



Shepreth Wildlife Conservation Charity

Report and Unaudited Accounts

For the period

1st April 2023 to 31st December 2023

Shepreth Wildlife Conservation Charity
Registered charity number 1145477

Shepreth Wildlife Conservation Charity

Charity Information

Trustees

Rebecca Willers	(Chairperson)
Sally Willers	(Secretary)
Colin Taylor	(Treasurer)
Jane Taylor	(Resigned 20.06.2023)
Jeanette Richards	
Mike Hunter	
Liz Dams	
Yvonne Morrin	
Liz Bennett	
Hannah Lintott	

Independent Accountants

Taylor & Co.
Chartered Certified Accountants
The Sycamores
43 Kneesworth Street
Royston
Herts
SG8 5AB

Business address and contact details

c/o. Shepreth Wildlife Park
Station Road
Shepreth
Royston
Herts
SG8 6PZ

Email: swcc@sheprethwildlifepark.co.uk

Registered Charity Number

1145477

Bankers

Lloyds TSB
The Cross
2 Melbourn Street
Royston
Herts
SG8 9AB

Governing Document

Constitution

Shepreth Wildlife Conservation Charity

Reports and Accounts

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SWCC Annual Report 2023

Report of the Trustees

Please note the reporting period of this Annual Report is for the duration of nine months only: 1st April 2023 – 31st December 2023. This was designed so the charity could continue reporting in the future January – December.

During the Twelve year (2023) of operation the Charity, Trustees and volunteers have undertaken work falling within the following:

1. Raising funds through various means to donate to other charities whose aims are consistent with the Charity's own, but have the local presence and expertise to achieve the Charity's objectives.
2. Management of the SWCC Hedgehog Hospital.
3. Events successfully delivered: Easter Conservation Trail, Wildlife on Your Doorstep Campaign, Fossils Galore Event, Tiger Day, Clouded Leopard Day, Hedgehog Day, Lemur Day, Elephant Day, Maned Wolf Awareness Talk, Red Panda Day, Halloween, Raffle, Santa's Grotto
4. Recruitment and training of staff and volunteers to manage the hedgehog programme.
5. Educating the general public about conservation projects supported by SWCC and the work of the SWCC Hedgehog Hospital

Achievements and Performance

1. The Board of Trustees

The Charity has continued to raise funds for a variety of conservation causes in line with its aims and objectives.

2. Donations

The Charity raised and made donations of funding and equipment to:

- Wild Cats Conservation Alliance (£1,000)
- Ampasy Field Station, Madagascar (£722)
- Red Panda Network (£652)
- Clouded Leopard Working group (£2,086)

3. SWCC Hedgehog Hospital

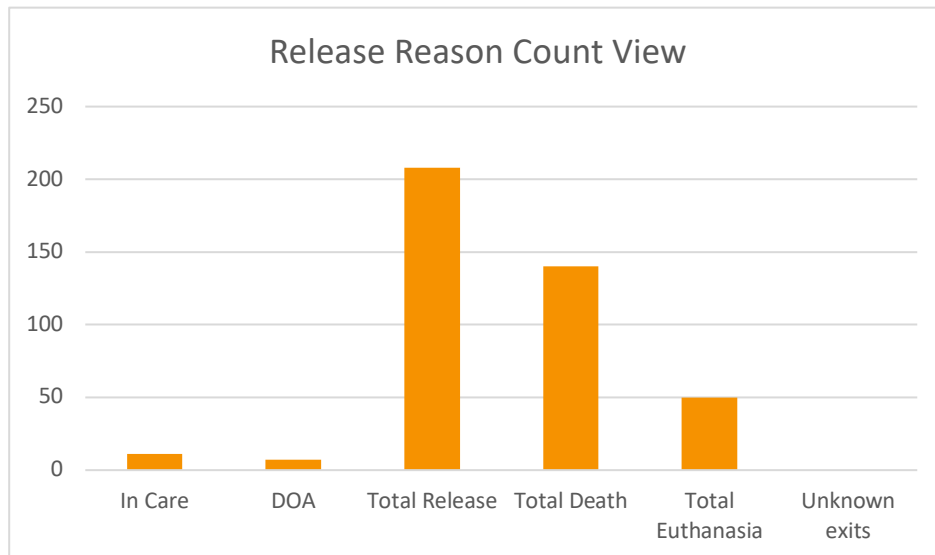
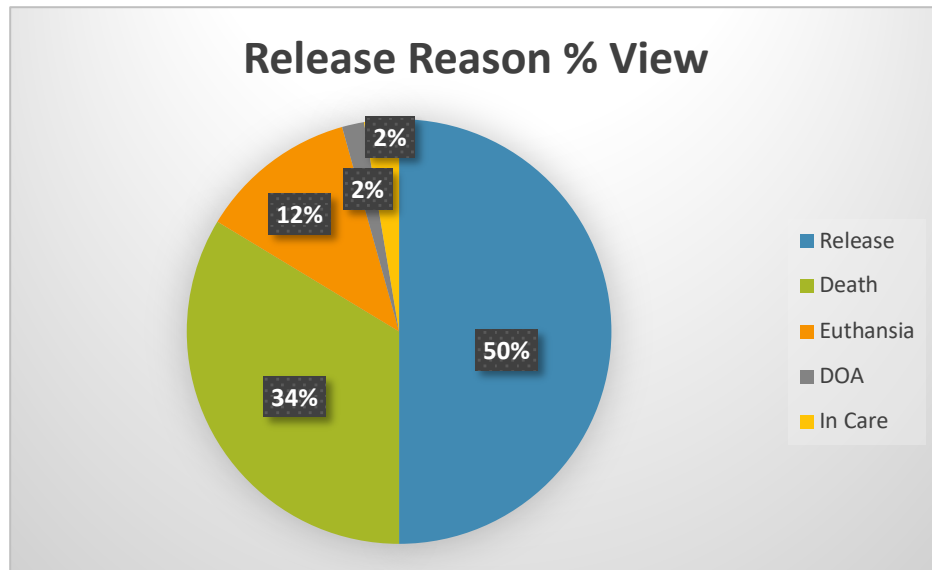
The Charity raised the funds required to keep the Hedgehog Hospital running efficiently. In the 2023 nine month reporting period the hospital admitted **416** hedgehogs. The success of this reporting period is credit to the staffing team and volunteers who continue to work hard during to ensure that high standards of welfare were maintained throughout the year.

