennels, Runs, Carrier		
Interest	382.10	853.55	Postage		68.00
Gift Aid Tax Return (3 years)			Stationery / Consumables		
Legacy	500.00		Insurance (PL)		174.00
Lunch in Memory of Georgie Mollison	810.00		Hire of Hall		225.00
Ballot	280.00		Hire of Committee Room		
Christmas Lunch	1,186.85	1,235.00	Advertising		
Christmas Ballot	345.00	315.00	Lunch in Memory of Georgie Mollison		1,209.00
			Christmas Lunch		500.00
			Car Allowance		
			Support for Other Charities		
			PO Box Rental	407.10	209.10
			Accountant's Fee / Gift	84.36	84.37
Total Receipts	<u>14,391.22</u>	<u>13,385.90</u>	Total Expenses	<u>27,120.40</u>	<u>35,528.88</u>
			Minus Deficit for Year	<u>12,729.18</u>	<u>22,142.98</u>
			TOTAL	<u>14,391.22</u>	<u>13,385.90</u>
			RESOURCES BROUGHT FORWARD		
			As at 1st January 2023		
			Santander Business Account	20,314.19	12,913.69
			<i>Adjustment made for cheques uncashed</i>	1,042.59	
			Santander Business Savings Account	287.61	304.19
			Nationwide Building Society Account		
			Petty Cash		
			Progressive 1 Year Fixed Bond	15,498.96	
			Progressive 2 Year Fixed Bond	42,748.30	43,488.20
			Total Resources at 1st January 2022	<u>77,806.47</u>	<u>56,706.08</u>
			Minus Deficit for Year	<u>22,142.98</u>	
			TOTAL	<u>56,706.47</u>	<u>56,706.08</u>
			RESOURCES CARRIED FORWARD		
			As at 31st December 2023		
			Santander Business Account	20,314.19	12,913.69
			<i>Adjustment made for cheques uncashed</i>	1,042.59	
			Santander Business Savings Account	287.61	304.19
			Nationwide Building Society Account		
			Petty Cash		
			Progressive 1 Year Fixed Bond	15,498.96	
			Progressive 2 Year Fixed Bond	42,748.30	43,488.20
			Total Resources at 31st December 2022	<u>77,806.47</u>	<u>56,706.08</u>
			Minus Deficit for Year	<u>22,142.98</u>	
			TOTAL	<u>56,706.47</u>	<u>56,706.08</u>

Kevin Coll
20 August 2024

Prepared by Sandra Johnstone Hon. Treasurer

The banking and accounting records of The Cat Support Group (NI) have been reviewed and I am satisfied that the Receipts and Payments Account shown above has been prepared in accordance with those records and complies with the statutory requirements

Cat Support Group

Northern Ireland - Charity number 100721

Annual report

THE CAT SUPPORT GROUP

(Founded in 2001)

Accepted as a charity by the Charity Commission for Northern Ireland
Charity Registration number NIC 100721

ANNUAL REPORT FOR 2023

(1st January 2023 to 31st December 2023)

Chairperson

Mrs Kate McGowan

Hon. Treasurer

Miss Sandra Johnstone

Hon. Secretary

Mrs Heather Cammock

Membership Secretary

Mr Richard Brown (Resigned from Committee November 2023)

Committee Members

Mrs Valerie Skelton

Mrs Carol Dougan

Mrs Jean Dykes

*We call them dumb animals, and so they are, for they cannot tell us how they feel,
but they do not suffer less because they have no words. Anna Sewell (1820 - 1878)*



HISTORY OF THE CAT SUPPORT GROUP

The Cat Support Group was formed in 2001. We were accepted as a charity by HMRC in 2004 but now have been registered with the Charity Commission for Northern Ireland with Reg. No. NIC100721.

At present we have a membership sitting in and around 85, with a membership fee of £20.00 per annum.

We do not have a shelter, but our volunteers work from their own homes to look after kittens and cats which come into our care; with the aim of re-homing as many of these animals as possible. Our "no-kill" policy ensures that no healthy animal is ever put to sleep.

