



HogsCroft Hedgehog Rescue

Trustees Annual Report 2025



One of the hedgehogs cared for by HogsCroft.

A year of skilled care, determined volunteers and community support

In 2025, HogsCroft admitted 174 hedgehogs from Perthshire and surrounding communities. We released 53% back into the wild. Behind each admission was a volunteer ready to respond, assess an animal's needs and provide the time and care its recovery required.

The opening of our new Critical Care Cabin in December was a milestone for the charity. With additional incubators and hedgehog pods, it gives us more space to care for patients at their most vulnerable. The achievement belongs to everyone who gave time, expertise, materials or funds to make it possible.

Purpose and Objectives

HogsCroft opened in January 2023 with three main objectives:

- a)** To advance animal welfare by rescuing European hedgehogs (*Erinaceus europaeus*), providing first aid and rehabilitation, and returning them to the wild wherever possible.

- b)** To advance public education about the plight of the European hedgehog, including the threats facing the species and its conservation status on the IUCN Red List.
- c)** To advance environmental protection and improvement by educating and encouraging people to use wildlife friendly building, development and gardening practices that help hedgehogs and pollinators recover and thrive.

Registered Scottish charity SC053085. Based at Whitecroft, Inchtute, Perth and Kinross PH14 9SE.

Rescue and rehabilitation

Each hedgehog arriving at HogsCroft receives a triage assessment and an individual care plan. Our volunteers examine and monitor patients, while a local veterinary practice helps us make treatment decisions and provides surgery when needed. We also use post mortem findings in selected cases to learn from losses and improve care.

Microscopy helps us detect internal parasites through faecal samples and monitor how treatment is working. During 2025 we bought a new binocular microscope and trained small groups of volunteers to prepare slides and recognise parasites. This practical training has increased the number of people able to support diagnostic work.

Other care may include wound cleaning, medicated baths and sprays for skin conditions, nebulisers or oxygen for respiratory illness, and laser therapy as part of a treatment plan discussed with our vet. Each intervention is guided by the needs of the individual hedgehog.



A volunteer examining a sample under the microscope.



A sample viewed through the microscope.

The difference careful treatment makes

Gary

Gary was found in a feeding station in June with a serious foot wound. He was missing a toe, needed another amputated and had an infection affecting the bone. He also had ringworm and internal parasites. After surgery and a stay with the vet, HogsCroft continued wound care, parasite treatment, medicated baths and physiotherapy. Weeks later, Gary had regained his health and was released back into the wild.



An X-ray of Gary's injured foot.



Gary before treatment and at release.

Rosie

Rosie arrived from Auchterarder on 30 March after a dog attack. She had multiple wounds, including one deep injury, as well as internal parasites. Her recovery required a longer period of intensive care, and she lost many spines following the trauma. Rosie weighed 405 g when admitted; by her release she weighed 1.2 kg. Her return to the wild shows what sustained care can achieve.



Rosie's wounds after the dog attack and her recovery at release.

Hickory

Hickory arrived with a severe head wound caused by a strimmer. She needed three operations and a long course of treatment to help the wound heal. Her stay was much longer than we would usually hope, but the team's persistence gave her the chance to recover and return to the wild.



Hickory's injury and the healing process after surgery.

These cases also carry a message for the wider community: check carefully before strimming, keep dogs away from hedgehogs and seek specialist help promptly when a hedgehog appears injured.

The people behind the rescue

HogsCroft's work depends on volunteers who give their time to demanding daily care. In 2025, four more volunteers completed first aid, care and rehabilitation training at Vale Wildlife Hospital and Rehabilitation Centre. We review recruitment and training as patient numbers change so that volunteers have the skills and support to care safely for both hedgehogs and one another.



Volunteer Eithne with her training certificate in February 2025.

Finders also play an important role. We keep in touch as a hedgehog recovers and, where it is safe, aim to release it near where it was found. Many finders help with feeding stations, hedgehog houses and wildlife friendly gardens as part of that journey.

Sharing knowledge and working together

We reached people through weekly Facebook information posts, community events, display boards and talks with school and community groups. Our relationship with Tayside Biodiversity has helped us share advice more widely and take part in local events. Each conversation is a chance to show how a small change in a garden or daily routine can make life safer for hedgehogs and other wildlife.



Sharing hedgehog knowledge with children and a community group.

A new home for critical care

Our 2024 report identified the need for more critical care space, better room to train volunteers and storage that would bring essential supplies together. Building work moved forward throughout 2025, and the team moved into the new Critical Care Cabin in December. Additional pods and incubators increased the space available for our most vulnerable patients.