We would like to acknowledge Natasha Ennew and Kirstie Coddington for collating this data and producing this report on behalf of SWCC.



SWCC Hedgehog Hospital Data

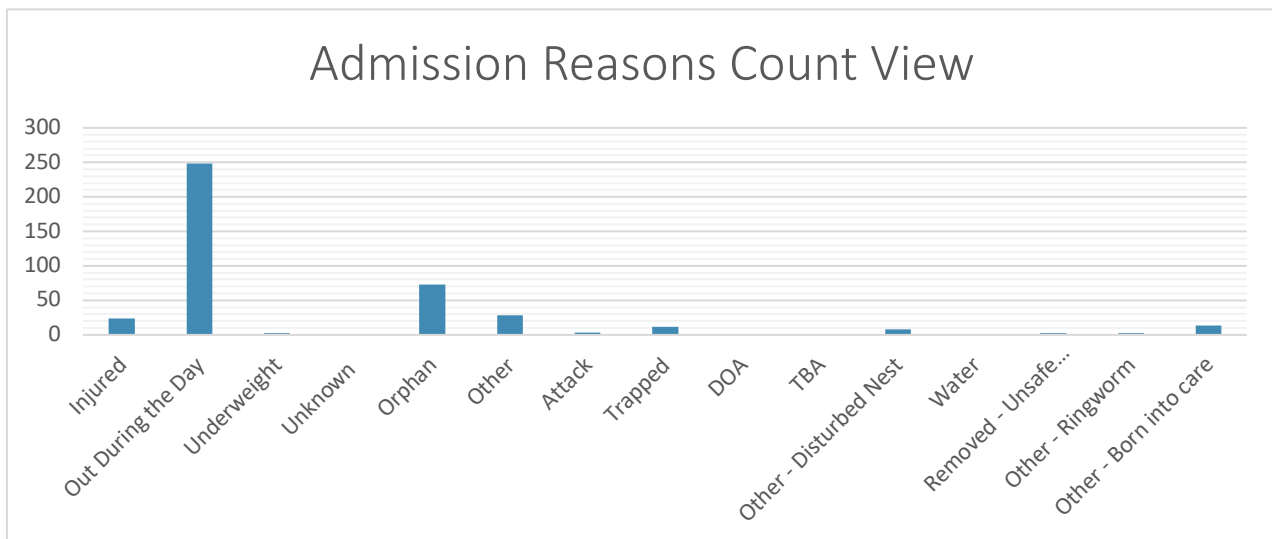
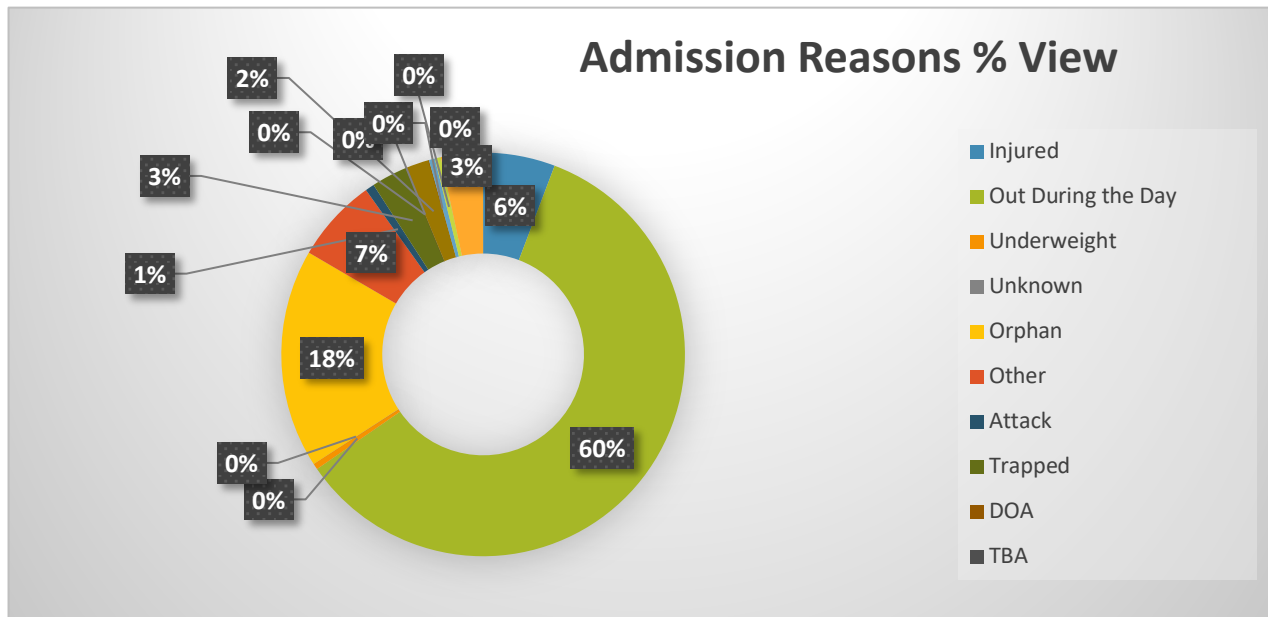
Reporting Period 01.04.23 – 31.12.23



