



**Highland Wildlife Rescue
Scottish Charity No SC053075**

Annual Report & Financial Statements

**For the period:-
23rd January 2024 – 31st October 2024**

Trustees' Annual Report

For the Year Ended 31 October 2024

The trustees have pleasure in presenting their report together with the financial statements and the independent examiner's report for the year ended 31 October 2024.

Reference & Administrative Information

Charity Name

Highland Wildlife Rescue

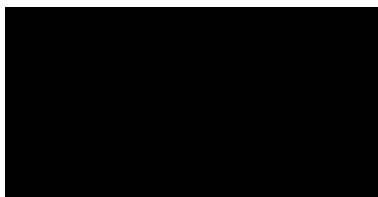
Charity No

SC053075

Address

146 Ladies Loch, Brora, KW9 6NG

Current Trustees



Acting Chair and Treasurer- Elected 23rd January 24

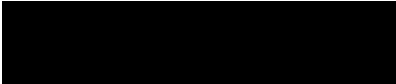
Acting Secretary - Elected 23rd January 24

Elected 23rd January 2024

Elected 23rd January 2024

Elected 23rd January 2024

Other Trustees who served during the year



19th August 2024

5th August 2024

Structure Governance & Management

Constitution

The Charity is Scottish Charitable Incorporated Organisation and was granted charitable status by OSCR on 23rd January 2024.

Appointment of Trustees

Trustees are elected at the Annual General Meeting. The gap between one AGM and the next must be no longer than 15 months. Under the constitution, there must be a minimum of three and not more than seven elected trustees.

Management

The trustees are responsible for the strategic direction and governance of the Foundation. The trustees are particularly aware of their responsibilities for Health and Safety, especially for staff and volunteers. In addition to comprehensive insurance, our staff and volunteers will have disclosures under the Protection of Vulnerable Groups (PVG) Scheme where appropriate.

Objectives & Activities

Charitable purposes

The organisation's purposes are: To provide rehabilitation for native wildlife species, and education to the public.

Achievements & Performance

With our first full financial accounts year now complete including from when we became a registered charity, we can reflect as a Board on an incredible period of achievements, progress, growth and collaboration.

After running as a well governed NFP from 1st January 2023 we achieved charitable status as a Scottish Charitable Incorporated Organisation in January 2024, and secured our lease at Croft 146, Brora. From April 2024 we formally employed our Centre Manager [REDACTED] to run our operation “on the ground” in a role that combines primary hands-on patient care, transport and volunteer coordination, patient releases, and day to day fundraising. It’s a unique and essential role that sits at the core of our charitable aim to provide rehabilitation and rearing for native wildlife patients, and one that we have confidence that Jane can deliver, with the support she needs from us as a board and an incredible team of volunteers who so graciously give their time and effort to our cause.

With over 672 patients through the doors this year we admitted a wide range of predominantly bird and mammal species, including 199 hedgehogs. The 427 bird patients ranged from UK red-listed species like a Black Throated Diver and a Leach’s Petrel, to a juvenile Golden Eagle, a Peregrine Falcon and a Long Eared owl. These patients each went on to be successfully released and have a second chance at living their wild lives. They are amongst 77% of all viable patients who came through the rearing and rehabilitation process to be returned to the wild. While the losses are all individually and collectively recognised and regretted, the industry standard of around 55% is one we can exceed with continued dedication, funding and resources. In Scotland the licensing and regulatory framework within which we now operate, pushes us to improve and adapt our practices, as does our collaborative approach to continued learning and standards improvement.

At the core of our support this year has been our growing group of fabulous volunteers with a core of 52 individuals. Their efforts include animal care, transport and groundworks. We are delighted to have volunteer assistance from three veterinary nurses in our hedgehog care team and two local vets, one in practice and one retired who provide additional and out of hours support at their own cost.

We have been able to continue supporting the SSPCA wildlife officers across the region with 164 animals received from them this year from as far apart as Orkney, the Western Isles, Achiltibuie, Fort William and Elgin. The contract we secured with them means we have invoiced for a sum of nearly £5,000 which will assist our core funding.

