

## **Northumbrian Hedgehog Rescue Trust**

**Registered Charity No. 1152034**

### **Trustees' Annual Report for the period 1<sup>st</sup> April 2024 – 31<sup>st</sup> March 2025**

#### **Objectives and Activities**

The Northumbrian Hedgehog Rescue Trust's primary objectives are:

1. to rescue, care for and rehabilitate injured and sick hedgehogs, the ultimate aim being to reintroduce healthy hedgehogs back into the wild, or into appropriate protected sites;
2. the education of the general public in the methods of treatment, nursing and conservation of hedgehogs.

The Trustees confirm that they have referred to the guidance contained in the Charity Commission's General Guidance on Public Benefit when reviewing the Trust's aims and objectives, and in the planning of the Trust's future activities.

The Trust has provided advice and education to the general public with regard to the care of hedgehogs by means of talks, attendance at selected events and the distribution of leaflets. Further information has been provided on the Northumbrian Hedgehog Rescue Trust's website, via the press and also using social media. Advice is also provided when the public visit the Trust's Principal Address for any reason and lastly, via telephone.

Care is provided to hedgehogs in accommodation at the Trust's Principal Address by the Trust's founder and Chair, Carole Catchpole, together with a group of volunteers. The Trust would be unable to operate without the support and help provided by the dedicated group of volunteers who assist with the cleaning out of hutches, fundraising and many other duties as required. Foster care is also provided by volunteers who care for orphaned or recovering hedgehogs within their own carefully vetted properties. Some provide safe gardens and protected areas for hedgehogs that cannot be introduced back into the wild.

#### **Achievements and Performance**

The Trust has been in existence since 2013, taking over the previous activities, assets and liabilities of Northumbrian Hedgehog Rescue. Since its inception, the Trust has continued to develop into an essential element in the welfare provision for hedgehogs within Northumberland, Tyneside, Wearside and County Durham. During this reporting period the Trust has administered care to 855 hedgehogs in total. which was much less than last year, but more in keeping with previous years, which reflects that while the Rescue was busy, the weather was more usual than the Autumn of the previous year. The number of hogs taken into care is usually higher in the summer months when hedgehogs are most active; the summer and autumn of 2024 was no exception with many hedgehogs remaining in care over the winter period as continuation of their medical treatment was required. This prepared many for release into the wild in spring 2025. There were 19 fosterers caring for 60 hedgehogs over the winter period and approximately 100 hedgehogs at the Rescue over winter.

Volunteers attend the Rescue Centre on a daily basis and throughout the year. Approximately 70 volunteers supported the work of the Trust, in addition, fosterers provided an essential element in providing additional care throughout the year.

One of our aims as a charity is to inspire learning and conservation through improving the knowledge and understanding of hedgehogs through talks and presentations. We aim to give information about hedgehog populations and their needs, as well as giving an insight into the work of the Centre. Talks are given face to face and can be requested through our website. We try to engage a broad range of people and so we are able to provide bespoke talks for specific interests ie to garden groups, to schools or young people, and to older people.

During the year there were various talks given, including at schools, to raise awareness of hedgehogs and their livelihood and the care given at the Rescue. There were 9 visits to schools to approximately 295 pupils ages 4 – 11 years, 10 talks to approximately 280 people at WI's, U3A's and Church groups and 2 General Public Information stalls. These events raised £530 in donations.

The work carried out by the Trust remains funded entirely by donations from the public. Funds are also raised by way of collection tins, raffles, other fundraising events and the sale of a small amount of merchandise promoting hedgehogs.

### **Reserves Policy**

Prior to 2021 a reserves figure of up to £40,000 had been considered adequate. In 2022 this was increased to £75,000.

As at 31 March 2025 the total funds amounted to £148,819 with the reserves held at the same level of £75,000 and the unrestricted balance being £73,819. Again, this figure is deemed sufficient to meet approximately two years of expenses at the level incurred to the ended 31 March 2025. The Trustees are mindful of the coming increases to electric and heating costs, though at this point do not wish to restrict further funds.

### **Special Thanks**

The Trustees would like to thank all the volunteers who contribute to its work in any way, including those who offer foster care. They would also like to extend thanks to Cheviot Vets in Powburn who have provided veterinary support during the period covered by this report.

