

CONSTITUTION

1. The organisation shall be known as RAPTOR RESCUE.
2. The objects of Raptor Rescue shall be to promote the care of wounded and sick raptors and to return to the wild those which are fully cured. And in furtherance of these objects but not further or otherwise, the organisation shall have the following powers:
 - to collate and store relevant information for reference purposes;
 - to provide adequate and suitable housing for birds during treatment;
 - to assist in the preservation and protection of raptors.
3. Membership of the organisation shall be open to all persons who are in agreement with the rules set out within the Constitution. Membership will be divided into the following categories.
 - Household Member - multiple persons sharing same address
 - Junior Member - young persons, under 16 years
 - Wildlife Centre Membership - raising own funds

The Board of Trustees shall be empowered to amend the categories of membership should they be in unanimous agreement that such changes would benefit the charity.

4. The Board of Trustees shall be empowered to elect Honorary Members of the organisation. They would be entitled to all the privileges of ordinary members except that they may not vote at the Annual General Meeting, nor propose candidates for election to the Board.
5. The affairs of the organisation shall be managed by the Trustees who form the Board which shall consist of not more than 14 members and not less than 6 members. The Trustees shall be split into two groups; only one group will be elected at each Annual General Meeting to serve for a two year period. Nominations for Trustees shall be proposed by a member in writing prior to the A.G.M. all such nominations shall be seconded by a member at the A.G.M. The Board at the first meeting following the A.G.M. shall appoint the positions of Chairperson, Vice-chair, Secretary, Treasurer, Newsletter Editor and Stock Control Officer.
6. Should any member of the Board resign during his or her term of office, the Board shall have the power to co-opt an ordinary member in his or her place, to serve until the next A.G.M.

7. Membership shall be on an annual basis, subject to the payment of a subscription, fixed annually by the Board. Membership subscriptions will fall due on each anniversary of first joining. Any member whose subscription remains unpaid for three months after it was due shall cease to be a member.
8. Only those persons who have permission of the Board are authorised to use the Raptor Rescue name at shows, lectures or other similar functions. Any such persons so engaged shall ensure that fund raising rules and the code of practice for the use of live birds are adhered to.
9. If, in the opinion of the Board, the conduct of any member shall be prejudicial to the interests of the organisation, then the Board shall have the power to request such a member to resign. If the member, so requested, does not resign within one calendar month, he or she shall be liable to expulsion by the Board.
10. The Annual General Meeting shall be held at such time and place as shall be decided by the Board. The business of the A.G.M. shall be to:
 - receive and approve reports on the activities of the past year from the Chairman;
 - receive and pass the accounts of the organisation;
 - transact any other business on the Agenda.
11. No amendment or alteration to the Constitution shall be made, except at the A.G.M. by a two-thirds majority of the members present. The Board is empowered to make emergency by-laws, which must be submitted to the next A.G.M. No amendment shall be made which would cause the Charity to cease to be a charity at law.
12. Voting shall be by either Closed Ballot or Show of Hands, this being dependent upon the nature of the business being transacted.
13. The Board shall meet at least three times a year and on other occasions, as shall be deemed necessary. For the purpose of passing new resolutions, six Board Members shall constitute a quorum.
14. The Board shall have the power to call an Extra-ordinary General Meeting, and shall be bound to do so, on receipt of notice in writing, signed by not less than three members. The business to be transacted must appear on the Agenda and no other business be discussed. However, should the Chairman, supported by the Board, consider that such a call be of a trivial nature, the matter shall be put in writing, to the membership as a whole.
15. The Board shall have the power to appoint, at any time, a sub-Board for any purpose connected with the organisation, whenever their advice or assistance may appear desirable, provided always that the actions

and proceedings of any such sub-Board (or persons referred to in that way) shall be fully and promptly reported to the Board.

16. All money belonging to the organisation and not invested, shall be paid, by the Treasurer, into a separate account in the name of the organisation, at a bank to be named by the Board. Cheques issued on behalf of the organisation shall bear the signature of the current Treasurer and also of one other duly appointed Trustee.
17. The organisation's financial year shall end one calendar month before the A.G.M., to enable an independent examiners report to be submitted at the A.G.M.
18. If, at an Annual General Meeting or an Extra-Ordinary General Meeting, a special resolution to wind up the affairs of the organisation shall have been duly proposed and passed, so much of the assets of the organisation shall be realised as may be required to discharge all liabilities, and any remaining assets shall be transferred to a charitable institution having similar objectives.
19. The Board shall ensure that a review of the organisation's affairs is published annually

History

2008 – change to para 5 – number of Trustees increased from 10 to 14

2009 – change to para 7 – 'unpaid for 1 month' to 'unpaid for 3 months'

2011 – change to para 13 – number of meetings reduced from 4 to 3