EAST SUSSEX WRAS WILDLIFE RESCUE

The Rescuer

WINTER 2026/27 • REG CHARITY 1108880

WITHOUT MEDICATION, THEIR PAIN DOESN'T STOP.



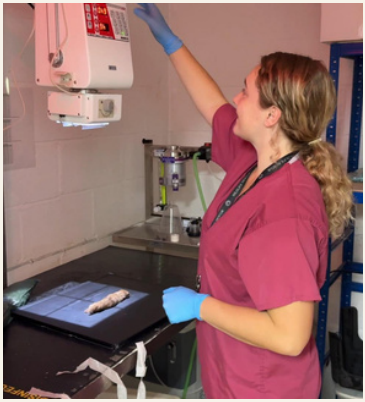
SCAN TO DONATE

Help Ease Their Pain This Chistmas

FIND OUR MORE ON PAGE 3

24-hour rescue line 0300 10 26 999

Look what you've made possible.



A huge thank you to everyone who supported our X-ray Appeal earlier this year. Thanks to your generosity, our new machine is now installed and being used almost every day, helping us diagnose injuries more quickly and provide better care for the wildlife we rescue.

It's wonderful to see the difference your support is already making.

You may have noticed fewer newsletters this year. With printing and postage costs continuing to rise, we've decided to produce two postal editions each year, while sharing more regular news and rescue updates by email, on our website and through social media.

If you'd prefer to receive updates by email rather than post, please let us know, quoting the ID beside your name and address on the donation form. You can also sign up through our website. We only email people who have specifically asked to receive updates.

Following the success of our X-ray Appeal, we're now asking for your **help to fund vital medicines for injured wildlife this Christmas**. Find out more on page 3. Also don't miss our **Christmas raffle**! Huge thanks to Jane Reynolds for helping provide some wonderful prizes. See page 12.



Trevor Weeks

Trevor Weeks MBE
Founder

Thank you for being part of every rescue.

Without medication, their pain doesn't stop.







Almost 7,000 Casualties

Over £12,000 in Medication

Every casualty deserves treatment.

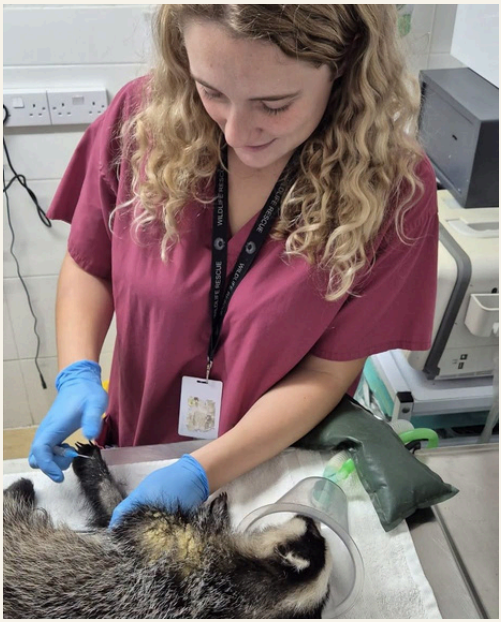
At WRAS, every animal is assessed individually and treated on its own merits. Medication relieves pain, fights infection and makes essential procedures possible.

> “Without medication our Casualty Centre becomes just a hotel. Medication is at the heart of everything we do - we can’t stop their suffering without your support, funding the vital medication we use every single day.”
>
> **JASMIN GREGORY / LEAD VETERINARY SURGEON**

Whether you donate £5 towards an injection, £33 for an average day's medication, £66 for a weekend or over £230 for a full week, your gift will help ease the suffering of wildlife in our care.

HELP EASE THEIR PAIN THIS CHRISTMAS

Costs varies hugely.



£9.16

This badger was found collapsed in a field at Ninfield. Once rescued the poor creature was delivered to our waiting vet who assessed the badgers condition under anaesthetic and used five different medications, including pain relief and antibiotics.



£59.03

This fox was rescued early in the morning entangled in a football goal in Kemp Town and suffering from mange and pressure sores. Our vet removed the netting under anaesthetic and used eight different medications to treat his injuries and condition.

Help ease their pain this Christmas.

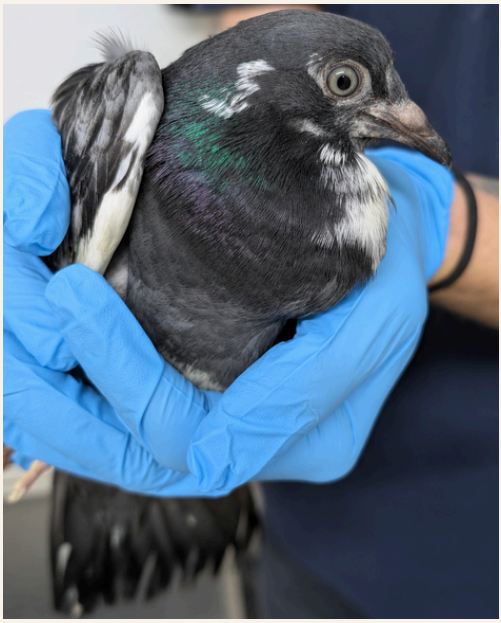
Donate at wildlifeambulance.org
or call 01825873003

Medication varies hugely.