We have a Management Committee to oversee and approve the running of our affairs, consisting of a Chairperson, Hon. Secretary, Membership Secretary, Hon. Treasurer and up to three other non-office bearing Committee members.

To generate income, we have various fund-raising events throughout the year.

OBJECTIVES OF OUR CHARITY PLAN

1. To rescue stray and unwanted cats and kittens and to rehabilitate and re-home.
2. To promote the neutering and spaying of all cats and kittens not required for breeding.
3. To help and advise the people on the care of cats and kittens, especially in a rescue situation.

We endeavour to meet these objectives by ensuring: -

All sick cats/kittens are given appropriate veterinary care and brought to a clean bill of health before being put forward for re-homing.

All rescue animals are neutered or spayed when rescued or, if too young then this will be carried out as soon as they are old enough.

Feral cats are trapped where possible and are neutered /spayed as appropriate. At this point they are also de-fleaed/wormed before being returned to their colonies. Ferals are provided with food as regularly as possible, and a watch is kept for any cat which appears to be ill. If the animal can be caught it will be taken to a vet for examination.

We help and advise people who get in contact with us and people tend to find this useful, if not indeed comforting, if they are in a difficult or worrying situation.

THE CHARITY TEST

The Charity Commission for Northern Ireland requires the Cat Support Group To show how our charity is of benefit to the public: -

1. We are the only cat charity that is 'open all hours', indeed our volunteers often receive phone calls late at night or at weekends when other help lines are closed. Previous Cliftonpark Avenue Shelter volunteers earned a lot of respect for long years of service in an area where others feared to tread particularly when "The Troubles" were at their height. This has resulted in people who would not otherwise consider asking for assistance from 'outsiders' feeling comfortable enough to pick up the phone or indeed call with one of us for help.
2. Vets ring us for help as they know we will respond promptly if at all possible - we do not make empty promises.
3. Not having the financial, physical, and mental stress associated with having a shelter frees our volunteers up to give the most valuable resource of all - time. We get calls from people wanting 'rid' of cats but if we take the time to talk to them, we find that actually we can help them to keep their cats.
4. Sometimes they cannot afford to feed them, so we help with funding. Maybe they need to go into hospital or have been forced to seek alternative accommodation and have nowhere for the cats to go in the interim - we can, either try to find a volunteer to board them, or go into the house and feed them.
5. A colony of feral cats that grows month on month due to kittens being born is very stressful and can cause conflict in a neighbourhood. If we get the cats neutered not only does the breeding stop but the objectionable odour of tom cat spray disappears too.
6. Many friendships are forged through neighbours jointly feeding cats - older people make contact with people who not only get involved with feeding the cats but end up helping the pensioners themselves when the need arises. By helping the cats and occasionally a small dog, we have helped not only the person directly involved with the animals but the wider community.

COMMITTEE'S REPORT 2023

Dear Members

Here we are again, it is hard to believe another year has passed in the life of our Cat Support Group and it was lovely to end 2023 with a Christmas celebration returning to the Lansdowne Court Hotel to catch up and socialise instead of grabbing quick conversations when our fundraising sales are in full swing throughout the year.

We held three sales during 2023 in May, September, and November and a big shout out to everyone including attendees, stallholders, and the donators of items, as these are essential to bolstering the Groups Funds in order to continue to operate. We are trying hard to come up with new ideas on how improve and keep the sales fresh and it was lovely to welcome Heather Long on board with her creative crochet items and to see our book stall morph into a side line of greeting cards and homemade jams.

The welfare work has of course continued throughout the year with cats and kittens being trapped, neutered, and spayed, with many hours being dedicated to rescues. Given we do not operate a shelter it would be a remiss not to mention our fellow partner charities who assist us when necessary in taking in vulnerable animals and offering them love, shelter and food, so focusing on 2023 a big thank you to Lila's Legacy, Belfast Kitten Rescue, The Barn Rescue Centre, and of course our own little band of rescue warriors who are out there on the ground helping all animals in distress.

