

Take a Walk on the Wild Side

COAST



In partnership with



SCOTTISH SPCA
ANIMAL WISE®

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Welcome!

Welcome to Take a Walk on the Wild Side, where the Scottish SPCA and CALA Homes have partnered to bring you access to many hints, tips and fun ideas that will help you and your family identify and encourage Scotland's amazing spectrum of wild animals into the natural environments around you. This may be your garden, or the wider walking routes and nature trails around you.

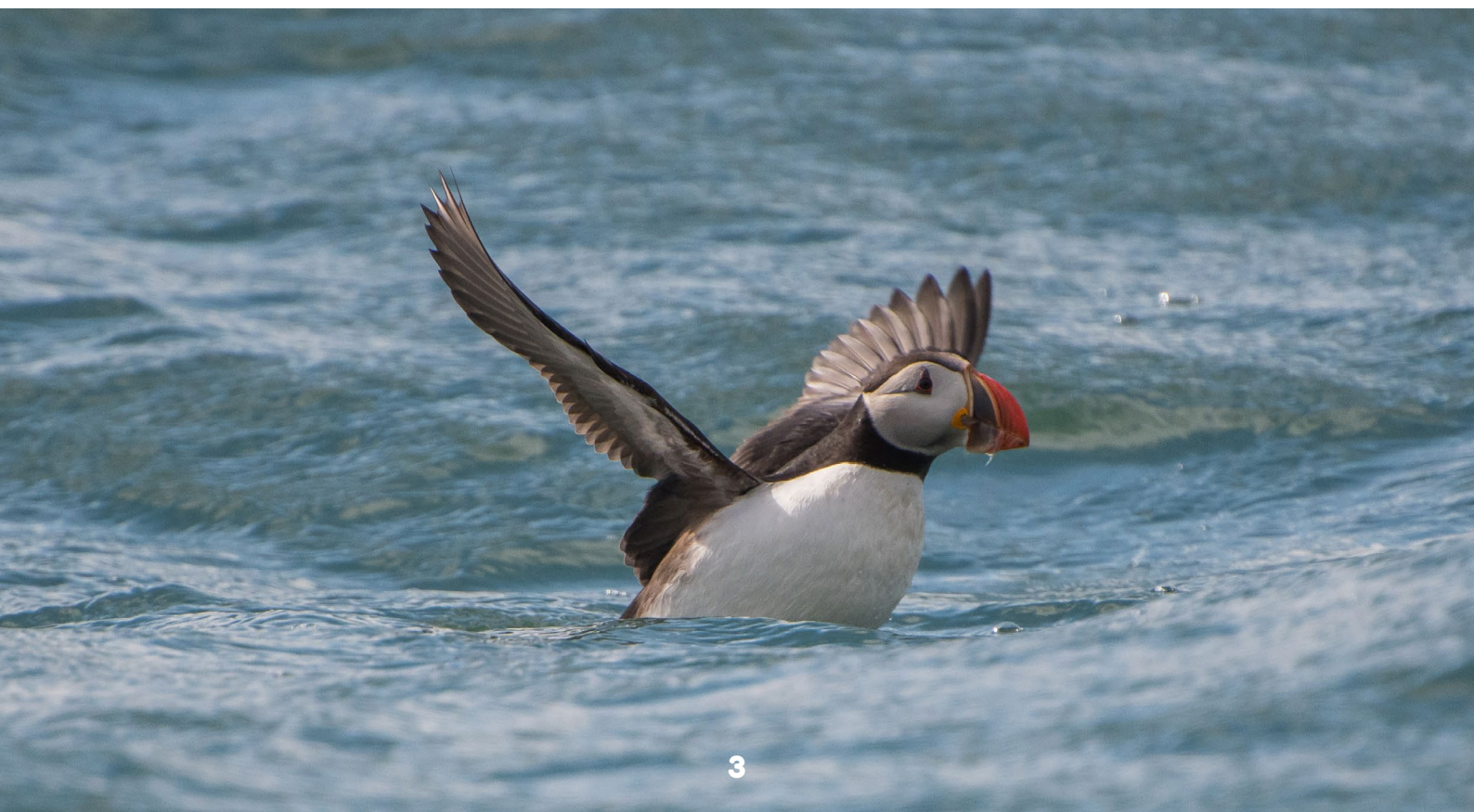


Scotland's big five are the golden eagle, red deer, red squirrel, otter and harbour seal, and although you may not be able to see all of these animals from your new doorstep, there will still be plenty of wild animals that you will come across daily whilst walking through and beyond your new CALA development.

You've been given a packet of wild flowers to get you started. Find some ideas on how to use them on page eight.

What kind of wildlife can you expect to find here?

On the next few pages you can find out what you are likely to see when you are out and about in your new area but how about you let us know what you've seen too – you may be able to teach us a thing or two! Send us a photo via email or tag us in your photos on Facebook, Twitter and Instagram using **@ScottishSPCA** and **@CALAHomes**. It could even end up in our membership magazine!



SEALS

Scotland is home to two species of seals, the harbour seal and the grey seal. Harbour seal pups are born in the summer months ready to go straight into the sea. Grey seals have their pups during autumn and winter. The grey seal pups are the beautiful pups that you see covered in white fur. They don't normally enter the water until their baby coat has gone and they are about three to four weeks old. Although exceptionally cute, appearance can be deceptive and you definitely wouldn't want to be bitten by a seal pup. The grey seal pups are left on shore alone for the majority of the day and mum will be out in the water monitoring from a distance. If you see a seal pup that you feel has been abandoned or is injured, please call the Scottish SPCA helpline on **03000 999 999** for advice. Both grey and harbour seals can be spotted regularly lounging around on the rocks protruding from the seas. They are vocal mammals and like to let their colony and you know they are about. Listen out for their barks, grunts, moans and howls.



Harbour Seal