A phenomenal total of over £80,000 of income has originated entirely from our own fundraising efforts primarily through donations, sponsorship and support of a variety of fundraising projects. A single, personal donation of £20,000 from one supporter is worthy of note, which qualifies for Gift Aid along with many of the other donations. Our fundraising page on Facebook alone, raised over £18,000 from a combination of auctions, draws, and raffles.

We saw trustee changes with our original Chair, [REDACTED] leaving his role after a period of wonderful support and project management, including the purchase of our Bat Cave, learning sublimation skills for stock production and numerous other, vital tasks. Our Secretary, [REDACTED] left for personal health reasons having been a terrific help both in her trustee role and as our Marine Mammal expert, and education lead. We acknowledge the significant help we have received from both people, and note our most sincere thanks for their fabulous efforts.

Joining our Board, we had the absolute pleasure of welcoming [REDACTED], founder and former CEO of The Hawk Conservancy Trust, based in Hampshire. This life-long role included working extensively with Birds of Prey in the fields of conservation, education, research, and rehabilitation making [REDACTED] a truly valuable addition to our team. He continues to pursue his passion for supporting wildlife and nature as a member of the Highland Raptor Study Group.

Our delight was doubled when [REDACTED], a longstanding and experienced volunteer at the Hawk Conservancy Trust, with a truly varied background in farming, mechanics, administration and HR, agreed to join our Board. After moving to the Highlands to set up her highly regarded house and pet sitting business, she has already been a huge source of help to us, with key administrative and support tasks provided in the run up to her Trustee appointment.

As we close off an extraordinary first year, we turn our attention to the future and initially to 2025. Our main aims, along with maintaining the highest welfare standards for our patients, are a number of crucial projects. We need a reception building for finders to bring patients in and to allow triage and isolation. Our mammal enclosures area needs significant groundworks and construction, and we need accommodation for helpers that want to give their time for longer than a weekly session, or one day.

A vehicle that allows us to stop using the Centre Manager's personal vehicle for rescue work, supplies collection and vet trips is also high on the priority list. To that end, our strategic plan is being developed to help us plan, fund and progress these four goals.

We will work all year to maintain existing relationships with key partners; other rescue centres, specialist species centres, vet practices across the Highlands, the SSPCA, local estates, private and community projects, and seek to develop even more collaborative connections including support for Wildlife First Response who are making wildlife first aid kits available for purchase to the public, while planning to use profits to equip our transport volunteers.

Our education and outreach plans will be developed to expand from the few talks and presentations already booked for us to deliver in 2025, to a programme of planned school and community group talks, and region-wide vet practise visits to promote greater understanding of wildlife casualty first aid and our availability for patient transfer and ongoing care.

With multiple focus areas for 2025, we move together as a cohesive and committed board, to support our Centre Manager in her vital role, whilst moving our strategic plans forward.

Financial Review

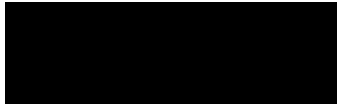
Our main source of income continues to be grants received from funding bodies and donations.

Reserves Policy

The Foundation has reserves of £67894.33. The organisation responds to expenditure needs as and when they arise and frequent committee meetings ensures that reserves are always available and when necessary fundraising activity will take place.

Approved by the trustees on 13 November 2024 and signed on their behalf by:

Signed:



PRINT NAME:



POSITION: TEMPORARY CHAIR/TREASURER

Independent Examiner's Report

For the Year Ended 31 October 2024

Independent Examiner's Report to the Trustees of Highland Wildlife Rescue

I report on the financial statements of the charity for the year ended 31 October 2024, which are set out on the following pages.

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

Basis of Independent Examiner's Statement

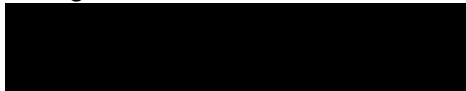
My examination is carried out in accordance with Regulation 11 of the 2006 Regulations. An examination includes a review of the accounting records kept by the charity and a comparison of the accounts presented with those records. It also includes consideration of any unusual items or disclosures in the 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 connection with 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 Regulations, and
 - to prepare accounts which accord with the accounting records and comply with Regulation 9 of the 2006 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.

