

The Southern Wildlife Care & Advisory Trust/The Folly Wildlife Rescue Trust RCN 1091857

Annual Report 2019

Following on from the trend set in 2018, 2019 continued to see an increase in demand for the Trust's services as well as a steep rise in admissions.

In consequence, this has placed further strain on our already limited resources, to the extent that several infrastructure projects that were being considered have had to be put on hold.

And for a small charity that receives no local or government funding, each year brings a new set of challenges and sometimes a degree of uncertainty. But by keeping staffing and operating costs as low as possible and using available funds wisely, we can deliver a first-class service that benefits not only for wildlife, but the public at large.

At the same time, we strive for, and deliver, the highest standards of treatment for the animals in our care - something we are immensely proud of.

Admissions

Following on from 2018's intake of 4102 casualties, 2019 showed a significant spike, with a total of 4625 animal admissions. We are not entirely sure why this is happening, but it is likely that a number of factors are responsible; seasonal variations in the weather, including in recent years, several warm and dry springs, have led to more favourable conditions for young animals and birds, allowing larger numbers to survive to maturity; in addition, a growing awareness of our work (brought about by a concerted effort recently to raise our public profile) combined with the likely impact of the closure of several smaller rescue operations in the region, have all played their part in increasing our workload.

Species dealt with during 2019 included:

Badgers 42

Deer 350

Hedgehogs 425

Bats 57

and approximately 3700 other small mammals, birds, reptiles, and amphibians.

Staffing

Staffing levels throughout the year remained constant, and once again the Trust was able to muster funds to recruit 4 summer seasonal care staff to complement our 3 full-time and 3 part-time staff.

In August, an opportunity arose to recruit an Assistant Animal Manager to provide much-needed support for the Wildlife Hospital Manager, while at the same time giving us the opportunity to review all of our animal welfare and (in collaboration with our vet) veterinary protocols to ensure the care team continued to work to the highest standards.

Veterinary Unit

Our veterinary unit continues to be the backbone of our whole operation with our part-time, on-site vet being able to provide a wide range of services, including assessment, diagnosis, X-ray, ultra-sound and haematology testing, that enables targeted treatment to a wide range of casualties.

At the end of 2019, we were able to fund an Intensive Care Incubator for the vet unit, providing an essential therapeutic environment for post-operatives, that subsequently was shown to increase survival rates and recovery.

In the coming months we look to enhance the work of the unit further still with the acquisition of a portable IV pump.

Fundraising

Traditional fundraising, such as events held at school fetes and in church halls, as well as sponsored walks, pub quizzes and plant sales, continue to decline, having been largely replaced by online initiatives such as a gift shops and an online auction.

The biggest fundraising success story of the year was the Christmas Shop, that provided six-weeks of steady income at a time of year when front of house donations are at a seasonal low.

The new Online Auction run entirely by volunteers has proven to be extremely popular, and we have high hopes that as it grows, it will generate a significant income for the Trust.

Deer Rescue Unit

The Trust's Deer Rescue Unit continues to be extremely busy, attending some 350 incidents in 2019 alone; the majority involve deer entangled in fencing and netting, but also road traffic collisions, attacks by dogs and a large number of injured or orphaned fawns.

Its specialist and fully equipped rescue truck and trailer are probably unique in the UK, as is the onboard tranquiliser dart gun that the deer team employ to sedate animals that might otherwise pose a threat to both staff and members of the public alike.

Referrals for the service are made via our telephone Helpline, and we regularly assist the police, RSPCA, local authorities, and other organisations such as Network Rail.

Plans are now being considered for further specialist deer facilities at the hospital, together with a dedicated unit for rearing orphaned fawns.

Volunteers

We have a strong volunteer base which supplements the work of our permanent staff and gives support in many key areas within the hospital operation. However, volunteer cover can be inconsistent, especially during school holidays and at the height of the summer season – which coincidentally is our busiest time, and when we need them the most.

This can place a tremendous strain on our small staffing team, who work tirelessly to ensure adherence to strict protocols and standards of animal welfare.

We continue to recruit new volunteers through our website-based application process, not only for animal care staff, but education assistants, volunteer drivers, receptionists, handymen and rescuers, with focused training and support to increase volunteer retention in this crucial sector of our work.

Student Placements

Students studying veterinary science, veterinary nursing, and animal welfare, continue to play a supporting role during our busy summer season, whilst increasing their own knowledge and skills in husbandry, observations, treatment and care.

Wildlife Ambulance

In the spring of 2019, a new Wildlife Ambulance was acquired to enable staff to collect wildlife casualties from vets and members of the public, attend rescues and return rehabilitated birds and animals that were ready for release, back to their place of origin.

At the same time, a part-time Wildlife Rescue Co-ordinator was employed to establish a dedicated group who would specifically operate the ambulance, with the hope that the service could be expanded further.

Educational Programme

The Trust's small education programme has a good reputation in the local area, with its assistants attending schools, colleges, care homes and youth and community groups, to highlight the plight of British wildlife and promote the Trust's work.

In addition, it looks to demonstrate how as individuals, we can all play our part in protecting wildlife, by being aware of, and taking steps, to ensure our homes, gardens and workplaces are hazard-free for wildlife - while at the same time, promoting an interest in and respect for, our natural wildlife heritage.

Run entirely by volunteers, it is a service that we are proud to be able to offer.

Hospital and Land Developments

Work has continued throughout the year on the Trust's 6-acre nature reserve, with working groups from several local companies carrying out Charity Support days.

A planning application has been submitted for a proposed extension to Building 1, that will incorporate a *Wildlife Awareness Centre*, as well as a new Reception area.