Please remember to keep dogs away from seals at all times. Not only is it a risk to the seal but to the dog too as a seal can be vicious if they feel threatened.

WHALES & DOLPHINS

From humpbacks to orcas. Keep one eye on your coastal footpath, the other on the horizon and, you never know when you might see a pod of dolphins playing together out in our Scottish seas. 2020 recorded the highest number of cetacean sightings across UK. Bottlenose dolphins are perhaps the best known cetaceans found around Scotland. They can be seen inshore on both the east and west coasts.



Bottlenose dolphin



If you come across a stranded or deceased marine animal call **01463 243030** or email **stranding@sac.co.uk**.

Rescue for live stranded animals is available by calling the Scottish SPCA helpline on **03000 999 999** or the British Divers Marine Life Rescue **01825 765546**.

FOXES

Foxes are mainly nocturnal but sometimes they can be seen out and about during the day, unlike hedgehogs who are definitely nocturnal creatures. If you see them in daylight give our helpline a call for advice on what to do. Foxes are the greatest scavengers and over the years have adapted well to their environment, whether that be urban or rural foxes, they know all the tricks to enable them to find food. Try not to put scraps out for foxes too close to your garden, we don't want to encourage them to venture in to your lovely new kitchen!



Fox

Foxes will usually have cubs in March. When they are born they are deaf and blind and are sometimes mistaken for puppies as they have black fur and tiny pink noses.



Sometimes the Vixen will move them from den to den so if you see one on their own, watch it for a while from a distance and if you think it has been abandoned give the Scottish SPCA a call on **03000 999 999**.

HEDGEHOGS

Sadly, hedgehog numbers are diminishing in the UK with extraordinary speed. In the early 1950 there was thought to be 30 million hedgehogs in Britain and now there are only ½ million. Unsurprisingly, hedgehogs have now been added to the Red List of British Mammals and are classed as vulnerable. They need your help, so when setting up your new garden please think about having plenty of escape routes in and out of your gardens. Make a 13cm sized hole in the bottom of your fences and this will enable the hedgehogs to continue with their garden sneaks during the night. You really want them to visit as they will eat up all the snails and slugs that may be chewing on your plants.