Release percentage has reached 50%, which is an outstanding achievement and easily surpasses the expected study outcome from Molony et al (2007); that concludes only 30 to 40% of wildlife casualties are successfully released back into the wild.

There are no unknown exits recorded this year. Accurate record keeping is instrumental in achieving this admission count picture. The Hospital Team have ensured files are completed, therefore we can accurately audit the hedgehog journey from their admittance to their destination. Only 11 hedgehogs are recorded as remaining in care from this reporting period. Euthanasia's again remain higher than earlier years, due to changes in protocols; this ensures that no disabled hedgehogs are placed in secure gardens inhibiting their natural instincts.

Admission Reasons



‘Out during the day,’ like previous reporting years, is the main reason identified as to why hedgehogs are admitted to our care. This is closely followed by orphans. The Hospital Team often educates the public via Facebook or Public Talks as to when is appropriate to intervene with nests that are assumed to have been abandoned or disturbed. This is to give the mother a chance to come back to nurse or move her young. Trapped Hedgehog admissions have doubled this year, and this would be a prudent topic to educate the public on ‘dangers in your garden’ via their communication channels.

At the point when the Admission Form needs re-printing, we will be looking to introduce a ‘final diagnosis’ field to our files to see if we can analyse the real reason they were admitted. For instance, a hedgehog found out during the day may, under further examination, be injured which is not initially visible and this would alter their admittance reason. New admission reasons were added last year which breakdown the ‘other’ category. This is an ongoing process; we will shortly be adding breathing difficulties and tick burden as admission categories on the data set. Again, this year, we have no unknown admission reasons, thanks to the scrupulous diligence of the Hospital Team.

We will also look at adding fields to quantify ecto-parasite burdens upon arrival, in order to analyse any patterns with likely death outcome or identify successful parasite treatments.

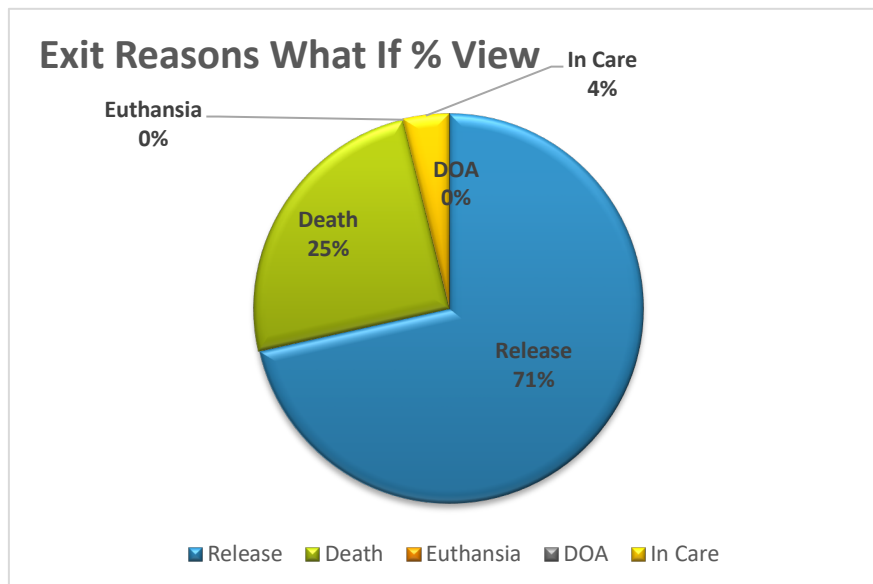
What If?

If we deduct the hedgehogs that we were never able to save like euthanasia's, dead on arrival and those that pass within 48 hours of admittance (deemed unsavable as they are already in critical decline) the total release percentage will increase from 60% to 71%.