Plans are also being drawn up for a new deer fawn enclosure, deer holding pens, waterbird aviaries and a bird of prey flight aviary, on the recently acquired lower site. It is very much hoped this will be ready for submission in early 2020.

Southern Wildlife Care and Advisory Trust

Accounts

31 December 2019

Southern Wildlife Care and Advisory Trust

Accountants' report on the unaudited accounts to Southern Wildlife Care and Advisory Trust

You have approved the accounts for the year ended 31 December 2019 which comprise the Profit and Loss Account, the Balance Sheet and the related notes. In accordance with your instructions, I have compiled these unaudited accounts from the accounting records and information and explanations supplied to me.

C W Turner FCA
Chartered Accountant

28 Wilman Road
Tunbridge Wells
Kent
TN4 9AP

19 August 2020

Southern Wildlife Care and Advisory Trust
Income and Expenditure account
for the year ended 31 December 2019

	Notes	2019 £	2018 £
Income	1	297,391	234,984
Expenditure			
Wages, salaries and other staff costs	2	146,627	116,608
Direct costs	3	40,345	38,050
Car, van and travel expenses	4	1,862	1,734
Rent, rates, power and insurance costs	5	12,400	13,414
Telephone, fax, stationery and other office costs	6	11,506	10,542
Bank, credit card and other finance charges		726	563
Accountancy, legal and other professional fees	7	3,956	2,320
Depreciation and loss/(profit) on sale		15,804	21,071
		<u>233,226</u>	<u>204,302</u>
Excess of Income over Expenditure		64,165	30,682

Southern Wildlife Care and Advisory Trust
Balance Sheet
as at 31 December 2019

	Notes	2019 £	2018 £
Fixed assets			
Land, buildings, vehicles and equipment	1	641,901	646,648
		<u>641,901</u>	<u>646,648</u>
Current assets			
Bank/building society balances	162,634	106,067	
		<u>162,634</u>	<u>106,067</u>
Net assets		<u>804,535</u>	<u>752,715</u>
General Fund			
Balance at start of period	214,322	183,640	
Excess of income over expenditure			-
Excess of income over expenditure for the year	<u>64,165</u>	<u>30,682</u>	
		278,487	214,322
Folly Wildlife Centre project			
Balance at start of period	538,393	526,048	
Expenditure	<u>12,345</u>		
		<u>526,048</u>	<u>538,393</u>
		<u>804,535</u>	<u>752,715</u>

Southern Wildlife Care and Advisory Trust
Notes to the Accounts
for the year ended 31 December 2019

1 Income and expenditure analysis

	2019	2018
	£	£
Income		
Grants	14,420	19,500
Sundry donations (including collection		
Sundry donations (including collection		
box and support group)	98,199	90,455
Legacies	122,693	62,872
RSPCA	5,630	3,984
F P rental	7,220	7,065
Sale of Merchandising and fundraising	32,860	38,926
Educational talks	493	831
Adoptions	1,076	1,141
Tax refunds	14,507	10,122
Interest received	293	88
	<u>297,391</u>	<u>234,984</u>

2 Wages, salaries and other staff costs

Wages and salaries	143,317	114,731
Pensions	3,310	1,877
	<u>146,627</u>	<u>116,608</u>

3 Direct costs

Veterinary fees and supplies	10,519	8,078
Equipment repair and renewal	7,343	10,263
Animal feed	8,457	8,409
Deer rescue	5,792	5,184
Merchandise	4,852	4,605
Promotional costs	2,833	816
Protective clothing	549	695
	<u>40,345</u>	<u>38,050</u>

4 Car, van and travel expenses

Transport costs	1,862	1,734
	<u>1,862</u>	<u>1,734</u>

5 Rent, rates, power and insurance costs

Rent		
Rates	1,406	1,504
Light and heat	2,609	1,919
TV and Alarm	362	1,104
Waste disposal	4,369	3,851
Water	667	1,137
Insurance	2,987	3,899
	<u>12,400</u>	<u>13,414</u>

Southern Wildlife Care and Advisory Trust

Notes to the Accounts

for the year ended 31 December 2019

6 Telephone, fax, stationery and other office costs

Telephone and fax	2,186	2,351
Stationery, postage and printing	5,065	4,768
Software	1,339	903
Sundry expenses	2,916	2,520
	<u>11,506</u>	<u>10,542</u>

7 Accountancy, legal and other professional fees

Accountants fees	525	525
Other legal and professional	3,431	1,795
	<u>3,956</u>	<u>2,320</u>

Southern Wildlife Care and Advisory Trust
Notes to the Accounts
for the year ended 31 December 2019

2 Plant, machinery and motor vehicles

	Freehold land	Plant and machinery	Motor vehicles	Buildings	Total
	£	£	£	£	£
Cost					
At 1 January 2019	123,769.00	49,166	14,048	459,665	646,648
Additions		11,057	-	-	11,057
Disposals		-	-	-	-
At 31 December 2019	<u>123,769.00</u>	<u>60,223</u>	<u>14,048</u>	<u>459,665</u>	<u>657,705</u>
Depreciation					
At 1 January 2019		-	-	-	-
Charge for the year		12,292	3,512	-	15,804
On disposals		-	-	-	-
At 31 December 2019		<u>12,292</u>	<u>3,512</u>	<u>-</u>	<u>15,804</u>
Net book value					
At 31 December 2019	<u>123,769.00</u>	<u>47,931</u>	<u>10,536</u>	<u>459,665</u>	<u>641,901</u>
At 31 December 2018	<u>123,769.00</u>	<u>49,166</u>	<u>14,048</u>	<u>459,665</u>	<u>646,648</u>

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