Hedgehog

TASK

Make a hedgehog hotel for the winter months of hibernation and put wet cat or dog food out for them to eat – as long as it is not fish based!



Do not give wild animals milk as lots of them, especially hedgehogs, are lactose intolerant and milk will make them ill. Always check long grass before starting to trim or cut grass as hedgehogs might be hiding or nesting with young. Hedgehogs don't run away when scared so may not run when there is the noise of a garden tool.

BATS

Bats are often found in homes, especially in the summer months. As bats are a protected species it is important you do not touch them or carry out any works that may disturb them.

 If you find bats in your home or a grounded bat outdoors, you should call the Scottish SPCA helpline **03000 999 999** or the Bat Conservation Trust Bat Helpline **0345 1300 228**.




Pipistrelle bat

DEER

Four species of deer reside across Scotland. The native roe and red, the fallow deer, introduced in the 13th century, and Sika deer native to Japan introduced in Scotland from the Far East in 1860. It is estimated that there may be up to $\frac{3}{4}$ million deer in Scotland. With no natural predators, the main reason for calls to the Scottish SPCA in connection with deer is due to road traffic accidents. Top Tip: If you happen to see a deer crossing the road in front of your car remember there is likely to be more running along after it. Be especially careful during dusk and dawn as this is when they are most active.

Fawns are left alone by their mothers from a very early age. The mother goes off foraging for food or looking for a new nesting site and leaves her young curled up under bushes or in long grass to protect them from predators. Sometimes, dogs can disturb baby deer and humans can mistakenly think they are abandoned when they are not.

 If you come across a fawn, please stay well back and do not alert it to your presence. Make sure dogs are kept on a lead. Monitor or check back on the fawn over several hours. A mother will return to feed its young and then go off again. If there are still no signs of the fawn needing help when you check back, please leave it alone.

People should only intervene if the fawn is injured or the mother is deceased nearby. If you've observed the fawn for several hours and there is no sign of the mother call our animal helpline on **03000 999 999**.



Red deer

Birds

How many new birds can you identify in your garden or green space? Set up a bird neighbourhood watch and see who can identify the rarest bird to take a peek at the new feathered neighbours. Put out food and a water bath for them to take advantage of, especially in the winter months when there may be a lack of food available for them and water sources may be frozen.

Why don't you take the opportunity to sit out at night during all seasons, and listen to what is going on around your new home? Birds will roost in the rockeries around the coastal path at night-time and there is nothing more relaxing than listening to their chatter from the day before they settle down to sleep.



Whilst strolling along your local coastal path be sure to keep listening and looking for resident sea birds and ones that are just passing through.

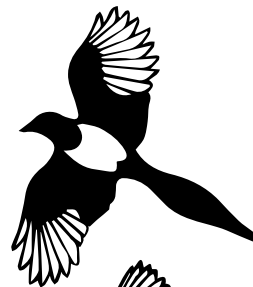
Tick off these birds as you spot them!



Barn swallow



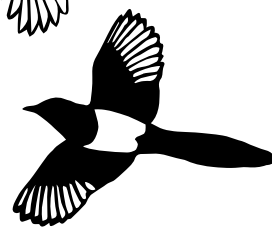
Swift



House martin



Sparrow



Magpie



Flycatcher



Bullfinch



Tit



Chaffinch



Thrush



Starling



Lark



Dove

Encouraging wildlife into your green spaces

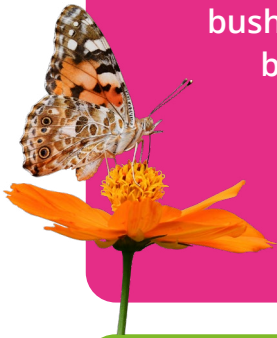
Wildflower haven

Why not grow the packet of wildflowers we gave you in your garden, or allocate an area to your children and encourage them to make a haven for wildlife?

