



Spring 2014 - Issue 58

# The Rehabilitator

B W R C N E W S L E T T E R

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**Robins 29th  
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# A word from the Chair

**T**hank goodness Spring has finally ‘sprung’, but of course the rate of animal casualties coming in begins to increase. BWRC often get enquiries from the public asking us how to find their nearest rehabilitator, so if you’re not yet on our website ‘Find a Rehabilitator’ list please fill in the online giving us your details and permission to publish them.

In this edition we’re pleased to announce preliminary details of Symposium 2014 which will take place at Barony College and South of Scotland Wildlife Hospital near Dumfries on 18th AND 19th October. The current plan is to hold our traditional conference style event on the Saturday, followed by a series of practical workshop activities on the Sunday morning. Barony College will be providing accommodation and meals on site but if you’re a caravan owner, our Treasurer has already found a very reasonable caravan site not far away – see below for details! We’re aiming to publish a Symposium Bulletin with details of the programme, ticketing, local accommodation and transport links as soon as we can! If you would like to present as session please contact us as soon as possible!

Progress continues with the establishment of BWRC as a Charitable Incorporated Organisation, and as we are often also asked about work and volunteering opportunities, we have added a Jobs page to our website [bwrc.org.uk](http://bwrc.org.uk) which can include volunteer as well as paid work, so if you need an extra pair of hands – let us know! Don’t forget you can also keep up with Symposium and other developments on our Facebook page - [www.facebook.com/BritishWildlifeRehabilitationCouncil](http://www.facebook.com/BritishWildlifeRehabilitationCouncil).

**Partridge Cottage  
Caravan Site, (no tents  
though) Amisfield, Near  
Dumfries, Dumfries, DG1  
3PB Mr and Mrs Black,  
Telephone 01387 711421  
or 077452 89278; Email  
[j.black@nhs.net](mailto:j.black@nhs.net); Must  
book in advance. £10.00  
per night, Dogs allowed.**

**Mrs Terri Amory - Chairman, BWRC**



# Wildlife in Veterinary Practice: Precautions and Safeguards

To the Wildlife Rehabilitation Coalition Symposium 2013,  
19th October.

**Speaker Bio:** Molly Varga qualified as a vet in 1992, and after working in London and Canada now lives with her family in Cheshire, where she works for Cheshire Pet. Molly is one of only a handful of vets in the UK to hold a diploma in exotic animal medicine, and has worked with local wildlife rehabilitation centres in Cheshire for some years. Through this work, Molly joined the BWRC steering committee early in 2011.

In this presentation Molly explained key problem areas that she has experienced or witnessed in veterinary practices dealing with wildlife casualties, and gave advice on how staff might prepare for and cope with some of these issues more effectively.

**Daily Routines:** most wildlife cases presented to vets in general practice are by their nature emergencies, making suitable scheduling difficult to impossible. Unless a practice where all members of staff are capable of properly treating wildlife is utilised, then care levels will vary. This may mean that wildlife cases wait longer than necessary or are sedated unnecessarily leading to increased mortality. This issue will be insurmountable for many small general practices. Equally triage of wildlife cases can be challenging depending on species as sedation may be required prior to the animal being able to be safely approached and examined.



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**Staff Training:** Staff at veterinary surgeries willing to treat wildlife cases should be trained so that where possible these cases can be scheduled appropriately to avoid unnecessary waiting. Nursing and veterinary staff that are confident and capable of handling wildlife should be a priority where wildlife is concerned as handling interventions will be minimised and unnecessary sedation avoided. Equally experienced staff will be able to provide a much more accurate prognosis on presented cases (this must be in co-operation with the rehabilitation staff because in most cases what can be done for an animal is not the same as what SHOULD be done in order to allow rapid release and fitness to survive in the wild).

## Fitting Wildlife into the Hospital:

- **Predators v. Prey:** The hospital stay must have a net positive effect on the patient, and the effects of any stress caused should be outweighed by the benefits of hospital treatment. This means housing wildlife in a suitable manner, recognising that prey species should never be housed within sight or smell of predators and that even many predatory species may look upon companion animals as a potential threat. This means that often wildlife needs to be housed in areas that are separate from other animals, which can be difficult in many cases.
- **Stress:** Why do we care about stress? It can cause rapid

deterioration and even death in unstable animals; it can lead to failure to eat (anorexia), lead to some species being unable to produce urine, and mean that susceptible animals become ill for other reasons. For example Kestrels in hospital



can succumb to Aspergillosis secondary to stress. Clearly stress is a major factor influencing why animals may die unexpectedly in hospital. It needs to be taken seriously within the veterinary hospital and avoided or mitigated where possible.

