



Hogwatch Dumbarton Hedgehog Rescue

Registered Charity Number SC052600

Trustees' Annual Report

Period 1st April 2024 to 31st March 2025



Charity contact information



Hogwatch Dumbarton Hedgehog Rescue

Scottish Charity Number: SC052600

1c Barnhill Road

Dumbarton

G82 2SD



Website – www.hogwatchdumbarton.co.uk

Social media - <https://www.facebook.com/share/1FkK9FF3us/>

Charity Trustees



 in the rescue for the back page of the 2024 fundraising calendar



 hands on treating a newly admitted patient



Objectives and activities

The charity was set up to provide rescue and rehabilitation to wild European Hedgehogs through means of displacement, habitat destruction, injuries, abandonment, becoming trapped, or unable to continue to live in the wild without assistance to recover, whatever the cause. The European Hedgehog has seen a reduction in its populations particularly in rural areas of the UK by over 30% in the past decade, meaning that they are at serious risk of becoming extinct. They are listed as 'near threatened' on the IUCN Red List.

The charity aims to repatriate these creatures back to the wild to enable them to increase their populations and help to bring a turnaround in their recovery.

In addition to this immediate aim, the charity focuses on training volunteers up to a competent level, to enable a resilient practice to be provided in and for the rescue. Further, the charity assists set up of new Hedgehog Rescues through training provisions, thus providing more places for Hedgehogs in need in rescues which follow best practice. Once established, new and existing rescues are provided with ongoing training opportunities, mentorship and support.

The charity operates an inclusive service, open to all, and aims to enhance the environment and people's appreciation of mammals and insects living around us, such that these habitat indicator species can contribute to the recovery of our ecosystems and enhance the life of us all, as a chance encounter with a Hedgehog out at night brings much joy to those who experience it.

Our rescue provides a public service as anyone who has found a Hedgehog in need of help will testify, it is a real relief when they find that a licenced rescue is on hand to help. This also applies to Vet practices who wish to help Hedgehogs handed into them by members of the public, but do not have the facilities to do so.

The charity Trustees feel that we have achieved our objectives in year, going above and beyond merely looking out for our own charity but also reaching out to enhance the community around us and to help other Hedgehog and wildlife charities to achieve their aims.



**British Wildlife
Rehabilitation Council**

ASSOCIATE MEMBER

24-25



**British Wildlife
Rehabilitation Council**

ASSOCIATE ORGANISATION

25-26



Structure, governance and management

The charity is formed via a Trust deed

Trustee recruitment and appointment

No Trustee recruitment has occurred since the inception of the charity. All original members are still in place.

Achievements and performance

Founding member of the Scottish Hedgehog Rescue Alliance, which is an inclusive and collegiate group of independent Hedgehog Rescues working to ensure any Hedgehog requiring help finds a rescue space.

Associate Organisation and Associate Member of the British Wildlife Rehabilitation Council.

Licensed by West Dunbartonshire Council to rescue and rehabilitate up to 60 Hedgehogs at any one time.

Visits to construction sites and housebuilders to offer advice as to the risk to Hedgehog habitat and practices which may assist in allowing safe dispersal.

Established a core group of 'Hands On' volunteers with reliable shift coverage for all morning shifts in place.

Trained volunteers to undertake hand feeding of Hedgehogs, with the maximum capacity covered in a 24 hour period of 76 hand feeds being achieved competently in year. With each feed taking around 15 minutes, this required a concerted effort to co-ordinate and it is testimony to the reliability of our volunteer group that this huge capacity was achieved.

Treatment protocols and standard operating procedures created and approved, along with improved processes to mitigate against the risk of infection/zoonotic diseases spreading.

Design improvements on our Hedgehog Hotels and feeding stations have made these products desirable to purchase, and whilst we are insufficiently equipped currently to enable at scale production, it is on our radar of possible options for future fundraising opportunities.

In year, admissions numbered 143 patients.

High success with fractured limbs, working with a local Vet to establish best practice to enable a complete recovery.

Undertook educational visits to schools, youth groups, hosted adults with learning disabilities and occasional opportunities to visit the rescue.

Hosted stalls at fetes and events wherever we had the capacity to do so, focusing on providing information and education to the public.

Every Hedgehog released went with a Hedgehog Hotel and support feeding being available for at least two weeks after release.

Wherever possible, on release, each Hedgehog was repatriated back to the location it was found.

Conducted hands on practical training for the Scottish Society for the Prevention of Cruelty to Animals staff at the Wildlife Rescue Centre in Fishcross, on Hoglet rearing, with feedback that success rates in rearing hoglets had improved greatly as a result.

Commenced use of a bespoke online platform called 'WRMD, which enables electronic records to be kept of admissions, releases and identification tag numbers. This database also hosts finder and volunteer detail in a system which is GDPR compliant and will enable greater analysis of the data collected to further enable one of our ambitions to provide valid data for PHD studies.

Concluded the close supervision elements early in 2024 of the two recently established Hedgehog Rescues, moving to a 'hands off' model and mentorship. Both of these rescues are now very successful in their own right.