The seeds can be planted in borders, planters or hanging baskets.

Bee & butterfly friendly fauna

There are lots of plants that bees and butterflies love, do some research or ask at the local garden centres about the best plants for your garden. Buddleias are known as the butterfly bush and will attract the most beautiful visitors to your new CALA garden. Bees are fans of lavender and it has the added bonus of smelling amazing too!



Connecting with nature and your mental health

Spending time in your garden or a green space will undoubtedly help you unwind after a long day. But getting out in the fresh coastal air or bringing nature into your garden can have a positive impact on your mental health. It can reduce feelings of stress and anxiety, improve your mood, improve your self-esteem and help you make new connections.



Create a water feature

Creating a water feature in your garden will attract animals and birds into the area. If you have a pond it's important to remember to make sure there is an escape route such as a ramp for small mammals, like hedgehogs, that may struggle to get out if they fall in.

A pond will also attract amphibians such as frogs and toads and having loose rocks, long grass and bushes will provide them with a lovely damp hiding place.



Hedgehog homes

In the autumn, try to let some of the leaves gather together in a small wild corner of your garden. This will make the perfect home for hibernating hedgehogs and other animals that are seeking refuge from the cold winter months. Just remember and check before you rake up any leaves or burn garden waste that there aren't any little creatures snuggled up inside.



How can YOU be #AnimalWISE?

Make your green space a haven for Scotland's wildlife!

Creature competitions!

Have a competition to see who can build the best bug hotel or wildlife friendly garden.

Become bee keepers and create a new local 'buzzi-ness'.



Pawsitive pets

Help each other out with pet sitting – complete community blogs about your animals and what you are doing that month to entertain your pets.



Environmental groups

Become the local expert and teach your family, friends and neighbours about the best way to provide a safe space to encourage animals to flourish. Set up environmental groups and plant wild flowers to encourage wildlife into the area.



Community talks

Ask for the Scottish SPCA to come and talk to your community about the work that we do and how you can all help.



Buzzing about books

Form a book club and discuss books on Scotland's amazing flora and fauna.

BOOK CLUB

Scottish Outdoor Access Code

It's so important that if you are planning on exploring the great Scottish countryside that you are familiar with the Scottish Outdoor Access Code. This will ensure you have the best days out possible in a safe and responsible way while preserving the environment for other visitors and animals. www.outdooraccess-scotland.scot



**KNOW THE CODE
BEFORE YOU GO**
outdooraccess-scotland.scot

KIDS corner!

Complete the crossword using the pictures and clues!



1. _____ shark – second largest shark in the world, found in Scottish waters.
2. _____ crab – type of crab that uses empty seashells as it's home.



GIBSON'S FUN FACTS!

Whales and dolphins breathe through a hole in the top of their head called a blow hole.

Have a good look at this coastal scene.

Can you see and name eight animals that like to live along the coast?



ANIMAL 1:

ANIMAL 5:

ANIMAL 2:

ANIMAL 6:

ANIMAL 3:

ANIMAL 7:

ANIMAL 4:

ANIMAL 8:



GIBSON'S FUN FACTS!

A group of dolphins is called a pod.

Can you find these coast related words within the wordsearch?

DOLPHIN

PUFFIN

ORCA

SEASHELLS

JELLYFISH

SEAL

BEACH

CRAB

YACHT

OYSTER

O	Y	S	T	E	R	S	E	W	E	P	O
K	W	R	V	G	B	R	I	U	M	U	R
J	L	A	D	D	E	R	T	H	D	F	C
E	Y	G	T	O	K	E	V	Z	J	F	A
L	D	O	O	E	L	K	C	X	M	I	G
L	E	N	E	Y	R	P	C	G	A	N	S
Y	N	F	L	A	K	B	E	A	C	H	F
F	W	L	Y	C	O	J	E	I	S	N	R
I	K	Y	L	H	R	K	C	E	N	W	A
S	D	G	S	T	A	L	R	R	T	I	T
H	O	Y	O	B	V	L	U	H	A	L	O
S	E	A	S	H	E	L	L	S	N	B	E

Create a collage using shells you have found on the beach or leaves found on the ground!