This project was made possible by a significant donation from HogsCroft's founder, generous members of the public and charitable trusts, a donation of cupboards from a kitchen company, and fundraising that helped pay for electrical and plumbing work. We thank every person and organisation who helped turn the plan into a working care space.



The Critical Care Cabin during construction and ready for patients in December.

Community support and fundraising

Donations keep HogsCroft running. Our open day has grown year by year, bringing more visitors and a wider range of activities. An annual dog show, local fairs, talks, collection cans in businesses, online fundraisers, regular gifts and charitable trust support all contributed during 2025. These events raise funds while introducing more people to the needs of our native hedgehogs.

Supporters do more than give money: they share our advice, collect supplies, volunteer and help others recognise when an animal needs care. The rescue is stronger because the community stands behind it.



The open day and a community fundraising table.

Impact

According to Britain's first National Hedgehog Conservation Strategy, published earlier this year by People's Trust for Endangered Species and The British Hedgehog Preservation Society, population numbers may be stabilising in urban areas.

But hedgehogs are still struggling in rural areas where declines have ranged from between 35 per cent and 75 per cent since the turn of the century – a serious cause for concern in Scotland where 98 per cent of land mass is categorised as rural.

Numbers of hedgehogs in Scotland in 2025 are at best estimated to be 195,000 compared with 310,000 in 1995.

The hedgehog, once common throughout Scotland, continues to remain as “near threatened” in the International Union for Conservation of Nature (IUCN) Red List of threatened species.

Information above from theferret.scot

Our rescue is located in rural Perthshire with the large majority of hedgehogs coming from rural and semi-rural locations. We have observed that the hedgehogs arriving in our rescue are frequently in very poor condition with multiple parasitic burdens. We have also noted an increase in the number who die within the first 24–48 hours and most of these deaths occur within the first 12 hours.

Results and what they tell us

We admitted 174 hedgehogs in 2025. Of these, 53% were released back into the wild and 47% died. Of those that died, 36% died within 48 hours of admission. Many patients arrive in very poor condition, often with more than one health problem; volunteers have observed that some deaths happen soon after arrival despite prompt care. We report these losses alongside the recoveries because they reflect the severity of need and guide our learning.

The rescue continued to hold the licence required for its activities under Scottish animal welfare regulations. Veterinary collaboration, volunteer training and the new cabin have strengthened the foundations for future care.

Financial figures for 2025

The supplied receipts and payments account records £73,541 received and £77,634 paid during 2025. Spending exceeded receipts by £4,093, and cash at bank at 31 December was £5,395. The account shows £60,210 spent on cabins within the cost of charitable activities.

Receipts and payments

Item	2025	2024
Donations	£52,417	£9,218
Grants	£10,000	£7,452
Fundraising receipts	£11,124	£5,125
Total receipts	£73,541	£21,795
Fundraising costs	£1,122	£1,171
Cost of charitable activities	£76,512	£13,406
Total payments	£77,634	£14,577
Net receipts less payments	–£4,093	£7,218

Cash at bank

Item	2025	2024
Opening cash at bank	£9,488	£2,270
Net receipts less payments	–£4,093	£7,218
Closing cash at bank	£5,395	£9,488

Cost of charitable activities

Item	2025	2024
Equipment	£4,242	£6,381
Vet fees and medication	£6,199	£5,120
Hutches	£2,875	£556
Straw	£1,376	—
Food	£1,398	£274
Insurance	£212	£185
Cabins	£60,210	—
Computer and stationery	£0	£890

An X-ray used to assess a hedgehog injury.

These figures are taken from HogsCroft's supplied receipts and payments account for the year ended 31 December 2025. The account states that it was prepared on a receipts and payments basis. A dash indicates that the source account gives no figure for that item in 2024.

Looking ahead to 2026

Our priorities are to complete a dedicated Rehabilitation Cabin, develop a wildlife friendly garden with safe outdoor runs, and keep building the advanced skills of our volunteers. We hope to work with Tayside Biodiversity, local schools and community groups on the garden so that it becomes a place for both rehabilitation and learning.

Every hedgehog returned to the wild is the result of many hands working together. We are grateful to our trustees, volunteers, veterinary partners, donors, finders and local community for giving HogsCroft the means to keep going.

Charity information

Thank you to everyone who gave HogsCroft their time, care and support during 2025.