The Unsavable

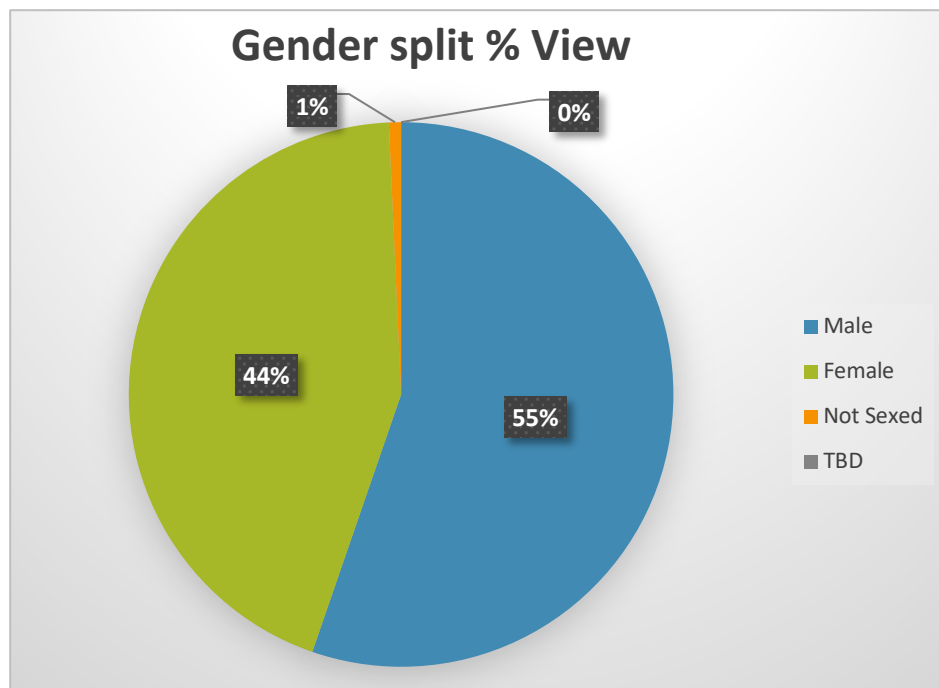
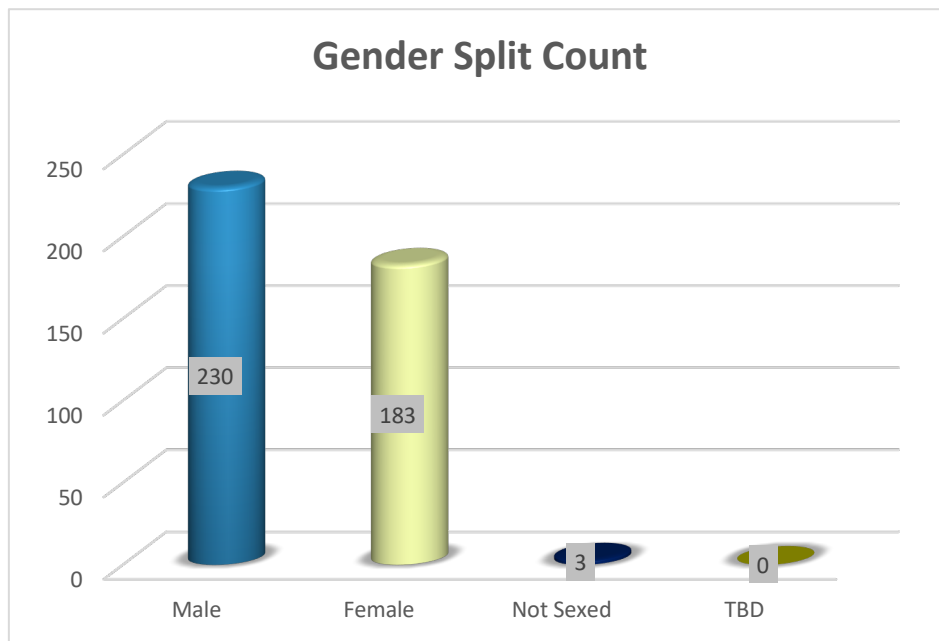
The totals below show the numbers that have either passed within 48 hours of arrival, were euthanised, or were deceased upon arrival.

Death <2	68
Euthanasia<2	50
DOA	7
Total	125



In conjunction with the Hospital Manager and vet Elizabeth Church, we aim to review the deaths under 48 hrs to see if we can alter care plans and/or introduce new care plans. For instance, a protocol for treating suspected salmonella cases is in draft and will be reviewed and agreed shortly. The Hospital core manuals are also under review.