Recruited and trained a 'Hogwatch Ambulance Driver' team numbering 30 individuals all equipped to transport Hedgehogs to and from the rescue as required and accessible via a group call out system.

Commenced Identity tagging Hedgehogs brought into care and released using an approved heat shrink visible tagging system with associated recording on the database. This enables advancement of our knowledge of post release range and health, if they are either found dead, or re-admitted.

Application and approval gained from HMRC to claim Gift Aid.

Readiness for capacity increase application is on track, enabling the licence from West Dunbartonshire Council to be raised to 100 Hedgehogs at any one time.

Our volunteers have formed quite the community with many opportunities arising for further training and development.

A natural progression of the rescue has been the support that it provides for those who feel isolated in the community.

In year 6 volunteers have become competent to hand feed Hedgehogs, and 4 volunteers have achieved competence in our 'Technician' role.

We on schedule in our resilience plan, in enabling competent volunteers to manage the rescue independent of Trustees direct management.

The rescue facility has continued to improve each year since the charity has been established. Photos on next page show the progress over the past four years;

Critical care
rescue area in
2025



Critical care
rescue area
in 2024



Critical
rescue area
in 2023



Critical
rescue area
in 2022

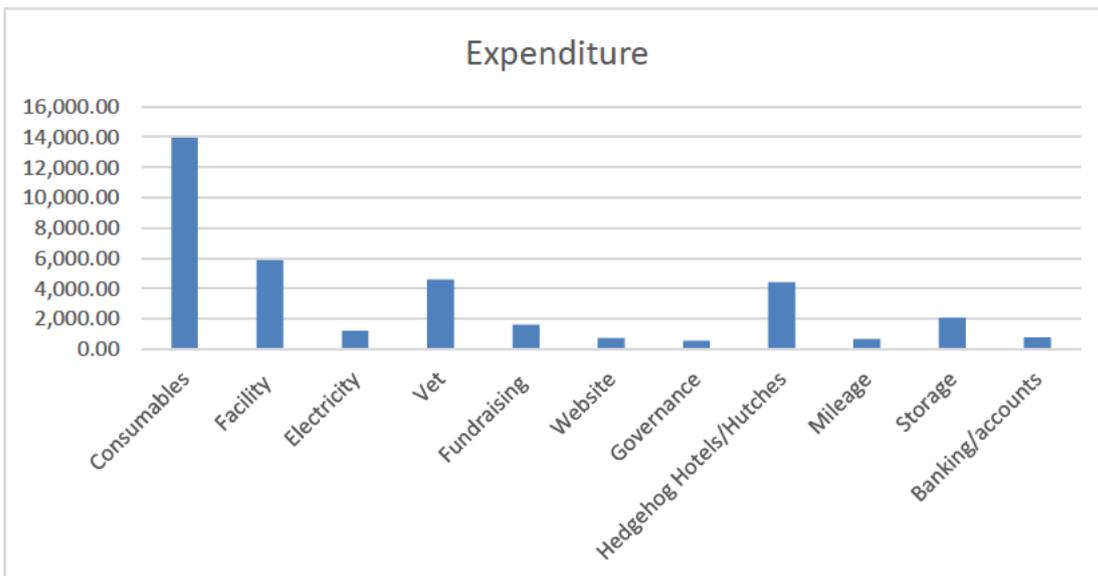
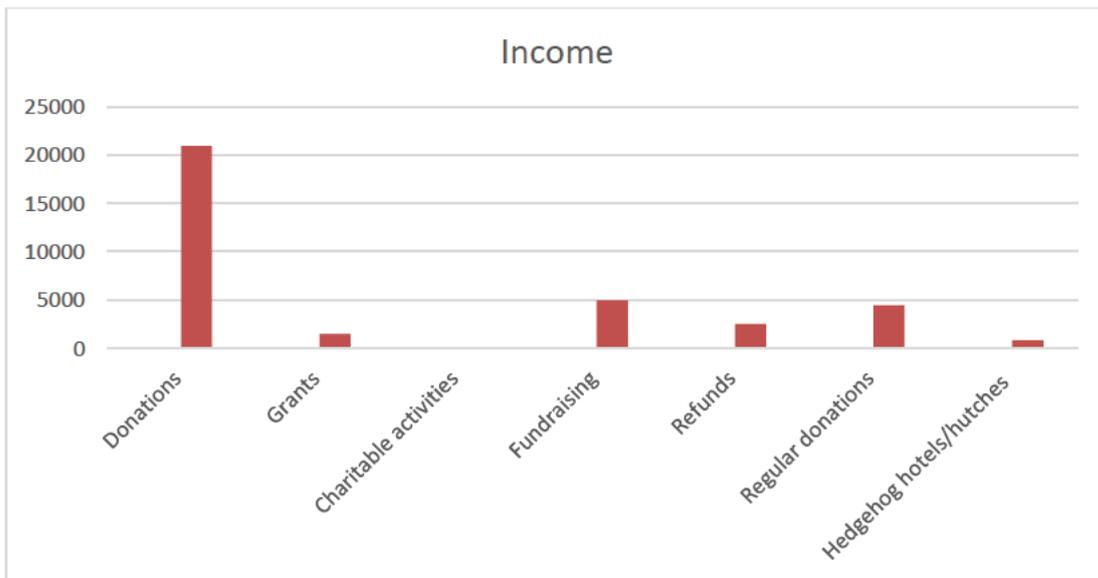
Some of our hand made Hedgehog Hotels



One of our visitors of the human kind & some of Hedgehog patients



Financial review



Statement of the charity's policy on reserves

The charity planned to run with a minimum of £500 in the account in any month, with a forecast income of at least £1,000 per month. This was exceeded in each month of operation over the FY 2024/25.