We received many calls for help through the year, here is just a small snippet of activity during this reporting year:

- Assisting with trapping strays, checking for microchips, and if unclaimed neutering, spaying and re-homing. During 2023 we also got involved with supporting and feeding two groups of ferals in Saintfield and Ballygowan.
- Helping with a situation that had developed needing cats trapped at New Barnsley where our member Jeanette managed to trap and spay/neuter 21 out of 22 cats with 12 of those cats being female. The cats were desperately hungry, and food was donated from various individuals and ourselves, with Seventh Heaven supplying snugs and straw. Carol Dougan trapped and had 36 cats spayed and neutered during 2023 and as you can see other rescuers are also intervening to do the same. This results in the most challenging element of cat rescue, as foster places need to be secured for all lost/stray or abandoned cats until they are re-homed. It's becoming an increasingly difficult task given that rescue and foster homes are extremely scarce especially during kitten season.
- Saving a ginger kitten where our member Jackie travelled to a recycling depot in Mallusk and rescued the wee mite. Being badly injured he was taken straight to the vet where it was touch and go whether he would survive the weekend. But he defied all the odds and pulled through and has been adopted by member Lynne (kitten now known as Alfie Moon) and dominates all the dog residents in the house.
- Assisting a Care Home in Banger when we were notified of a cat with a shoulder wound. Although the Home had been looking after the cat, we found on attending the vet it was chipped and the owner was duly contacted confirming she had not seen her cat in 3 years. The vet found necrosis was present in the wound and a procedure was undertaken to remove the infection. The owner agreed to cover part of the cost with our Group stepping in and paying the extra. The owner agreed to relinquish ownership given that she had taken in a replacement cat during the 3-year period and the Care Home decided to adopt the cat and cater for all his future needs by opening an account for him and taking out insurance. So, with a little help from CSG the cat (Scooter) found his forever home with the residents of the Care Home where he has an unending supply of laps to sit on, and hugs and pets for the rest of his days.

We will continue to be vocal in highlighting the problem of not spaying and neutering cats which perpetuates animal welfare problems evolving and getting out of control causing unnecessary expenditure for small animal charities such as ours in having to intervene. We would just like to end this report with thanking you all for your continued support and donations over the year. We hope despite the challenging environment and ever-increasing vet bills we will continue to be able to operate and see that no animal suffers unnecessarily when thanks to your generosity the CSG can help.

Yours sincerely, Kate, Sandra, Heather, Val, Jean, and Carol

Report from the Honorary Treasurer

This has been my seventh year as Treasurer of the Cat Support Group, and I am pleased to report that we have continued to provide help to animals and their carers in need or distress.

A Statement of Accounts for the Year Ending 31st December 2023 which has been subject to independent examination by the CSG Auditor is attached, and I would encourage you to study it.

Receipts for the year came to £13,385. During 2023 we held 3 fundraising sales, contributing £3,035, a further £7,791 being from Membership Fees or Donations.

However expenditure increased greatly, from £27,120 to £35,528 that is by 31%. Over 77% of the total, £27,639, was for payments to Vets (all across Northern Ireland). The corresponding figures for the previous 2 years were £10,987 and £18,915

Seventeen people, many of whom are members of the Group, received financial help with feeding feral colonies or cats being fostered, a total of £5,420.

You can see from the Statement of Accounts the range of other receipts and payments.

You will realise that the annual expenditure for 2023 significantly exceeded income, by £22,142. Although we usually report an annual deficit, this has been steadily growing, and in fact over the last 10 years our deficit has totalled over £100,000 ! The Group has only been able to sustain this position because of generous legacies received in the past. At 31st December 2023 the balance of Investments totalled £56,706, but at current levels of income and expenditure the CSG may be limited to only one or two more years.

At the AGM last year we discussed that position, and unfortunately it has only become more acute . . .