- **Security:** This means that any animal in hospital does not pose a threat to any other patient or member of staff due to escape. Equally any wildlife patient should not be at risk from any other patient within the hospital. Escapes can lead to animals becoming injured or dying unnecessarily. Cages must therefore be suitable for the species involved and able to be closed securely or locked.
- **Biosecurity:** This is essentially the avoidance of spread of unwanted disease to other patients or staff, and equally the avoidance of spread of disease to the wildlife patient within the hospital. This comes down to paying attention to potential 'Nosocomial' diseases (diseases contracted within

the hospital - in this context contagious ones) and cleaning/disinfection.

- **Nosocomial Disease:** Several common examples are listed in this presentation. It is important to realise this is NOT an exhaustive list. The BSAVA Manual of Nursing Exotic Pets and Wildlife can be consulted for more comprehensive information. The awareness that disease can pass between companion animals and wildlife (and vice versa) as well as to human staff is vital. The manner of transmission (by contact, via urine/faeces/respiratory excretion) and the clinical signs of any disease are important facts to understand. Knowing the manner of transmission will allow better control within the hospital.
- **Disinfection:** the table below (modified from one in the BSAVA Manual of Nursing Exotic Pets and Wildlife) provides an idea of which disinfectants are suitable for which uses. It is vitally important to remember that there is NO POINT in trying to



disinfect something that isn't already thoroughly clean: meaning that all dirt and organic debris has been

removed. The presence of organic debris will cause failure of disinfection.

Disinfectant Class	Example of Product	Presentation	Recommended Concentration	Recommended Use and Information
<b>Biguanides</b> Chlorhexidine	Hibiscrub	Concentrate	Use neat, or can be diluted	Good for skin and wound disinfection.
	Ark-Klens (VetArk)	Ready-to-use or Concentrate	10ml /5 litres (0.025%)	Suitable for disinfection of cages, vivaria, kennels, food and water bowls. Safe for use in incubators.
<b>Cationic surfactants</b> Quaternary ammonium compounds				Broad antibacterial activity – recommended against E.Coli, Salmonella, Psittacosis and Chlamydia. Virucidal against lipophilic viruses.
	F10 Biocare (Meadows Animal Healthcare)	Ready-to-use, Concentrate, Aerosol Fogger, Wipes, Hand Gel	Gram Positive bacteria 1:1000 water Gram Negative bacteria 1:500 water Fungi, Yeast, Moulds 1:500 water Fungal & Bacterial spores 1:250 water Virus 1:500 water	Suitable for disinfection of cages, vivaria, kennels, food and water bowls. Safe for use in incubators. Proven effective at safe concentrations against all types of bacteria, viruses, fungi and spores including MRSA, avian influenza and parvovirus. Wide range of products to suit most practice needs, including single use foggers and aerosol disinfectant.
<b>Oxidizing agents</b>	Virkon (Alstoe)	Tablets, Powder, Concentrate, Ready-to-use	1:100 (1% solution) with water	Broad spectrum disinfectant. Tested and proven effective against all known viral families, most bacteria, fungi and mycoplasma.
<b>Alcohol based</b>	Amprotect Hand Rinse (VetArk)	Gel pump	Ready-to-use	Suitable for use before, after and between patients to prevent disease transmission. Not suitable when handling amphibians, as they can absorb chemicals through skin.



Disinfectant Class	Example of Product	Presentation	Recommended Concentration	Recommended Use and Information
Halogens and halogen-containing compounds Iodophors	Tamodine-E (VetArk)	Concentrate	Walls, floors and surfaces: 45ml / 10 litres warm water (90ml / 10 litres for heavily soiled surfaces). Dishes, utensils and instruments: 30-45ml / 10 litres warm water. Hand dips for personnel: 15-30ml / 10 litres warm water.	General purpose disinfection. For animal accommodation or dishes, rinse off before use. Has a built-in colour marker, so the user can see where they have treated, and also when it is washed off.
	Trigene (Medichem)	Ready-to-use, Concentrate, Wipes, Hand Gel	1:200 for general purpose use in intermediate risk areas 1:100 for high risk areas	Suitable for disinfection of cages, vivaria, kennels, food and water bowls . Safe for use in incubators. Bactericidal, fungicidal, virucidal, mycobactericidal and sporicidal. Suitable for use on most surfaces, chairs, floors, walls and appliances.
Chlorine based	Bleach	Concentrate	Dilute to 10% solution with water	Effective on all pathogens, including bacterial spores. Highly irritant to tissues, and is toxic. For use only in the environment for general disinfection. Inexpensive, but limited use.

● **Health and Safety:** Most veterinary surgeries will have H&S policies in place for common occurrences. These should include risk assessments and standard operating procedures for anticipated scenarios. These should be adhered to where possible. When this is not

possible, the veterinary surgeon has overall responsibility for the health and safety of his employees/workmates. This may mean that decisions that compromise patient welfare have to be made in certain situations.

**Molly Varga BVetMed DZooMed (Mammalian) MRCVS**  
*Zoo, Exotic and Wildlife Veterinary Services, Cheshire Pet Medical Centre, Veterinary Advisor Supreme Pet Foods*



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# Symposium 2014

Date for your diary!...