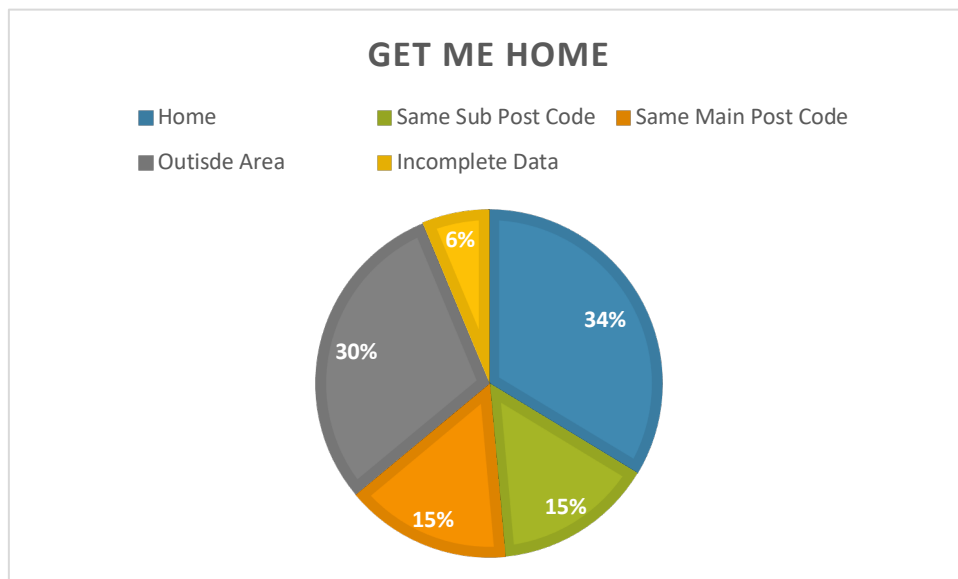
Gender Split Information



Unlike previous reporting years, this is the second year we have seen the gender gap trend towards more males being admitted into our care. Previous reporting periods have indicated almost a 50/50 split on gender. Only one hedgehog remained gender unidentified; the need for them to receive emergency veterinary care overtakes the need to record the gender in this instance.

We will be looking to report on how many males and females have been released to understand if there is a pattern emerging from our survival perspective.

Getting Me Home



Category	Code	Example
Home	1	Complete Post Code Match
Same Sub Postcode	2	i.e. CB21 to CB21
Same Main Postcode	3	i.e. CB to CB
Outside Main Postcode	4	i.e. CB to SG
Incomplete Data	5	unable to define

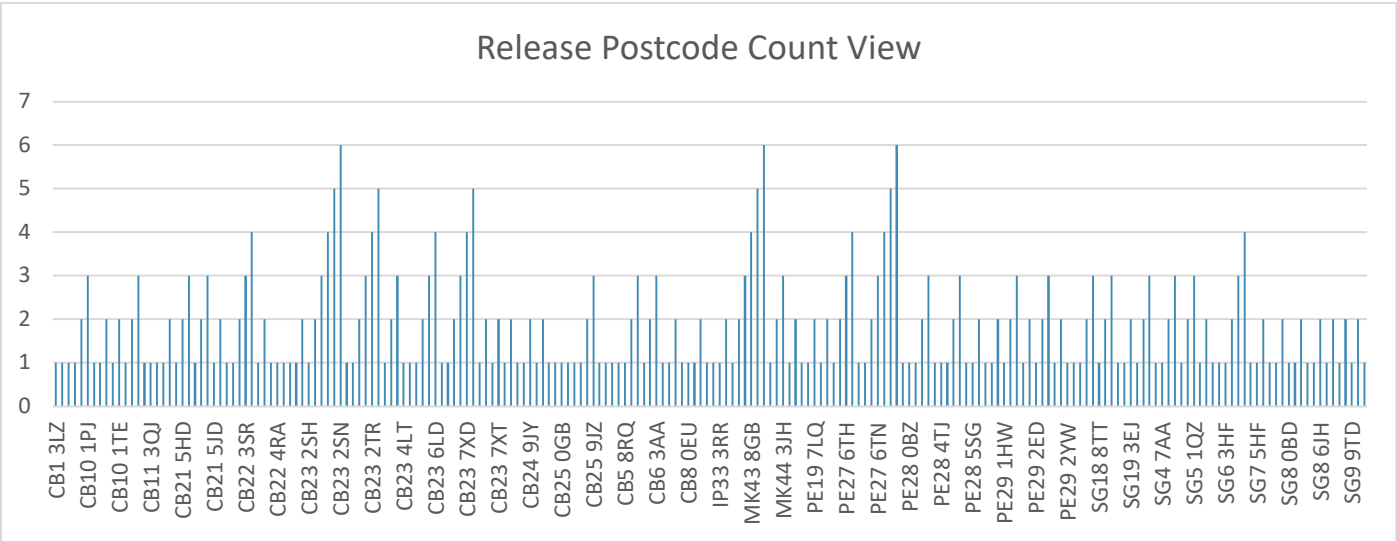
The British Hedgehog Preservation Society conclude that hedgehogs build a mental map of their home range to help better navigate their environment. Hedgehogs released from unknown sites face larger competition for resources and a greater risk of road mortality. They may also spread infectious diseases to new populations. Simply release a hedgehog where they will be most content, within its original home range.

However, it is not always possible to release back home for several reasons:

- Hazards in that area caused original admittance.
- Finder does not want the hedgehog to come back.
- Release site not ready to support release and hedgehog is ready to go.
- Infectious diseases identified in the home area.

The Hospital Team strive to get the hedgehogs back home as swiftly as possible. For whatever reason, where this is not possible, or suitable, the nearest location to the home site is preferred to be used.

This view represents the release picture by Post Code view, unfortunately this does not show actual distance. For instance, a hedgehog released outside of the main postcode area CB1 to SG8 may only be a few miles away and is still suitable. We are looking at mapping software to better represent this view in the future. Mapping software is quite expensive, and we have been looking at free software; but they do have restrictions which make some of them unsuitable.



This chart shows the number of Hedgehogs that have been released to a specific postcode; with the maximum number of six, per site, being recorded. Many sites rehome a single hedgehog. This view can be used to build into our release strategy to ensure that sites are not overpopulated. With the re-introduction of our ‘tagging project,’ in 2024/25, we will gain citizen science to see how our releases behave once released.

The Hospital Team have focused on postcode date capture at admission and release points; therefore, we only have 6% incomplete records vs 33% that we have reported in earlier years (2021-2022).

