

2022 – a year in pictures

January



Pandora was one of the 388 cats and kittens we cared for in 2022. She had an abscess in her right eye when she was discovered under a bush, presumably abandoned by her mother because she was so sick. Against all the odds, she recovered from surgery, her little whiskers grew back, and she went on to be rehomed as a happy and healthy young cat.

We continue to run our Trap, Neuter, Release scheme, trying to reduce the number of feral cats on the Island. Whilst they are under anesthetic being neutered or spayed, the cats are 'ear-tipped' by the vet so that there is an easy way to identify them in the future.



February



Foxdale is high up and so, by Isle of Man standards, it gets quite a lot of snow in the winter. Our car park is north facing and it doesn't thaw easily, and so it's unusable for several days every year.

However, most of the dogs, like Cooper, absolutely love snow days!



March

The Island has relatively few native wild animal species (no foxes or squirrels, for example) but we are very fortunate to have brown and mountain hares gracing our countryside.

They are one of the fastest land mammals, and can often be seen 'boxing' each other in the spring as part of their courtship ritual.

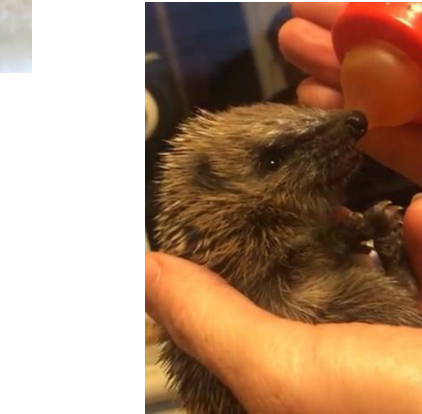


April



Spring is the time of year when most young, orphaned animals come to us for hand rearing, before being released back into the wild ...

May



To celebrate TT fortnight, we designed some special merchandise featuring the 'No Tails Club' logo. The hoodies and t-shirts were popular with visitors and locals alike.

June

And another favourite image is this one – the late Queen Elizabeth celebrating her Platinum Jubilee in our Tearooms. Well, virtually at least!

We also celebrated our 125th anniversary in 2022.

July



Gorgeous German Shepherd, Bear, continues the celebrations by posing with the Manx flag on Tynwald day.

Bear was one of 54 dogs rehomed in 2022.



August



We care for more than 500 wild animals and birds every year, and do what we can to rehabilitate and release them. The Island's wild wallaby population continues to delight the majority of people, but a minority consider these amazing marsupials to be a pest.

They are not protected under the Wildlife Act 1990, because they are classed as a non-indigenous species. They are, therefore, fair game for anyone with a gun. We were saddened to have to take a young male to the vets to be euthanised, after he had been shot with a firearm not designed to kill a large mammal. Wallabies also suffer from eye-sight issues, which makes them easier to hunt.

We need a rigorous, scientific study into the wallaby population, to assess their needs and their impact on the environment.

September

Our annual Fun Dog Show is always a popular event, and the 2022 show was no exception. The Island's Governor and his wife, Sir John and Lady Lorimer, presented the Service Dog of the Year award to handsome black Labrador Hood. He is one of several dogs who work at the prison, and is seen here with his handler/owner, Inspector Keith Burns.



October



The Island has a thriving population of wild goats on its east coast. This female caught her foot in a fence, and was brought to a vets for treatment by a member of the public (vets are obliged to give emergency treatment to all wild animals and birds, free of charge).

She recovered well, and we rehomed her with a small herd of domestic goats ... and four months later she gave birth to a healthy male kid. Mother and baby are doing well!

November



We work closely with Island Horse and Pony Aid to give assistance to horses, ponies and donkeys in need. Usually this entails giving appropriate advice and support to owners, but sometimes cruelty is a factor. With our help, the Police successfully prosecuted a local woman for the neglect of 19 horses and ponies – she received a custodial sentence and a ten-year ban from owning animals. We successfully rehomed all 19 equines, with several going to the Home of Rest.

The very elderly ponies above were a separate case – they were living a feral existence due to their owner's ill health, and when she died in the autumn of 2022 we spent weeks gaining their trust. Eventually, we were able to transport them to Ard Jerkyl, although they remained difficult to handle. Skye, on the left, eventually succumbed to her serious heart murmur; but Cameo is now settled in a 'forever' retirement home – happy and content.

December

The Police were also involved in the rescue of these three adorable dogs, Ruby, Opal and Diamond. They had been used for breeding – an easy way to make money, given the demand for small dogs and, in particular, French Bulldogs.

We very much hope that the long-awaited Animal Welfare Bill will come into Manx law soon, and that the breeding and selling of puppies can be better regulated.