Sandra Johnstone

(Honorary Treasurer)

Cat Support Group (NI) - Charity Registration number NIC100721

Cat Support Group

Northern Ireland - Charity number 100721

Annual return

INDEPENDENT EXAMINER'S - (KEVIN CORR) - REPORT TO THE TRUSTEES OF

THE CAT SUPPORT GROUP (NI) –

CHARITY REGISTRATION NUMBER: - NIC 100721

Please find below an Independent Examiner's Report based on the Accounts of the **CAT SUPPORT GROUP** (CSG) (NI) for the period **1st January 2023 to 31st December 2023.**

Respective responsibilities of Trustees and independent examiner

The Trustees are responsible for the preparation of the accounts. The Trustees consider that an audit is not required for this year under Part 8 Section 65(3) of the Charities Act (Northern Ireland) 2008 (the Charities Act) and that an independent examination is needed. The charity is thereby required by company law to prepare accrued accounts. Therefore, as I am independent and have the requisite ability and experience to undertake a competent examination as a qualified accountant of the CHARTERED INSTITUTE OF PUBLIC FINANCE AND ACCOUNTANCY (**CIPFA**), please read my findings below.

Having satisfied myself that the charity is **not** subject to audit under company law as its annual income does not exceed £500,000 but is eligible for an independent examination, it is my responsibility to:

- Examine the accounts under section 65 of the Charities Act
- To follow the procedures laid down in the general Directions given by the Charity Commission for Northern Ireland under section 65(9)(b) of the Charities Act
- To state whether matters of 'material significance' have come to my attention.

Basis of independent examiner's report

In respect of the Accounting Period 1st January 2023 to 31st December 2023, I undertook my independent examination during August 2024.

It is accepted that for 2023 our society had returned to a 'pre-pandemic' normality with only very limited individuals and groups still reluctant to fully engage in all aspects of life.

Therefore, I have carried out the audit by referencing the guidance issued in May of 2020 (by The Charity Commission for Northern Ireland – in conjunction with the UK Charity

Regulators) to Independent Examiners against the backdrop of the Covid 19 Pandemic or a national emergency. The guidance raised concerns regarding:

- (i) Impact of COVID-19 restrictions on access to records
- (ii) Access to those in management and control of the charity
- (iii) Risk factors
- (iv) Sign off and filing of accounts

I can reassure the Trustees that, after taking the above guidance in to account, I have no concerns to raise. I had full access to all financial records, liaised with the Treasurer regarding these records, when necessary, that the risk factors outlined were not applicable to the 2023 financial period and that I was able to conduct my examination in the usual way.

The examination was carried out in accordance with the '12 General Directions' laid down by the Charity Commission for Northern Ireland. As in prior years, particular emphasis was directed towards General Direction No.8 – Analytical Review and in this regard, the supporting information provided by Ms Sandra Johnstone and her Report as Honorary Treasurer was especially helpful. Such an examination includes a review of the accounting records kept by the CSG 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 you as Trustees concerning any such matters. Please be aware that the procedures carried out in this independent examination **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 next statement.

Independent examiner's statement

In connection with my independent examination of the CSG, I am, once again, pleased to report that **no** matter of concern or significance has come to my attention:

- (1) which gives me reasonable cause to believe, that in any material respect, the requirements:
 - to keep accounting records in accordance with section 386 of the Companies Act 2006 and section 44(1)(a) of the 2005 Act and
 - to prepare accounts which accord with accounting records, comply with the accounting requirement of the Companies Act 2006, section 44(1)(a) of the

2005 Act and Regulation 8 of the 2006 Accounts Regulations and

- Which are consistent with the methods and principles of the Statement of Recommended Practice: Accounting and Reporting by Charities.

have not been met, or

- (2) to which, in my opinion, attention should be drawn in order to enable a proper understanding of the accounts to be reached.