There is an opportunity for focus, this year, to reduce the number of hedgehogs that are released outside their area. It is noted that this may not always be feasible due to release sites not being available or prepared at the same time the hedgehog is ready to be released.

Note: This report will be updated to include our audit information and gender survival rates.

Report of the Trustees (continued)

3.1 Staffing

SWCC employs a Hospital Manager and three part-time Welfare Assistants. Volunteers are continually recruited and trained to maintain the hospital on a seven-day/week basis.

Alongside Shepreth Wildlife Park, SWCC employed a Conservation Officer to co-ordinate the community engagement programme and help develop the longer-term conservation strategies.

3.2 Release Programme

At the time of reporting, **216** were successfully released back into the wild. We would like to thank the Hospital staff, volunteers and Release Site Co-ordinator for this tremendous success.

3.3 Hedgehog Scientific Advisory Board (HSAB - Research)

The SWCC Hedgehog Hospital has continued to support student research projects by offering its data for desktop studies and assisting in research conducted at other institutions and in the field.

3.4 Hedgehog Helpline

SWCC staff man a hedgehog helpline.

4. Website

The SWCC website (www.swcccharity.org) continued to be updated in 2023.

5. Fundraising

The committee continued to meet virtually to discuss grant applications and upcoming fundraising events. Regular fundraising event days took place during the year.

5.1 Grants

Grants were applied and received from:

- Zoological Society of Hertfordshire (£1,000)
- Aviva Community Fund (£10,276.52)

5.2 Donations

Donations (over £500) were received from:

- Holbeche Corfield Charitable Trust (£500)
- Diana Foreman (£1,500)
- Tropical Butterfly House (£1,356.42)
- Folbigg (£500)

6. Media

The SWCC Hedgehog Hospital continued to receive good media coverage, and SWCC staff and volunteers maintain a successful social media presence.

The relationship with Eddy Temple-Morris, Virgin Radio DJ, continued with regular updates to listeners about the work of the charity live on his daily show.

7. Education

The Hedgehog Challenge badge was designed and created by 1st Swavesey Rainbows after an inspirational trip to Shepreth Wildlife Park in 2022. All profits from this badge will go to the SWCC Hedgehog Hospital.

An educational section was added to the website: <http://www.swccharity.org>

SWCC updated it's 'Guide to Hedgehogs' which was mass reproduced. 1,000's of copies have continued to be distributed, in addition to the PDF download from the SWCC website: <https://swccharity.org/guide-to-help-hedgehogs>

The monthly awareness and conservation events, which ran on-site throughout 2023 to help highlight the work of SWCC and other conservation initiatives, took the form of invited speakers, workshops, and relevant educational games.

The 2022 promotional video of the history of the wildlife park and the work of the conservation charity and SWCC Hedgehog Hospital continued to be screened to the 100,000 visitors to the wildlife park in 2023 to help promote conservation awareness.

8. Community

Community plays a significant role in what we do, from training volunteers, assisting students with the research element of the hedgehog programme, to advising people on how to make their garden wildlife friendly.

We continued to work closely within the local community and with organised wildlife groups, to inspire and encourage citizen science programmes and enthuse young people to engage in wildlife and habitat restoration projects. Between them they also attended 29 pre-booked formal talks and events including school assembly talks, sustainability events, WI talks and uniform group events.

We would like to thank Liz, Judith and Terri for their time spent on this community engagement.

Report of the Trustees (Ends)

Shepreth Wildlife Conservation Charity

Report of the Trustees (continued)

Financial Review

The financial accounts are set out on pages 14 – 19. The financial statement has been prepared implementing the Statement of Recommended Practice for Accounting and Reporting by Charities issued by the Charity Commission for England and Wales (effecting April 2005) and in accordance with the Financial Reporting Standard for Smaller Entities (effective January 2005).

During the period the principal sources of funding were fundraising and donations.


The Statement of Financial Activities shows net expenditure of £16,278 which deducted from reserves brought forward of £74,829 make total reserves of £58,551 at the year end. The Restricted funds total £44,689 (Hedgehogs Nil, Red Pandas £272, Lemur £12, Elephant £503, Charity Ball £23,088 and Shepreth Wildlife Park £20,814) which leaves free reserves of £13,862.

The Trustees are satisfied that these reserves are sufficient at the present time.

Plans for future years

The Charity expects to increase its fund-raising and obtain grants to pay for the hospitals running costs, employ staff and to allow it to continue to donate to other charities.

This report was approved by the board of Trustees on 19th September 2024.



Chair

Shepreth Wildlife Conservation Charity

Statement of Trustees Responsibilities

Charity Law requires the Trustees to prepare financial statements for each financial year which give a true and fair view of the state of affairs of the Charity as at the balance sheet date and of its incoming resources and application of resources, including Statement of Financial Activities, for the financial year. In preparing those financial statements, the management committee should follow best practice and:

- Select suitable accounting policies and then apply them consistently;
- Make judgements and estimates that are reasonable and prudent; and
- Prepare the financial statements on the going concern basis unless it is inappropriate to assume that the Charity will continue on that basis.

The Trustees are responsible for maintaining proper accounting records which disclose with reasonable accuracy at any time the financial position of the Charity. They are also responsible for safeguarding the assets of the Charity and hence for taking reasonable steps for the prevention and detection of fraud and other irregularities.