£15.82

Its not just injuries we treat. Found weighing just 140grams this hedgehog was being attacked by birds. Underweight and poorly this hedgehog was suffering from internal and external parasites. The hedgehog needed 3 different medications over 6 weeks in care.



£9.69

This pigeon was found in Brighton on the ground, weak and unable to fly. On closer inspection the pigeon had canker a protozoan parasite, but luckily early enough to treat. Three different medications over 3 weeks were necessarily to treat this pigeon.

Help ease their pain this Christmas.

Donate at wildlifeambulance.org
or call 01825873003

Good for wildlife. Good for wellbeing.

Volunteering makes a real difference to wildlife, and it can also have a positive effect on our own mental health and wellbeing. It can help reduce loneliness, build confidence, create a sense of purpose and bring people together.

For World Mental Health Day, we asked some of our volunteers what being part of East Sussex WRAS means to them.



Nick and Riley, WRAS volunteers

NICK KALUZNA

“Working with animals is something I am really passionate about, and WRAS gives me the opportunity to do something I genuinely enjoy. Being around the animals and other fellow animal lovers makes me really happy, and it’s something I look forward to every week. Volunteering at WRAS has given me a sense of purpose and allows me to spend time doing something I love.”

RILEY HUTCHINSON-LACEY

“Being a volunteer with WRAS has helped improve my mental health by giving me something to look forward to and people to socialise with who are like-minded in their devotion to taking care of wild animals. It’s taken me out of my comfort zone in all the best ways. Knowing that, in their own ways, the animals appreciate what we do is very rewarding, and knowing we’re giving back to nature is a wonderful feeling.”

Meet the badger



276

badger casualties attended by WRAS since 2021

Britain’s badgers are instantly recognisable by their black-and-white faces. These mostly nocturnal mammals live in family groups called clans, in underground homes known as setts. They share a sett but usually forage alone, eating earthworms, insects, fruit and small animals. They mark territory using shallow pits called latrines.

Living alongside people can bring new dangers. Road traffic accounts for more than one in four WRAS badger cases. Others have been found trapped in buildings, stuck down drains, or caught in fencing and netting.

Almost 40% of cases occur between April and June. By 4 October this year, WRAS had dealt with 57 badgers - 50% more than at the same point last year. WRAS also attends orphaned cubs and badgers showing unusual or concerning behaviour.

Badgers are immensely strong wild animals. Safe rescue needs specialist equipment, trained rescuers and careful planning. If you find an injured or trapped badger, contact our rescue line immediately on 0300 10 26 999.

Did you know? Badger cubs are usually born in February and stay underground for around 12 weeks.

News in brief



A busy Autumn for the Deer Team

Our deer team has had a busy autumn. Recent call-outs have included trips to Uckfield, Heathfield, Battle, Sedlescombe, Horam, and Barcombe Mills. These are just some of the places where the team has been helping deer caught in fencing and other materials.



Thank you, fire crews

Fire crews have recently helped with several birds caught in netting or fishing line on buildings and telegraph poles. Their proactive support helps keep both wildlife and the public safe. Maresfield staff also brought an injured feral pigeon from their yard to WRAS for care.



Swans in Eastbourne and Lewes

A swan that crash-landed near Asda at the Crumbles was treated and later released at Princes Park, Eastbourne. On the River Ouse at Lewes, we are monitoring an elderly swan with a limp. WRAS vets assessed the bird after it was caught in the summer; the limp appears to be age-related



173 pigeons and doves in care

By the end of September, WRAS had 173 pigeons and doves in care: 97 feral pigeons, two stock doves, 19 collared doves and 55 wood pigeons. Many were youngsters that had fallen from nests; others had been caught in netting, attacked by cats or other predators, or injured on roads.



A second release at Newhaven

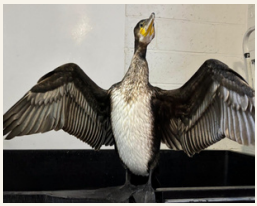
The RNLI rescued a gull entangled in line on rocks at the harbour entrance. It turned out to be a youngster we had released 20 days earlier. After a check-up, it was given the all-clear and released again.

News in brief



Fox with head caught between fences

Rescuers freed this fox after his head became wedged between fence posts. Although initially uninjured, he was monitored at WRAS, where pressure wounds appeared five days later. Following treatment and time to heal, this spirited fox was released back home.