Details of any deficit

There were no deficits in any of the funds within the financial year.

Donated facilities and services

The rescue building is attached the Trustee's family home and it's entire use is currently donated without cost. Additionally all mileage incurred by the Trustees is not claimed, nor are the Rescue's mobile phone, internet, laundry or any other bills specific to the rescue passed on.

Recent repairs to the rescue roof following Storm Eowyn bringing down a 75 foot tree from a neighbouring property were settled by the Trustees with no expense to the charity, safety incident or loss of operation to the rescue facility. A new double glazed window was also installed at the expense of the Trustees in order to, not only provide weather resilience, but also to facilitate an additional fire escape.

Preparation and verification of accounts was undertaken without cost via volunteering.

All training courses have to date been provided free of charge to all attendees.

Future plans

In 2025/2026, the charity will undertake enhanced Foster Care recruitment in order to provide further competent capacity to enable more patients to be admitted. The operating model enabling stable patients moving onto foster care, to release critical care places.

Additional hutches will be purchased to facilitate fostering out in suitable housing, and a concerted effort will be made to increase the volume of Hedgehog Hotels which are available to members of the public either to purchase or to take on loan.

Microchip tagging in addition to the current visual tagging to commence if funding allows in FY 2026/27.

Chargeable training to commence in the latter stages of FY 2025/26 in order to generate much needed funds for the charity.

Continue to engage and encourage other rescues to set up competently by offering free Training and mentorship where there is a serious interest and investment in setting up.

ITEM	SECTION A - STATEMENT OF RECEIPTS & PAYMENTS	UNRESTRICTED FUNDS
A1	RECEIPTS	to nearest £
	Donations	25,373
	Legacies	0
	Grants	1,500
	Receipts from fundraising activities	9,004
	Gross trading receipts	0
	Income from investment other than land or buildings	0
	Rents from land & buildings	0
	Gross receipts from other charitable activities	0
	A1 Sub total	£35,877
A2	RECEIPTS FROM ASSET & INVESTMENT SALES	
	Proceeds from sale of fixed assets	0
	Proceeds from sale of investments	0
	A2 Sub total	£0
A3	PAYMENTS	
	Expenses from fundraising activities	1,604
	Gross trading payments	0
	Investment management costs	0
	Payments relating directly to charitable activities	34,092
	Grants & donations	0
	Governance costs	530
	Audit/Independent examination	0
	Preparation of annual accounts	0
	Legal costs	0
	Other	0
	A3 Sub total	£36,226
A4	PAYMENTS RELATING TO ASSETS & INVESTMENT MOVEMENTS	
	Purchases of fixed assets	0
	Purchase of investments	0
	A4 Sub total	£0
	Total payments	£36,226
	Net receipts / (payments)	-348
A5	TRANSFERS TO / (FROM) FUNDS	0
	Surplus / deficits for the year	-348

ITEM	SECTION B - STATEMENT OF BALANCES	UNRESTRICTED FUNDS
	DETAILS	to nearest £
B1	CASH FUNDS	
	Cash and bank balances at start of year	935
	Surplus / (deficit) shown on receipts and payments account	0
	Cash and bank balances at the end of year	586
	(Agree balances with receipts and payments account(s))	√
B2	INVESTMENTS	0
B3	OTHER ASSETS	0
B4	LIABILITIES	0
B5	CONTINGENT LIABILITIES	0

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

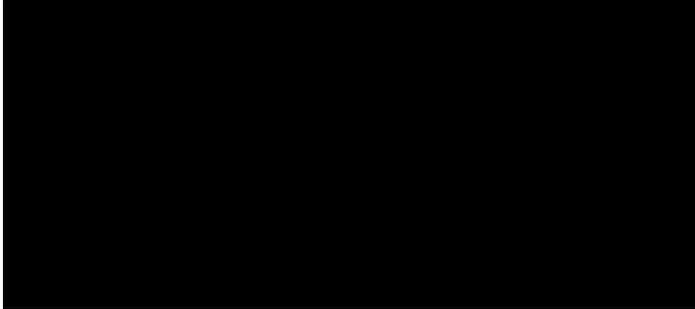
Signature*



** Please note - OSCR will accept digital or typed signatures*

Declaration

Signed on behalf of the charity trustees:



Date 23rd December 2025

Unqualified report for a non-company charity preparing receipts and payments accounts

Independent Examiner's Report to the Trustees of Hogwatch Dumbarton Hedgehog Rescue

I report on the accounts of the charity for the year ended 31st March 2025 which are set out on pages 1 to 15.

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 [other than disclosed below*]

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.