In previous financial periods it had been unfortunate to observe that the Covid 19 Pandemic had curtailed the fund-raising activities and social events of the Cats Support Group. Once again, it was heartening to see from the Treasurers Report and the accounts that many of the restricted events in previous years which were reinstated in 2022 have continued in 2023. These fundraising events are a crucial social aspect of promoting the work of the Group but are also important against the backdrop of reducing financial reserves referenced by the Treasurer in her Annual Report.

I wish to record, once again, that it is my sincere wish that the 'Cats Support Group' continues to enjoy success and growth in all its charitable and animal loving work.



Kevin Corr CPFA, MSc, BSc

Chartered Institute of Public Finance and Accountancy

9 Downshire Lane,

Bangor,

Co. Down, BT20 3TY

20th August 2024

Cat Support Group

Northern Ireland - Charity number 100721

Accounts

Cat Support Group

Northern Ireland - Charity number 100721

Annual report

PO Box 236 Newtownabbey BT36 9NE

Accepted as a charity by the Charity Commission for Northern Ireland
Charity Registration number NICC 100721

THE CAT SUPPORT GROUP

(Founded in 2001)

ANNUAL REPORT FOR 2022

(1st January 2022 to 31st December 2022)

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Hon. Treasurer

Miss Sandra Johnstone

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Mrs Heather Cammock

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Committee Members

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but they do not suffer less because they have no words. Anna Sewell (1820 - 1878)***



HISTORY OF THE CAT SUPPORT GROUP

The Cat Support Group was formed in 2001. We were accepted as a charity by HMRC in 2004 but now have been registered with the Charity Commission for Northern Ireland with Reg. No. NIC100721.

At present we have a membership of 90, with a membership fee of £15.00 per annum.

We do not have a shelter but our volunteers work from their own homes to look after kittens and cats which come into our care; with the aim of re-homing as many of these animals as possible. Our "no-kill" policy ensures that no healthy animal is ever put to sleep.

We have a Management Committee to oversee and approve the running of our affairs, consisting of a Chairperson, Hon. Secretary, Membership Secretary, Hon. Treasurer and up to five other non-office bearing Committee members.

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OBJECTIVES OF OUR CHARITY PLAN

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2. To promote the neutering and spaying of all cats and kittens not required for breeding.
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We endeavour to meet these objectives by ensuring: -

All sick cats/kittens are given appropriate veterinary care and brought to a clean bill of health before being put forward for re-homing.

All rescue animals are neutered or spayed when rescued or, if too young then this will be carried out as soon as they are old enough.

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We help and advise people who get in contact with us and people tend to find this useful, if not indeed comforting, if they are in a difficult or worrying situation.

THE CHARITY TEST

The Charity Commission for Northern Ireland requires the Cat Support Group

To show how our charity is of benefit to the public: -

1. We are the only cat charity that is 'open all hours'; indeed, our volunteers often receive phone calls late at night or at weekends when other help lines are closed. Cliftonpark Avenue Shelter volunteers earned a lot of respect for long years of service in an area where others feared to tread particularly when "The Troubles" were at their height. This has resulted in people who would not otherwise consider asking for assistance from 'outsiders' feeling comfortable enough to pick up the phone or indeed call with one of us for help.
2. Vets ring us for help as they know we will respond promptly if at all possible - we do not make empty promises.
3. Not having the financial, physical and mental stress associated with having a shelter frees our volunteers up to give the most valuable resource of all - time. We get calls from people wanting 'rid' of cats but if we take the time to talk to them, we find that actually we can help them to keep their cats.
4. Sometimes they cannot afford to feed them, so we help with funding. Maybe they need to go into hospital or have been forced to seek alternative accommodation and have

nowhere for the cats to go in the interim - we can, either try to find a volunteer to board them, or go into the house and feed them.

5. A colony of feral cats that grows month on month due to kittens being born is very stressful and can cause conflict in a neighbourhood. If we get the cats neutered not only does the breeding stop but the objectionable odour of tom cat spray disappears too.