This report was approved by the Board of Trustees on 19th September 2024.

 Chair

Shepreth Wildlife Conservation Charity

Independent Examiner's Report

Report of the Independent Examiner to the trustees on the Unaudited accounts of the charity for the period 1st April 2023 to 31st December 2024

I report on the accounts of the company for the period 1st April 2023 to 31st December 2024, which are set out on pages 14 to 19.

Respective responsibilities of trustees and examiner

The charity's trustees are responsible for the preparation of accounts. The charity's trustees consider that an audit is not required for this period under section 144 of the Charities Act 2011 (the Charities Act) and that an independent examination is needed. The charity's gross income did not exceed £500,000 although the charity's trustees have requested that an independent examiners report is undertaken. I am qualified to undertake the examination by being a qualified member of The Association of Chartered Certified Accountants.

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

- examine the accounts under section 145 of the Charities Act;
- to follow the procedures laid down in the general directions given by the Charity Commission (under section 145(5)(b) of the Charities Act; and
- to state whether particular matters have come to my attention.

Basis of independent examiner's statement

My examination was conducted in accordance with general directions given by the Charity Commission. 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 seeking 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 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 statement below.

Shepreth Wildlife Conservation Charity

Independent Examiner's Report (continued)

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 130 of the Charities Act;
 - to prepare accounts which accord with the accounting records and comply with the accounting requirements of the Charities Act 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.



Taylor & Co.
Chartered Certified Accounts
The Sycamores
43 Kneesworth Street
Royston
Herts
SG8 5AB

Date: 19th September 2024

Statement of Financial Activities
Period 1st April 2023 to 31st December 2023

	Unrestricted	Restricted Funds	Restricted Funds	Restricted Funds	Restricted Funds	Restricted Funds	Restricted Funds	Restricted Funds	Restricted Funds	Total	Total
	Funds	Hedgehogs	Tigers	Red Panda	Lemur	Clouded Leopard	Elephant	Charity Ball	Shapreth Wildlife Park	Funds 31/12/2023	Funds 31/03/2023
	£	£	£	£	£	£	£	£	£	£	£
Incoming Resources											
Donations	18,358.15	5,654.96	244.87	66.74	493.92		363.00			25,181.64	44,435.28
Fundraising	1,904.17	640.28	202.95	335.15	240.20	2,079.66	140.00			5,542.41	59,459.26
Grants		11,276.52								11,276.52	1,000.00
Interest Received	368.57									368.57	37.95
	20,630.89	17,571.76	447.82	401.89	734.12	2,079.66	503.00	-	-	42,369.14	104,932.49
Asset and Investment Sales	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
Total Incoming Resources	20,630.89	17,571.76	447.82	401.89	734.12	2,079.66	503.00	-	-	42,369.14	104,932.49
Resources Expended											
Donations			1,000.00		722.00	750.00				2,472.00	2,414.45
Fundraising		5,373.19								5,373.19	3,226.13
Charity Ball Costs										-	26,247.76
Equipment				652.69		1,336.03				1,988.72	-
Hospital Costs										-	-
Hospital supplies		2,647.05								2,647.05	2,178.27
Veterinary		4,260.40								4,260.40	5,064.28
Hospital equipment										-	-
Waste Disposal										-	2,484.00
Repairs and maintenance		63.27								63.27	453.78
Administration										-	-
Staff wages		32,346.00								32,346.00	33,608.50
Staff pensions		444.42								444.42	499.64
Printing/Stationery/Advertising										-	931.34
Accountancy	684.00									684.00	828.00
Subscriptions	192.00									192.00	390.00
Bank Charges	5.36									5.36	-
Website	195.14									195.14	-
Paypal Charges										-	-
Insurance	1,016.44									1,016.44	1,255.40
Electricity		3,384.96								3,384.96	3,376.57
Card Charges										-	-
Telephone		499.34								499.34	606.96
Ambulance Insurance										-	912.80
Loan Interest										-	12.00
Other Interest										-	-
Sundry Expenses		141.93								141.93	82.99
Depreciation										-	-
Leasehold property	2,933.00									2,933.00	2,933.00
	5,025.94	49,160.56	1,000.00	652.69	722.00	2,086.03	-	-	-	58,647.22	87,505.87
Asset and Investment Purchases	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
Total Resources Expended	5,025.94	49,160.56	1,000.00	652.69	722.00	2,086.03	-	-	-	58,647.22	87,505.87
Net Income for the year	15,604.95	31,588.80	552.18	250.80	12.12	6.37	503.00	-	-	16,278.08	17,426.62
Transfers between funds	32,147.35	31,588.80	552.18			6.37				0.00	-
Total funds brought forward	30,404.55			523.00			23,088.24	20,813.75		74,829.54	57,402.92
Total funds carried forward	13,862.15	-	-	272.20	12.12	-	503.00	23,088.24	20,813.75	58,551.46	74,829.54