GIBSON'S FUN FACTS!

Puffins are often referred to as their nickname: clowns of the sea.

Rescue pets make the best pets!

If you are thinking about getting a new pet for your new home, wait until you are all settled and then contact the Scottish SPCA for advice about the best pet that would suit your family and lifestyle.

Rescue pets deserve a second chance, they come into the Scottish SPCA through no fault of their own and all they are looking for is their forever home. In turn they will give you unconditional love, entertainment and, if it's a dog, the reason to explore your amazing new surroundings and meet new people. You could even set up a dog walking group with your new neighbours.



Thinking about rehoming an animal?

We always have animals up for adoption, from fish to ferrets, hounds to horses, birds to bunnies. Take a look on our website and see what draws you in.....

scottishspca.org/rehome/rehome



Don't just take our word for it! CALA Homes' own Sales Advisor at Law Gardens, Bee Del Viscio, agrees...

“ I rescued my gorgeous terrier mix, Suzi, just over five years ago from The Edinburgh Dog and Cat Home.

I've always been an animal lover, my parents always had dogs when I was a child and I got my first dog from around the age of 14 – and I've always had dogs since. As a teenager I used to rescue and care for any stray dogs I could find.

Before I rescued Suzi, I was living in Italy with my husband, our horses, and our ten year old German Shepherd-Maremmano cross, Ike. We moved to Scotland and decided that it would be great for Ike to have a companion, and that's when we decided we wanted to rescue another dog.

We decided to rescue a dog because there are so many out there in need of a loving home. The centre wasn't sure what had happened to Suzi in her life, but we found out she was nervous of any quick movements and had had her tail broken at some point – she's still apprehensive of bikes and a can be a bit nervous.

She's an absolutely gorgeous dog, but as with all rescue dogs, it's taken time for us to earn her trust and learn

what she likes and doesn't like. It's been a work in progress, we've taken her to training and worked with her over the past five years – she's almost a different dog now, so much happier and more comfortable which is amazing to see.

I'm so proud that CALA Homes (East) is supporting the Scottish Society for the Protection of Animals (Scottish SPCA) – it's a great cause. This is something I feel really strongly about, I'd encourage anyone to rescue a dog if they're in a position to do so. It takes a lot of patience and love to help a rescue dog – training doesn't happen overnight!

Lots of people who want to have a dog often go for puppies but there are so many rescue dogs out there in need of loving homes, and organisations like SSPCA are invaluable in the work they carry out to help rehome vulnerable animals.

Suzi is now seven, almost eight, and she's a bit of a livewire but she's an amazing companion. She's become a part of our family and we don't know where we'd be without her.”

Bee Del Viscio



Fundraising and volunteering



Organise a bake sale!

Would you like to help out the Scottish SPCA by helping to raise funds? You could even become our CALA charity fundraising development of the year!

What better way to get to know your neighbours than by organising a charity fundraiser? From something as easy as organising a bake sale in your house or garden to taking on a challenge together and spurring each other on to accomplish something you would never have dreamt of doing. Visit our fundraising page to gain some inspiration or plan an amazing event of your own. We can't wait to hear about it and if you need any advice or support our fundraising team are ready to help. scottishspca.org/support/events

Get involved!

Volunteering is a great way to get involved in animal welfare and is such a rewarding way to spend some of your free time. Even the roles that don't involve direct contact with the animals, such as helping out on a busy Centre Reception Desk or assisting with data input at our Headquarters, all contribute massively to what we do to improve the quality of life of Scotland's animals.

For more info on volunteering with the Scottish SPCA visit scottishspca.org/support/volunteer



Volunteer at a centre!





03000 999 999
scottishspca.org

scottish society for the Prevention of Cruelty to Animals | Scottish Charity No. SC 006487



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