

## OTHER RAPTOR RESCUE POLICIES

### Falconry

**Raptor Rescue** is the direct result of falconers recognising and addressing the need for a specialist organisation able to treat the large numbers of injured birds of prey coming into care, and a large proportion of our rehabilitators are themselves active falconers

However we accept that some of our members and supporters do not approve of the hunting element of falconry.

We recognise the validity and necessity of falconry skills to assist with the rehabilitation process for some birds as several species, following rescue and treatment, will no longer be fit enough to fly to hunt for themselves, unless they are first exercised to recover flying condition. These exercises require competent falconry skills to ascertain both whether a bird is capable of flying and hunting again as well as assisting it to regain full fitness.

Research in countries where falconry is not allowed clearly demonstrates that rehabilitation success rates are much less than in those countries where falconry is practised

### Hunting with Dogs

This is a primarily a personal issue for the individual **Raptor Rescue** membership but the Trustee does not support or condone the use of raptors to circumvent the Hunting Ban.

### Avian Flu

Basically we will follow the guidelines and instructions as issued by Defra and advise our rehabilitators to do the same. However, we recognise that in the event of an outbreak of Avian Flu, individual rehabilitators will take whatever action they feel appropriate and some may suspend rehabilitation activities for a period of time, even though outside a restricted area.

We have to respect the individual rehabilitator's decision in such cases as many of them have birds of their own which they may not wish to put at risk, but we will continue as far as possible to maintain the rescue and rehabilitation process.

## Taxidermy

Raptor Rescue was set up to rescue, rehabilitate and wherever possible release back into the wild injured and sick Birds of Prey and as such it is regarded as somewhat unethical to provide birds for taxidermy purposes and thus run the risk of appearing to be dealing in dead birds by accepting payment.

Additionally, it is illegal to provide a bird of prey carcass to a taxidermist without first obtaining a Schedule 10 certificate from Defra.

At times birds are inevitably euthanised because it is the only humane option; we must guard to ensure we are not seen as euthanising a bird to provide a taxidermy specimen.

## Endorsements, Web Page Links, etc.

We are anxious to promote **Raptor Rescue** and our activities as often and as far as possible but at the same time we must retain our independence as a Charity and not be seen to support or endorse any organisation or activity that runs counter to our principles and objectives.

We do endorse some organisations where their activities either support or run in parallel with our own and we also may endorse products supplied to us where appropriate.

### *History*

2014 – Initial issue