Trustees: Alison Middleton, Anne Houston and Michele Hall

HogsCroft Hedgehog Rescue | Scottish charity SC053085

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Hogscroft Hedgehog Rescue

Receipts and Payments Account

Year ended 31 December 2025

	Unrestricted	Restricted		
	Funds	Funds	Total	Total
	2025	2025	2025	2024
	£		£	£
Receipts				
Donations	52,417		52,417	
9,218				
Grants	10,000			10,000
7,452				
Fundraising	<u>11,124</u>			<u>11,124</u>
<u>5,125</u>				
Total Receipts	<u>73,541</u>		<u>73,541</u>	
<u>21,795</u>				
Payments				
Fundraising Costs	1,122			1,122
1,171				
Cost of charitable activities	76,512			76,512
13,406				

Governance costs

Total Payments	<u>77,634</u>	<u>77,634</u>
	<u>14,577</u>	

Excess of Payments over

Receipts for the year	<u>4,093</u>	<u>4,093</u>
	<u>7,218</u>	

Hogscroft Hedgehog Rescue

Statement of Balances as at 31 December 2025

	Unrestricted	Restricted	
	Funds	Funds	Total
Total			
	2025	2025	2025
2024			
	£	£	£
Opening Cash at Bank	9,488		9,488
	2,270		
Excess of Payments over			
Receipts for year	-4,093		-4093
	7,218		
Closing cash at Bank	<u>5,395</u>		<u>5395</u>
	<u>9,488</u>		

Bank Balances

Current Account	<u>5,395</u>	<u>5,395</u>
	<u>9,488</u>	

Notes to the accounts – for the year to 31 December 2025

1 Basis of Accounting

These accounts have been prepared on the Receipts and Payments basis in accordance with the Charities and Trustee Investment (Scotland) Act 2005 and the Charities Accounts (Scotland) Regulations 2006 (as amended)

2. Nature and purpose of funds

Unrestricted funds are those that may be used at the discretion of the trustees in furtherance of the objects of the charity.

Restricted funds may only be used for specific purposes. Restrictions arise when specified by the donor or when funds are raised for specific purposes.

3. Cost of charitable activities

Total	Unrestricted	Restricted	Total
	Funds	Funds	2025
2024			
	£	£	£
£			
Equipment	4,242	4,242	6,381

Vet Fees and Medication 5,120	6,199	6,199
Hutches 556	2,875	2,875
Straw	1,376	1,376
Food 274	1,398	1,398
Insurance 185	212	212
Cabins	60,210	60,210
Computer and Stationery 890	0	0
	<u>76,512</u>	<u>76,512</u>
<u>13,406</u>		

Hogscroft Hedgehog Rescue

SC053085

Independent Examiner's Report to the Trustees of Hogscroft Hedgehog Rescue

I report on the accounts of the charity for the year ended 31st December 2025 which are set out on pages 1 to 3.

Respective responsibilities of trustees and examiner

The charity's trustees are responsible for the preparation of the accounts in accordance with the terms of the Charities and Trustee Investment (Scotland) Act 2005 and the Charities Accounts (Scotland) Regulations 2006 (as amended). The charity trustees consider that the audit requirement of Regulation 10(1) (d) of the 2006 Accounts Regulations does not apply. It is my responsibility to examine the accounts as required under section 44(1) (c) of the Act and to state whether particular matters have come to my attention.

Basis of independent examiner's statement

My examination is carried out in accordance with Regulation 11 of the 2006 Accounts Regulations. An examination includes a review of the accounting records kept by the charity and a comparison of the accounts presented with those records. It also includes consideration of any unusual items or disclosures in the accounts, and seeks explanations from the trustees concerning any such matters. The procedures undertaken do not provide all the evidence that would be required in an audit, and consequently I do not express an audit opinion on the view given by the accounts.

Independent examiner's statement

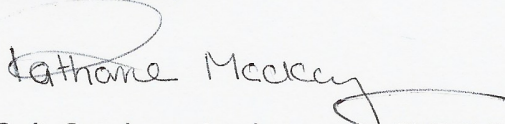
In the course of my examination, no matter has come to my attention

1. which gives me reasonable cause to believe that in any material respect the requirements:
 - to keep accounting records in accordance with Section 44(1) (a) of the 2005 Act and Regulation 4 of the 2006 Accounts Regulations
 - to prepare accounts which accord with the accounting records and comply with Regulation 9 of the 2006 Accounts Regulations

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.

Name: Katharine MacKay

Signature:  Katharine MacKay

Address: 7 Colt Gardens, Auchterarder, PH3 1LP

Date: 24th September 2026