Signed:



Name:



Address: c/o VGS, Lairg Community Centre, Lairg, IV27 4DB

Date: 10th July 2025

Statement of Receipts and Payments – For the Year Ended 31 October 2024

2024

INCOME

Donations	£38,426.39
Transfer from Pre-Charity	35055.06

Fundraising:-

100 Club Subscriptions	£2,083.00
Merch Sales Markets	£202.00
Other Merch Sales	£865.92
Sponsorships	£7,485.00
Retail Merch Sales	£911.00
Fundraisers incl Online	£7,454.84
Auction Sales	£7,702.28
Bonus Ball Subscriptions	£4,730.00
Misc income	£257.45
Collection Boxes	£303.00

Bank Interest	£540.11
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TOTAL £106,016.05

EXPENDITURE

100 Club Payouts	£353.55
Market Fees	£60.00
Vet Fees/Supplies	£846.36
Misc	£373.44
Insurance	£410.35
Merch for resale	£2,143.67
Admin/Stationery	£39.99
Land Lease	£0.00
Energy Costs	£3,895.92
Salaries & HMRC	£22,416.04
Cleaning Costs & Materials	£880.00
Animal Foodstuffs	£924.43
Postage	£207.76
Equipment/Infrastructure	£2,487.88
Bonus Ball Payouts	£2,000.00
Misc Amazon	£1,082.33
TOTAL	£38,121.72

SURPLUS/(DEFICIT) £67,894.33

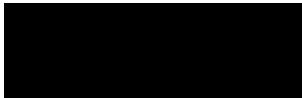
Statement of Balances – As at 31 October 2024

	2024
Opening Balance	0
SURPLUS/(DEFICIT)	£67,894.33
Closing Balance	£67,894.33

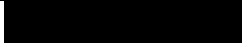
Reserves	
Current Account	6101.66
Reserve Account	61792.67
100 Club Reserve Account	0
	67894.33

Approved by the trustees on 13th November 2024 and signed on their behalf by:-

Signed:



Print Name:



Position: TEMPORARY CHAIR / TREASURER

Notes to the Accounts – For the Year Ended 31 October 2024

1 Basis of Accounting

These accounts have been prepared on the Receipts & Payments basis in accordance with the Charities & 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.

3 Related Party Transactions

No other remuneration was paid to the trustees or to any connected persons during the year.

Note – not forming part of these accounts for OSCR. Showing income expenditure for a whole year for the period 1st November 2023 – 31st October 2024 including period from 23rd January 2024 when charitable status was achieved.

Highland Wildlife Rescue

Accounts 1/11/23 - 31/10/24

Income	Amount
Donations	40866.99
100 Club Subscriptions	2317.00
Merch Sales Markets	1127.29
Other Merch Sales	2784.85
Sponsorships	8165.00
Retail Merch Sales	1292.00
Fundraisers incl Online	8593.33
Auction Sales	7806.61
Bonus Ball Subscriptions	5996.00
Misc income	257.45
Collection Boxes	303.00
Bank Interest	540.11
Total	80049.63

Expenditure	
100 Club Payouts	889.60
Market Fees	165.00
Vet Fees/Supplies	953.12
Misc	1058.48
Insurance	505.83
Merch for resale	2808.75
Admin/Stationery	64.98
Land Lease	1.00
Energy Costs	5299.92
Salaries & HMRC	23368.95
Cleaning Costs & Materials	939.60
Animal Foodstuffs	924.43
Postage	301.70
Equipment/Infrastructure	2487.88
Bonus Ball Payouts	2000.00
Misc Amazon	1214.52
Total	42983.76

Surplus/-Deficit 37065.87

Balance at 31 Oct 2023 30828.46
Surplus/-Deficit 37065.87
Balance at 31 Oct 2024 67894.33