



# News Release

Date: 26<sup>th</sup> February



Wednesday 26 February 2003

## Scottish Natural Heritage rejects hedgehog rescue plan

Scottish Natural Heritage has today rejected a proposal from the Uist Hedgehog Rescue Group to remove hedgehogs threatened by a cull on North Uist and relocate them to the mainland. The Rescue Group, led by the Mammals Trust UK ([www.mtuk.org](http://www.mtuk.org)) had submitted a proposal to use North Uist as a testing ground for a mass relocation of hedgehogs from across the islands in the future.

Dr Valerie Keeble, Chief Executive of the Mammals Trust UK, said:

"We are extremely disappointed that Scottish Natural Heritage has rejected our serious and realistic alternative to the proposed cull. Given the timing of this response, on the brink of the cull, there is sadly nothing further we can do. It will not be possible to carry out our trial this year. Elsewhere on the Uists, there are 5000 hedgehogs likely to be culled in years to come if reasonable alternative solutions are not found. The Mammals Trust UK will continue to campaign for a realistic and scientifically sound alternative."

### For more information contact:

Dr Valerie Keeble on 0207 498 5262 or visit [www.mtuk.org](http://www.mtuk.org)

Jon Bennett at Luther Pendragon on 0207 618 9100

### Notes to editors:

Mammals Trust UK is a restricted fund of People's Trust for Endangered Species dedicated to working to conserve wild mammals and their habitats throughout the British Isles.