



EAST SUSSEX
WRAS
WILDLIFE RESCUE

The Rescuer

REG CHARITY 1108880



Unusual guests



New kit



Running efforts



2026 June Edition

Welcome!



A hedgehog is a classic when we think about British wildlife, their distinctive spines make them stand out. Spines are vital for their protection; the prickly nature deters predators, helping reduce attacks. This one however had very few spines! It was therefore very important for this hog to have a stay in the hospital and grow these back.

The cause? A fungus, ringworm. Despite the name, it is not a worm at all! It is a fungal infection that affects the skin, hair - and in hedgehogs - their spines. In this case, the fungus had invaded the skin around the base of the spines, weakening them at the root, resulting in many becoming loose, breaking off, or falling out. The skin was also affected, becoming dry, crusty, and inflamed. As the infection spread, fewer and fewer healthy spines remained, leaving the hedgehog with very little protection. Ringworm mostly affects the skin and spines, but this hedgehog's nails had also grown very long. This was likely a combination of the nails not being naturally worn down by things like walking and digging and stress and inflammation around the nail bed, making nail health even worse.

A well-meaning member of the public found him and - thinking he wouldn't survive hibernation - took him in along with another hedgehog and kept them in a rabbit hutch until they phoned us after noticing the lack of spines. Although the kind hearted person meant well, this case serves as an important reminder to always seek advice before intervening, as earlier intervention would have prevented this extreme spine loss.

The hedgehog received antifungal treatment and a few nail cuts and months later the spines started to regrow until he was ready for release!



No April Fools



Being 1st April — and the start of our peak season hours — Rescue Co-ordinator Trevor Weeks and Kristy Sayer began their day with a sudden flurry of calls — and we can only hope this isn't a sign of what's to come.

The first call came in for a mother mallard duck and her ducklings attempting to cross the busy Eastbourne Road in Uckfield. Just minutes later came several reports of a poorly fox in Gildredge Park, Eastbourne, followed closely by an entangled deer caught in tennis court netting at Little Horsted.

While Trevor rushed to assist with the fox, WRAS's specialist Deer Disentanglement Team mobilised to deal with the trapped deer. The mallard and her ducklings were safe enough to monitor briefly, but were later caught and moved by a member of the public — we can only hope they remain safe. Calls continued to come in thick and fast: a bird trapped inside a shed at Brighton Marina, an injured young blackbird in Newick, a cat-caught pigeon in Bexhill, and hedgehogs out during the day in Lower Willingdon needing urgent attention. A road casualty deer near Tunbridge Wells was referred to Police and the Deer Warden Scheme.

Further reports of orphaned ducklings came in from Ringmer, Battle and Blackboys, stretching resources even further.

A huge thank you to everyone who helped — from members of the public to partner agencies supporting our team.

If this is a glimpse of the season ahead, it's going to be a very busy one.

Fundraising

Huge thanks to Stringles Acoustic Harmony Group for entertaining residents at Filsham Lodge Nursing Home. They perform free of charge and kindly ask for donations to charity – with Simi Santosh and Christine Hillman choosing WRAS!



Kudos to volunteer Immy (above), who set herself the goal of running the Eastbourne Half Marathon in support of WRAS. She raised over £500 - an amazing achievement.

Hats off to volunteer Abbie (right), who ran the Brighton Marathon in support of WRAS. Her efforts raised over £3500, which is phenomenal. We will leave the running to Abbie though!



Through their 2025 carnival and bonfire events, Uckfield Bonfire & Carnival Society raised a phenomenal £3925 to split between local charities - with WRAS as a recipient!



Second Anaesthetic Machine



Thanks to your incredible support behind our Christmas Appeal, we've started 2026 with a major step forward—investing in a new anaesthetic machine for our casualty centre.

This vital equipment will help us safely treat injured and unwell wildlife, from repairing fractures and treating wounds to carrying out x-rays with minimal stress. Many of the animals we care for arrive in a fragile state, so having reliable, well-monitored anaesthesia can make the difference between life and death.

The new machine, supplied by Burtons Veterinary Equipment, is now fully installed and ready for use ahead of our busiest time of year. As we head into spring and summer, when casualty numbers rise sharply, this equipment will play a crucial role in helping us respond quickly and effectively.

Jasmin, our Lead Vet, said: "Thanks to everyone's donations, we can now provide smoother, safer anaesthetics and increase our ability to treat wildlife during peak season. This will have a direct impact on patient welfare and clinical success."