The charity would not be able to continue to care for the many hedgehogs who find themselves in need of help without the continuing support of the regular donors who provide monthly standing order payments, together with people who kindly donate money and provide gift aid support for the running of the charity. We are also grateful for those who provide collection tins at their premises and raise awareness for the charity. Our humblest thanks go to you all.

### **Declaration**

The Trustees declare that they have read and approve this Trustees' Report. Signed on behalf of Northumbrian Hedgehog Rescue Trust's Trustees:

Signature: ..... *Carole Catchpole* .....

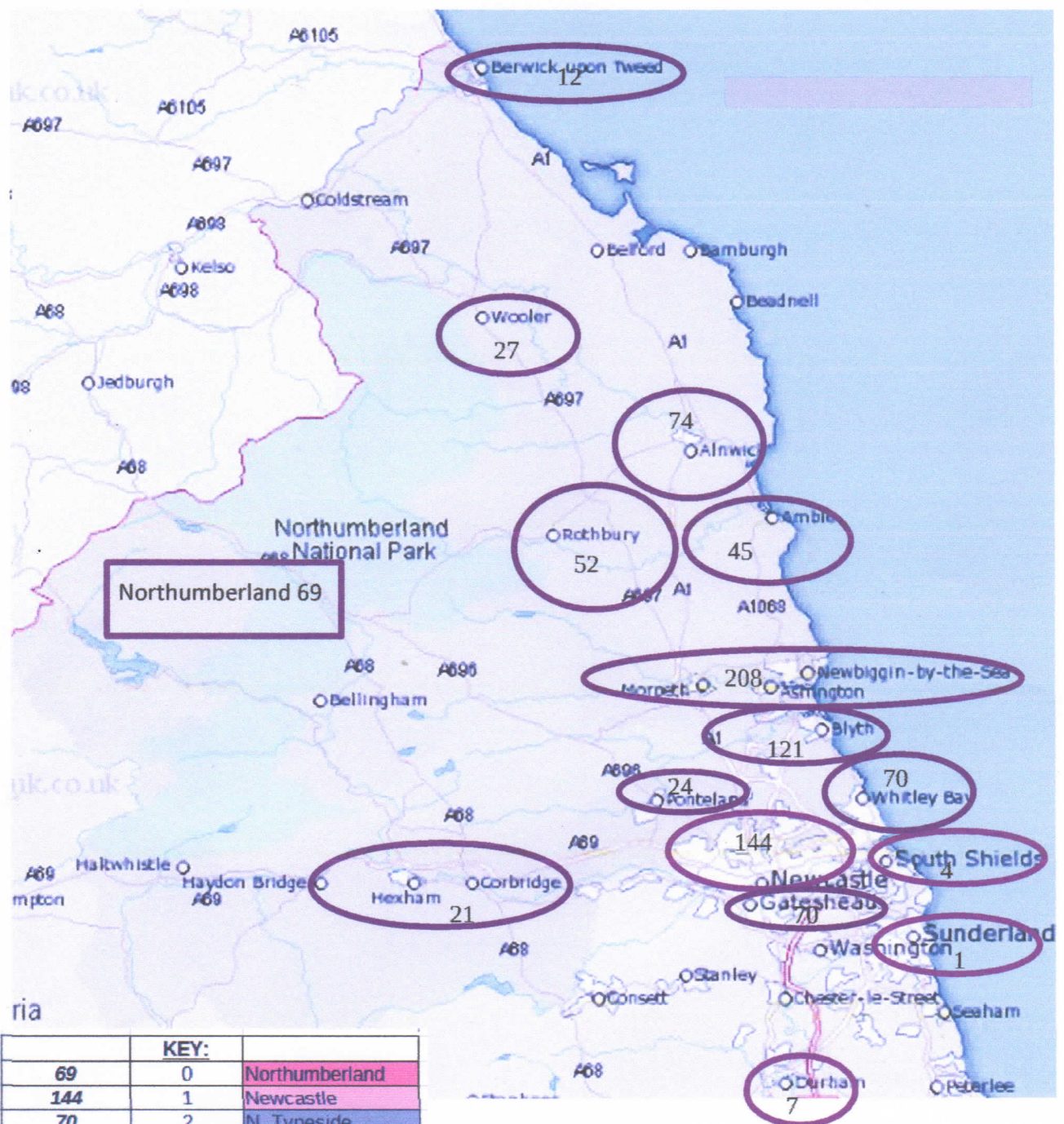
Name: Carole Catchpole

Position: Chair

Date: ..... *24/6/25* .....