A wandering Cormorant

Found in a Five Ashes garden after wandering along a road, this thin cormorant was too weak to fly. With food, care and access to a pool for bathing and preening, he gained over half his admission weight before being released.



Road Casualty Tawny Owl

As nights draw in, we're seeing more tawny owl road casualties. Found stunned in the road, this owl received anti-inflammatory medication and a full examination, including eye checks. After a few days' care and a successful test flight, he was released back home.



Before

Soaking wet and being attacked by other birds, this herring gull chick was stranded on a house roof. Our rescuers carefully captured the youngster and placed them in a box with a heat pad for the journey to our casualty centre.



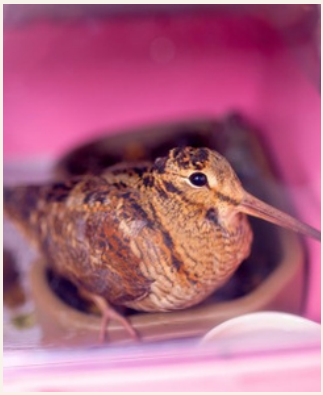
After

After warming up in an incubator, this little gull looks much better! The chick was reared along with many others this summer and eventually released on the Sussex coastline.

Care that carries on

A gift in your will

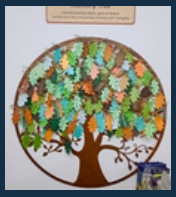
As a registered charity we rely on donations and gifts left in wills (legacies) to continue our work. Leaving a gift to East Sussex WRAS in your will can make a significant impact, which can range from replacing a veterinary ambulance to helping fund a new hospital and rescue centre. To include our charity in your will, you need to include the charity name and charity number. Seeking professional advice when writing a will is recommended to ensure your wishes are met.



Make a lasting difference

Direct Debits are the best way to support our charity on a regular basis and can really help us plan for the future and make us more financially secure, a well as helping many more casualties and ensure their treatment.

To set up a Direct Debit scan this QR code or head to: https://cafdonate.cafonline.org/24454
Or call 01825 873003. Remember, if you have an old Standing Order set up, please remember to cancel this yourself with your bank afterwards.



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 reception, for every person remembered.

A community that cares













Thank you for keeping WRAS going.

We've been so fortunate to receive support from so many people and organisations this year. We're honoured to be one of the chosen charities of Rathfinny Wine Estate, Barwell Solicitors and Viridian Nutrition — thank you all. Eastbourne Lammas Festival returned, this time at Hampden Park, with WRAS benefiting from the profits of a great weekend of entertainment. Our thanks also go to Langney Tesco's Charity Bookstall; Deanland Wood Social Club for its fundraising Dartathon; Trevor and Cathy Hollingdale for another Polegate coffee morning; and Uckfield Bonfire Society for its generous donation. Staff and volunteers represented WRAS at the Big One Hundred on Ashdown Forest, St Anne's Vets' anniversary event and Fairwarp Village Fete, among many others. We can't name everyone, but please know how much we value your support. Thank you!

Host an event, volunteer or fundraise with us.
admin@eastsussexwras.org.uk

Come and find us

Seasonal gifts, community events and ways to help.

4th Dec 5-9pm
Uckfield Late Night Shopping
By Paws-n-claws, Olive Yard, off the High Street. TN22 1QP.

5th Dec 10am-12:30pm
Fairwarp Christmas Market
Fairwarp Village Hall, Nursery Lane. TN22 3BP.

12th Dec 11am - 3pm
A Winter's Day
Ashdown Forest Visitor Centre decking by cafe. Free parking. RH18 5JP.

13th Dec 11am - 3pm
Meads Makers Fair
Meads Hall, Meads Road, Eastbourne, BN20 7QL.

Enter our Christmas Raffle!

Scan the QR code or go to: https://go.rallyup.com/eastsussexwrasraffle-2026

Arlington Bluebell Walk

12 & 13 APRIL 2027

East Sussex WRAS has been invited to attend and run the café and woodland entrance at Arlington Bluebell Walk again this spring 2027.

If you are able to help with cakes and scones, or you work for a shop which can help donate bulk supplies for the café please get in touch. We are also looking to borrow four good walkie talkies which we can use to to communicate better across the site over the two days.





Can you help us raise vital funds, or does your company support charities? Contact: admin@eastsussexwras.org.uk

East Sussex Wildlife Rescue & Ambulance Service (WRAS).
Registered Address: Unit 2 The Shaw Barn, Whitesmith, East Sussex, BN8 6JD.
Rescue Line: 0300-10-26-999 Non-urgent Line: 01825-873003.
Website: www.wildlifeambulance.org E-mail: admin@eastsussexwras.org.uk
Reg Charity #1108880 RCVS Premise #6548370

British Wildlife Rehabilitation Council
Member since 1996
Registered with FUNDRAISING REGULATOR