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## **British Wildlife Rehabilitation Symposium 2014**

will be held on  
18th & 19th October 2014

*at*

**Scotland's Rural College - Barony Campus,  
Parkgate, Dumfries DG1 3NE**

in association with South of  
Scotland Wildlife Hospital.



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# Amazon Wish Lists

**M**ost of us have “wish lists” of things which would be useful in our work and people we know may bring things in.

But you can also do an online wish list through Amazon.

You can put anything on which is sold by Amazon, and this includes hibiscrub, heat pads, teats for baby bottles, lactade sachets, bin bags, surgical gloves, plastic aprons and more general items like stationery and cleaning materials. We have even had fish fillets and whole trout donated for the otters. It's great and it all helps.

The way it works is that people look at your wish list and order whatever it is and this is then sent direct to you. I think it works as people feel more involved in a practical way rather than just sending money.

**It's worth having a look at**

**[http://www.amazon.co.uk/gp/registry/wishlist/ref=wish\\_list](http://www.amazon.co.uk/gp/registry/wishlist/ref=wish_list)**



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# *Letter to the Editor:*

## **An experience with Mallard ducklings**

I have never imprinted a bird, but have received several that had already been imprinted unintentionally by well-meaning people. This happens quite frequently to ducklings.

Two years ago I took in a duckling that was approximately 6 days old and very tame. The lady clutched the duckling to her bosom and said she thought perhaps she shouldn't have handled it quite so much! Ducklings are always difficult and this one proved to be no different. I had several come in over that summer. I always allow them to get used to each other before putting them together in the same accommodation. I then release the group together at Milton Country Park.

That year I released three groups, and each time the tame duckling stood at my feet watching them go. Although I had never handled her (other to load her for transporting) she clearly had no intention of leaving, so each time I picked her up and took her home again.

At the end of the summer I just had this one (now fully grown) duck left. Another duckling arrived very late in the year and eventually the two birds were put together in an enclosure to over-winter in the garden. The last duckling was, by chance, a drake. Early the following year the imprinted female laid eggs. I wasn't convinced that they were fertile, but looked out of the bedroom window one morning to see the adult mallards contained in their pen but 8 ducklings running in and out of the pen! I secured the pen and the ducks and their offspring stayed in the pen until the ducklings were waterproof and almost fully grown. All the ducks were taken in several



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baskets to Milton Country Park and released. This time the mother duck swam off with her family without a backward glance.

I haven't had the opportunity to repeat this, but wondered if anyone else has succeeded in releasing a similar bird. Perhaps I was lucky! If I have single ducklings (and other birds) I give them a mirror. Please does anyone else have any experience or advice regarding imprinted birds?

**Mrs Chris Percival**

**If you have experiences or advice to share please e-mail [annemaskell@gmail.com](mailto:annemaskell@gmail.com) or write to BWRC, PO Box 8686, Grantham, Lincs, NG 31 0AG.**



***Don't forget to check out our website [www.bwrc.org.uk](http://www.bwrc.org.uk) and Facebook page***

[www.facebook.com/BritishWildlifeRehabilitationCouncil](http://www.facebook.com/BritishWildlifeRehabilitationCouncil) for news, resources, courses and jobs and use them to share from your news and views with other working rehabilitators all year round!

## **BWRC Committee**

### **Executive Committee**

Chairman - Terri Amory  
Treasurer - Janet Peto  
Honorary Secretary - Tim Thomas

### **Committee Members**

Anne Maskell, Simon Allen, Molly Varga, Adam Grogan, Chris Percival

**If you would like to submit an article or letter for publication or give a presentation at a future symposium please contact [Annemaskell@gmail.com](mailto:Annemaskell@gmail.com)**



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# British Wildlife Rehabilitation Council Annual Contribution Form

**Please print clearly**

Name: .....

Address: .....

.....

.....

..... Post Code .....

If you would prefer to receive the Rehabilitator by email, please can we have your email address:

.....

I wish to make an annual contribution to the running of the BWRC

**Please select from the following:**

\* Email mailings - I enclose my cheque/P.O. in favour of the BWRC (£5.00 minimum) valued £.....

\* Postal mailings – I enclose my cheque/P.O. in favour of the BWRC (£10.00 minimum) valued £ .....

\* I have completed the Banker's Standing Order form below

**Banker's Standing Order**

To: The Manager, ..... Bank/Building Society

Address of your Bank/Building Society .....

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..... Post Code .....

Your Account No: ..... Sort Code: .....

Please pay to The National Westminster Bank Plc, Scunthorpe Branch (Sorting Code 54-41-26)  
for the credit of the British Wildlife Rehabilitation Council - Account No. 36290521

the sum of £..... (in words.....)

on the (date)..... and annually every 1st January until further

notice in writing from me.

Your Signature: .....

*Please return this completed form to: Janet Peto, BWRC, PO Box 8686, Grantham, Lincolnshire NG31 0AG*

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