Balance Sheet as at 31st December 2023

Notes

		31/12/2023	31/03/2023
		£	£
Fixed Assets			
Tangible Assets	(3)	23,468	26,401
Current Assets			
Cash at Bank and in hand		35,729	48,061
Stock		3,295	-
Sundry Debtors		-	1,154
Prepayments		2,520	-
Creditors: Amounts due within one year	(4)	(6,461)	(787)
Net Current Assets		35,083	48,428
Total Assets less Current Liabilities		58,551	74,829
Creditors: Amounts due over one year		0	0
Net Assets		<u>58,551</u>	<u>74,829</u>
Funds of the Charity			
Unrestricted funds		13,862	30,404
Restricted funds: Hedgehogs		-	-
Tigers		-	-
Red Panda		272	523
Lemur		12	-
Elephant		503	-
Charity Ball		23,088	23,088
Shepreth Wildlife Park		20,814	20,814
Total Funds		<u>58,551</u>	<u>74,829</u>

Notes to the Accounts
For the period 1st April 2023 to 31st December 2023

1. Accounting policies

Basis of preparation of accounts

The financial statements have been prepared in accordance with the Financial Reporting Standards for Smaller Entities (FRSSE), effective April 2008, and all other applicable standards, as modified by the Statement of Recommended Practice for Accounting and Reporting issued by the Charity Commissioners for England & Wales, effective October 2005. The accounts have been drawn up in accordance with the provisions of the Charities Act and the Companies Act.

The company has also taken advantage of the exemption in Financial Reporting Standard No. 1 from the requirement to produce a cash flow statement.

The Charity is entirely dependent on donations, fundraising and grants as a consequence the going concern basis is also dependent on the continuation of donations, fundraising and grants.

The particular accounting policies adopted are set out below.

Accounting convention

The financial statements are prepared, on a going concern basis, under the historical cost convention as modified by the revaluation of freehold land and buildings and fixed asset investments.

Incoming Resources

Incoming resources are accounted for on a receivable basis deferred as described below where appropriate. Grants are all included in voluntary income on the SOFA.

Recognition of liabilities

Liabilities are recognised on the accruals basis in accordance with normal accounting principles, modified where necessary in accordance with the guidance given in the Statement of Recommended Practice for Accounting and Reporting issued by the Charity Commissioners for England & Wales.

Notes to the Accounts
For the period 1st April 2023 to 31st December 2023 (Continued)

Resources Expended

As specified by SORP (2005), adopted during the year, resources expended includes all expenditure directly related to the objects of the charity and comprises the following:-

Costs of generating voluntary income

The cost of generating voluntary income comprises of an appropriate share of support costs associated with attracting and administering grants and donations received by the charity.

Fundraising Costs

Fundraising costs comprise of goods and services obtained specifically for fund raising activities and events, and an appropriate share of the support costs.

Governance Costs

Governance costs represent expenditure incurred in the general running of the charity and expenses incurred for compliance with charitable and statutory requirements, as well as an appropriate share of support costs.

Fixed assets and depreciation

Tangible fixed assets are stated at cost less depreciation.

Depreciation has been provided at the following rates in order to write off the assets (less their expected residual value) over their estimated useful economic lives.

A regular review of the likelihood of asset impairment is undertaken.

Fixtures, Fittings and Equipment	25% straight line
Leasehold Property	Over 20 years

Taxation

As a registered charity, it is exempt from income and corporation tax to the extent that its income and gains are applicable to charitable purposes only. Value Added Tax is not recoverable by the charity, and is therefore included in the relevant costs in the Statement of Financial Activities.

Notes to the Accounts
For the period 1st April 2023 to 31st December 2023 (Continued)

Funds structure policy

The charity maintains a general unrestricted fund which represents funds which are expendable at the discretion of the trustees in furtherance of the objects of the charity. Such funds may be held in order to finance both working capital and capital investment.

Restricted funds have been provided to the charity for particular purposes, and it is the policy of the board of trustees to carefully monitor the application of those funds in accordance with the restrictions placed upon them.

There is no formal policy on the allocation of funds to designated funds.

There is no formal policy of transfer between funds. Any proposed transfer between funds would be considered in the particular circumstances.

2. Winding up or dissolution of the charity

If upon winding up or dissolution of the charity there remains any assets the satisfaction of all debts and liabilities the assets represented by the reserves shall be transferred to some other charitable body or bodies having similar objects to the charity.

3. Tangible Fixed Assets

	Total	Leasehold Property	Fixtures & Fittings
Cost at 1 st April 2023	<u>61,970</u>	<u>58,664</u>	<u>3,306</u>
At 31 st December 2023	<u>61,970</u>	<u>58,664</u>	<u>3,306</u>
Depreciation at 1 st April 2023	35,569	32,263	3,306
Charge for the period	<u>2,933</u>	<u>2,933</u>	<u>Nil</u>
At 31 st March 2023	<u>38,502</u>	<u>35,196</u>	<u>3,306</u>
Net Book Value			
At 31 st December 2023	<u>23,468</u>	<u>23,468</u>	<u>Nil</u>
At 31 st March 2023	<u>26,401</u>	<u>26,401</u>	<u>Nil</u>

4. Creditors: Amounts falling due within one year

	31.12.23 2023 £	31.03.23 2022 £
Sundry Creditors/Accruals	<u>6,461</u>	<u>787</u>

Notes to the Accounts
For the period 1st April 2023 to 31st December 2023 (Continued)

5. Leasing commitments

The charity has now negotiated a lease for 20 years with the Wildlife Park. The rent due per annum will be £1.

6. Staff numbers

The average number of employees during the period under review was 4 (2023-3).