This investment is a direct result of your generosity. It strengthens our ability to deliver professional, ethical, and evidence-based care to every animal that comes through our doors.

Thank you for helping us raise the standard of care for wildlife across Sussex—your support truly is saving lives.

Support Us

Every year, thousands of sick, injured and orphaned wild animals receive a second chance thanks to the kindness of our supporters. For some, that kindness continues even after they're gone.

By leaving a gift in your Will to East Sussex WRAS, you can help ensure future generations of wildlife receive urgent rescue, expert care and the chance to return to the wild. Even a small percentage of an estate can make a lasting difference.

Many people also choose to leave a gift in memory of a loved one, creating something positive and enduring.

If you're considering this, we recommend speaking to a solicitor to ensure your wishes are clear. To include us, simply use our charity name and registered number.

Find out more: <https://wildlifeambulance.org/support-and-fundraise/>

Your legacy could help save wildlife for years to come.



We have partnered with Teemill. A business which provides us the opportunity to have a virtual shop-front with WRAS branded products. All items are sustainably produced and made to order, with WRAS receiving a cut of the fee. <https://east-sussex-wras.teemill.com/>



Give as you Live is a free online platform, which enables you to raise money for a charity of your choice by doing your regular online shopping through their portal. This comes at no extra cost to yourselves. <https://www.giveasyoulive.com/charity/eastsussexwras>



Without spending a penny you can support us as we have partnered with Recycle4Charity to enable us to send off used ink cartridges. With free postage included this is a win-win situation. <https://Wildlifeambulance.short.gy/Recycle4Charity>

News In Brief



A surprising rescue for one of our teams, who were called out to a bird hidden in some brambles - that turned out to be Guillemot!

These species are typically found in or near to coastal regions, therefore finding them some distance in-land came as a surprise!

The individual was exhausted from their ordeal and trying to release themselves, however having been brought back to the centre and given the all-clear, they were bedded down to regain some strength, before being returned to the coast.

Guillemots overwinter in the English Channel. We don't know for sure how the bird ended up in this location but thoughts are the bird may have flown off course during misty conditions.



A goose has been successfully rescued, rehabilitated, and released at Hydneye Lake thanks to vital water safety training funded by the Chalk Hill Trust. Just days after completing the course, WRAS rescuers responded to a call when a goose became entangled in freshly cast fishing line.

Using specialist equipment, rescuers Abbie and Thea paddled out and safely secured the bird despite underwater hazards and trailing line. The goose was taken to WRAS's Casualty Centre, where it received care and rest. After making a full recovery, it was returned and released back into its home range. This rescue highlights the importance of training, teamwork, and community support.



Make an even bigger difference!

One of the best ways of supporting us is to set up a direct debit to pay a small amount on a monthly basis. This helps us plan and budget for the future.

To set up a Direct Debit scan this QR code or head to:

<https://cafdonate.cafonline.org/24454>

Alternatively visit our website, fill in one of our donation forms, or call 01825873003.



Let their memory live on!

Scan this QR code if you want to make a donation in memory of a lost loved one. We will display a leaf on our memory tree in our reception for every person remembered.



East Sussex Wildlife Rescue & Ambulance Service (WRAS)

Casualty Centre: Unit 2, The Shaw Barn, Whitesmith, BN8 6JD.

Charity Shop: 192 Terminus Road, Eastbourne, BN21 3BB.

Registered Address: 8 Stour Close, Stone, Cross, East Sussex. BN24 5QU.

Rescue Line: 0300 10 26 999 **Non-emergency Line:** 01825-873003

E-mail: admin@eastsussexwras.org.uk

Fundraising: fundraising@eastsussexwras.org.uk

Volunteering & Work Experience: volunteers@eastsussexwras.org.uk

Website: www.wildlifeambulance.org RCVS Premise # 6548370

To make a donation please call: 01825-873003.

www.facebook.com/wildlifeambulance www.instagram.com/eastsussexwras
www.youtube.com/user/eastsussexwras

Thank you to Aspen and International Animal Rescue for their continued support.

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WILDLIFE RESCUE AMBULANCE SERVICE
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Reg
Charity:
1108880



24 HOUR RESCUE LINE: 0300-10-26-999

GENERAL ENQUIRIES: 01825-873003

[HTTPS://WILDLIFEAMBULANCE.ORG](https://wildlifeambulance.org)