6. Many friendships are forged through neighbours jointly feeding cats - older people make contact with people who not only get involved with feeding the cats but end up helping the pensioners themselves when the need arises. By helping the cats and occasionally a small dog, we have helped not only the person directly involved with the animals but the wider community.

COMMITTEE'S REPORT for 2022

Dear Members

Here we are again at the end of another year in the life of the Cat Support Group and can you believe it, the group had its 21st anniversary on 6th October, our inaugural meeting on that date in 2001. That historic meeting was held in the Cooke Centenary Church Hall. Funds were limited so we worked on a wing a prayer never thinking the group would still be carrying on 21 years later.

Even as the new year dawned and in the wake of the lockdown the committee wasn't sure when we would be able to have our first sale but eventually formalities were sorted out and our first sale in three years was held on 25th June. We are happy to meet and greet again our members and friends but to be honest the turn out wasn't great. We guess folks were still gathering themselves together after the pandemic, the lockdown and the slow process to get back to normality. Our AGM and two further sales were held in September and November and committee meetings have resumed as normal. The group held two lunches throughout the year, the first being a memorial lunch for Georgina Mollison who died the previous year as we were honouring her wishes. The second was the ever popular Christmas lunch, both held in Fortwilliam Golf Club Restaurant.

The welfare work has continued throughout the year with cats and kittens being trapped, neutering and/or spayed and there were some very noticeable rescues. An injured cat was rescued from the M2 Motorway near the Glengormley flyover. It was taken to a Cornerstone Veterinary Practice where it was treated for a broken pelvis and was treated over a period of four days. The owner was traced through Facebook. Another rescue involved a cat which was deemed to be a community cat just wandering about. A concerned person was contacted again through the social media and the CSG became involved. The cat whom we named Sidney was in very bad shape with sore eyes being a primary concern. This was caused by a condition called entropion where the eye lashes have turned inwards causing pain and infection. This required surgery to correct it and this cat is still in our care with a fosterer. There are many other incidents involving trapping, treating and neutering as required, and other stories of rescue too numerous to mention here. Thankfully, a small but expanding band of rescuers continue to do this vital welfare work. Many work as individuals or run small rescue centres; some obtain charitable status, some do not but they all make significant differences to improving the welfare of needy animals. The social media has been and is, very effective in helping to find lost or stolen pets and highlighting cases where an animal is in need of help.

Sadly, two of our members died during the year, firstly Norma Patterson in September and then Lorna Gulston MBE in November.

We hope you all find this report interesting and useful and finally, a big thanks to you all who have given the group your continuing support throughout the year.

Yours sincerely, Kate, Sandra, Heather, Val, Richard, Jean and Carol

Report from the Honorary Treasurer

This has been my sixth year as Treasurer of the Cat Support Group, and I am pleased to report that we have continued to provide help to animals and their carers in need or distress.

A Statement of Accounts for the Year Ending 31st December 2022 which has been subject to independent examination by the CSG Auditor is attached, and I would encourage you to study it. Receipts for the year came to £14,391. Following the fallow years of the Covid pandemic, we held 3 fundraising sales in 2022, contributing £2,041, a further £8,633 being from Membership Fees or Donations.

However expenditure increased greatly, from £17,424 to £27,120, that is by over 55%. Almost 70% of the total, £18,916, was for payments to Vets (all across Northern Ireland). The corresponding figure in 2021 was £10,987.

Sixteen people, half of whom are members of the Group, received financial help with feeding feral colonies or cats being fostered, a total of £5,383, an increase on the previous year of 8%.

You can see from the Statement of Accounts the range of other receipts and payments.

You will realise that the annual expenditure for 2022 significantly exceeded income, by £12,729 or 88%. Although we usually report a deficit, this shows a very sharp increase. Our Group has been able to sustain this position because of generous legacies received in the past. At 31st December 2022 the balance of Investments totalled £77,806, which was still a healthy position, but any suggestions from members for increasing income or reducing expenditure would be welcomed.