**Location where hedgehogs brought to the rescue were found**  
**- Apr 2024 to Mar 2025**



**Hogs brought from:**  
 Darlington & Consett (Durham)  
 Kelso  
 Hethpool  
 Morebattle (Borders)  
 Stonehaugh  
 Houghton le Spring



**Northumbrian Hedgehog Rescue Trust**  
**Income & Expenditure Summary : 1st April 2024 - 31st March 2025**

	Current Year 2025		Previous Year 2024		
	Unrestricted funds	Restricted funds	Unrestricted funds	Restricted funds	Total
<b>Brought Forward Start Of Year</b>	£ 60,623	£ 75,000	£ 53,035	£ 75,000	£ 128,035
<b>Income</b>					
Grants & Donations regular	£ 4,257	£ 4,257	£ 3,343	£ 3,343	
Grants & Donations other	£ 15,503	£ 15,503	£ 17,536	£ 17,536	
Collecting Tins	£ 11,661	£ 11,661	£ 12,023	£ 12,023	
Fundraising Events	£ 612	£ 612	£ 1,634	£ 1,634	
Merchandise Sales	£ 402	£ 402	£ -	£ -	
Hedgehog Sponsorship	£ 965	£ 965	£ 525	£ 525	
Gift Aid	£ 4,070	£ 4,070	£ 705	£ 705	
Bank Interest	£ -	£ -	£ -	£ -	
Sundry	£ -	£ -	£ 90	£ 90	
<b>Total Income</b>	£ 37,490	£ 37,490	£ 35,856	£ 35,856	

**Expenditure**

Insurance	£ 668	£ 668	£ 641	£ 641	
Food	£ 10,249	£ 10,249	£ 12,068	£ 12,068	
Vet fees & Supplies	£ 4,148	£ 4,148	£ 6,668	£ 6,668	
Cleaning Materials	£ 619	£ 619	£ 846	£ 846	
Travel Costs	£ 416	£ 416	£ 1,239	£ 1,239	
Utilities	£ 6,540	£ 6,540	£ 5,486	£ 5,486	
Stationery and Admin	£ 228	£ 228	£ 985	£ 985	
Fundraising Costs	£ -	£ -	£ -	£ -	
General Site Repairs/Maintenance/Pest Control	£ 677	£ 677	£ 285	£ 285	
Capital Items	£ 230	£ 230	£ -	£ -	
Medical Supplies	£ 396	£ 396	£ -	£ -	
Sundry Expenses	£ 104	£ 104	£ 51	£ 51	
<b>Total Expenditure</b>	£ 24,294	£ 24,294	£ 28,267	£ 28,267	

<b>Balance Carried Forward End Of Year</b>	£ 73,819	£ 75,000	£ 148,819	£ 60,623	£ 75,000	£ 135,623
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Treasurer **DEBORAH BAMBING**  
 I have examined the records and books of account and certify they show  
 a true and accurate statement of accounts,  
 Date .....

Signed  Date **24/6/25**

**INDEPENDENT EXAMINER'S REPORT TO THE TRUSTEES OF**  
**NORTHUMBRIAN HEDGEHOG RESCUE TRUST**

I report on the Income & Expenditure of the Trust for the year ended 31<sup>st</sup> March 2025.

**Respective responsibilities of trustees and examiner**

The Charity's trustees are responsible for the preparation of the accounts. The Charity's trustees consider that an audit is not required for this year under section 144(2) of the Charities Act 2011 (the 2011 Act) and that an independent examination is needed.

It is my responsibility to

- Examine the accounts under section 145 of the 2011 Act;
- Follow the procedures laid down in the general directions given by the Charity Commission under section 145(5)(b) of the 2011 Act;
- State whether particular matters have come to my attention.

**Basis of independent examiner's report**

My examination was carried out in accordance with the 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 you as 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 represent a "true and fair view" and the report is limited to those matters set out in the statement below.

**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 2011 Act;
  - To prepare accounts which accord with the accounting records and comply with the accounting requirements of the 2011 Act have not been met; or
- (2) To which, in my opinion, attention should be drawn on order to enable a proper understanding of the accounts to be reached.

Signature: ..... G. Alexander .....

Name: ..... GEMMA ALEXANDER MIAB .....

..... LUCID ACCOUNTING LTD .....

Date: ..... 7/7/2025 .....