Sandra Johnstone

(Honorary Treasurer)

Cat Support Group (NI) - Charity Registration number NIC100721

Cat Support Group

Northern Ireland - Charity number 100721

Annual return

INDEPENDENT EXAMINER'S - (KEVIN CORR) - REPORT TO THE TRUSTEES OF

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Respective responsibilities of Trustees and independent examiner

The Trustees are responsible for the preparation of the accounts. The Trustees consider that an audit is not required for this year under section 65(3) of the Charities Act (Northern Ireland) 2008 (the Charities Act) and that an independent examination is needed. The charity is thereby required by company law to prepare accrued accounts. Therefore, as I am independent and have the requisite ability and experience to undertake a competent examination as a qualified accountant of the CHARTERED INSTITUTE OF PUBLIC FINANCE AND ACCOUNTANCY (**CIPFA**), please read my findings below.

Having satisfied myself that the charity is **not** subject to audit under company law and is eligible for independent examination, it is my responsibility to:

- Examine the accounts under section 65 of the Charities Act
- To follow the procedures laid down in the general Directions given by the Charity Commission for Northern Ireland under section 65(9)(b) of the Charities Act • To state whether matters of 'material significance' have come to my attention.

Basis of independent examiner's report

In respect of the Accounting Period 1st January 2022 to 31st December 2022, I undertook my independent examination during August 2023.

It is accepted that during 2022 a 'post pandemic' normality was settling into our daily living. However, for some aspects of society the Covid 19 pandemic was still forcing its impact on our way of life and associated activities with many individuals and groups still reluctant to

fully engage. Once again, I have therefore, carried out the audit by referencing the guidance issued in May of 2020 (by The Charity Commission for Northern Ireland – in conjunction with the UK Charity Regulators) to Independent Examiners against the backdrop of the Covid 19 Pandemic or a national emergency. The guidance raised concerns regarding

- (i) Impact of COVID-19 restrictions on access to records
- (ii) Access to those in management and control of the charity
- (iii) Risk factors
- (iv) Sign off and filing of accounts

I can reassure the Trustees that, after taking the above guidance into account, I have no concerns to raise. I had full access to all financial records, liaised with the Treasurer regarding these records, when necessary, that the risk factors outlined were not applicable to the 2022 financial period and that I was able to conduct my examination in the usual way.

The examination was carried out in accordance with the '12 General Directions' laid down by the Charity Commission for Northern Ireland. As in prior years, particular emphasis was directed towards General Direction No.8 – Analytical Review and in this regard, the supporting information provided by Ms Sandra Johnstone and her Report as Honorary Treasurer was especially helpful. Such an examination includes a review of the accounting records kept by the CSG 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 you as Trustees concerning any such matters. Please be aware that the procedures carried out in this independent examination **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 next statement.

Independent examiner's statement

In connection with my independent examination of the CSG, I am, once again, pleased to report that **no** matter of concern or significance has come to my attention:

- (1) which gives me reasonable cause to believe, that in any material respect, the requirements:
 - to keep accounting records in accordance with section 386 of the Companies Act 2006 and section 44(1)(a) of the 2005 Act and

- to prepare accounts which accord with accounting records, comply with the accounting requirement of the Companies Act 2006, section 44(1)(a) of the 2005 Act and Regulation 8 of the 2006 Accounts Regulations and
- Which are consistent with the methods and principles of the Statement of Recommended Practice: Accounting and Reporting by Charities.

have not been met, or

(2) to which, in my opinion, attention should be drawn in order to enable a proper understanding of the accounts to be reached.

I had mentioned in my previous reports that it was unfortunate to see that the Covid 19 Pandemic had curtailed the fund-raising activities and social events of the Cat Support Group. Against this backdrop, it was uplifting to see from the Treasurers Report and the accounts that many of the restricted events of previous years have been reinstated and hopefully this has re-energised the purpose of the Group. Once again, it is my sincere wish that the 'Cat Support Group' continues to enjoy success and growth in all its charitable and animal loving work.



Kevin Corr CPFA, MSc, BSc

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30th August 2023