

British Wildlife
Rehabilitation Council
Registered Charity No. 1157841



Summer 2015 - Issue 62

The Rehabilitator

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

BWRC SYMPOSIUM 2015

17th & 18th October
Langford, Bristol

In this issue

Details of Symposium
2015 and other events

Could you be our newest
Trustee?

Vet students call for
survey data

LANGFORD HOUSE

University of Bristol
Veterinary Sciences

Langford Veterinary Services



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A word from the Chair

Welcome to the Summer 2015 Edition of The Rehabilitator! In this issue we bring you details of our annual BWRC Symposium 2015, which we are delighted to be holding in the south west of England this year and the University of Bristol's veterinary field station at Langford on 17th and 18th October. We hope to follow the same pattern as last year of conference on the Saturday and practical/ demonstration activities on the Sunday using the University's 'wet lab' facilities. We also have some dates of other rehabilitation conferences coming up this autumn in East Anglia, the Midlands and Scotland – so hopefully there's something for everyone!

Due to the impending retirement of our long-standing and much-loved Treasurer Janet Peto, we are looking for a new Trustee to take over as Treasurer and also someone to fill the role of Membership Secretary. If you have some spare time and the appropriate skills (or know someone who does!) and would like to apply you can find details in this newsletter.

Trustee and Veterinary Advisor Molly Varga explains the importance of understanding and managing the body temperature of casualties in our advice column "Back to Basics" and we have some requests for a few moments of your time to fill in online forms to help them gather data for research projects on skin disease in bats and the difficulties of managing deer casualties in captivity.

BWRC Trustees continue to work with the British Veterinary Zoological Society (BVZS) on guidelines for wildlife rehabilitation



centres to help rehabilitators prepare for the challenges of increased scrutiny and developing legislation regarding veterinary services and controlled drugs as discussed at Symposium 2014 (details can be found in the preceding winter and spring editions of this newsletter – previous issues can be downloaded from our website www.bwrc.org.uk).

BWRC would like to congratulate Monica Russell of Eastbourne who has received a new British Citizen Award for more than 20 years voluntary work rehabilitating wildlife, supporting both Folly Wildlife Rescue and more recently East Sussex Wildlife Rescue and Ambulance Service (WRAS). For more info see our Facebook timeline or the WRAS website.



We hope you enjoy this issue, and don't forget – if you have comments or would like to contribute articles or advertise events please contact editor@bwrc.org.uk! If you are a working rehabilitator, make sure that your up-to-date details are on our Directory of Rehabilitators – you can find the form on the back page of this newsletter.

Terri Amory
BWRC Chair



Dates for your diary

September 2015

11th to 13th - National Bat Conference,

University of Warwick. For more information see:
http://www.bats.org.uk/pages/national_bat_conference.html

11th to 13th - National Badger Conference

hosted by North East Essex Badger Group at University of Essex, Colchester Campus, Wivenhoe Park, Colchester, CO4 3SQ. For more info go to the Badger Trust website
<http://www.badgertrust.org.uk/events.aspx>

November 2015

7th – Scottish Bat Workers Conference, Battleby, near Perth

For information about the last event see:
<http://www.bats.org.uk/pages/sbc.html>

21st – Bat Care Conference 2015

Bourneville College Conference Centre, Longbridge, Birmingham. Booking to open mid-September see updates in BCT Bat Care Network Bat Carer's Bulletin (register your interest via enquiries@bats.org.uk).

21st – PTES & BHPS

The Day of the Hedgehog, International Centre, Telford, <http://ptes.org/event/the-day-of-the-hedgehog>

October 2015

17th and 18th BWRC Symposium 2015

University of Bristol, Langford Veterinary Services, Langford House, Langford, Bristol, BS40 5DU – see later in this edition or www.bwrc.org.uk for details.



Call for applications for new BWRC treasurer and membership secretary

As the BWRC is a small charity, our Treasurer undertakes all finance duties for the charity, and up to now has also dealt with our new associate membership. We are looking for one or two new trustees to take on one or both roles. The successful applicant(s) must be prepared to travel to trustee meetings (usually held in London – at most four times per annum) and who is also happy to take part in teleconferences, and Skype (or similar) and e-mail communication.

First-hand knowledge of Wildlife Rehabilitation is not a necessary prerequisite for these roles, although all trustees are encouraged to engage in discussion of all aspects of both the management and work of the charity. There will be a hand-over period during which the new Trustee will be able to liaise with our retiring Treasurer in order to be briefed with the necessary information.

If you are interested in joining our board of trustees, you can find full job descriptions and an application form on our website www.bwrc.org.uk. Please return your completed application to Mrs Anne Maskell, BWRC Secretary, 20 Garlic Row, Cambridge, CB5 8BW, **no later than the 30th November 2015.**



Symposium 2015

Saturday 17th & Sunday 18th October



Bristol University, School of Veterinary Sciences
Langford Veterinary Field Station
Langford, Bristol, BS40 5DU.

Saturday Conference programme to include...

- **Feeding Wildlife Casualties**, Peter Scott, Vetark
- **Wildlife parasites**, Eileen Harris, Natural History Museum
- **The relationship between rehabilitation and conservation** – Dan Foreman, Swansea University
- **A decade of British garden bird disease surveillance** – Becki Lawson, Zoological Society of London

Sunday Workshop includes demonstrations and hands-on practice of first aid and post mortem techniques.

Reduced rate tickets for BWRC associate members and students plus £5 off BWRC membership (new members) for 2016 when you sign up at the symposium (see booking form for details).

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British Wildlife
Rehabilitation Council





British Wildlife Rehabilitation Council Symposium 2015

BOOKING FORM

Bristol University, School of Veterinary Sciences
Saturday 17th/Sunday 18th October

Name..... Organization

Address.....

Telephone..... Mobile..... Email

Organization Any special dietary requirements?

If you are purchasing tickets on behalf of other colleagues please give their names below so that we may compile a delegate list. Thank you

.....

.....

Saturday ticket (includes a buffet lunch and registration, morning and afternoon refreshments)

- at the full price of £35
- at a discounted rate of £30 for current members/students

Sunday (morning only) ticket (includes coffee/pastries)

- at the full price of £20
- at a discounted rate of £16 for current members/students

Special Symposium offer – Associate Membership at a third off the usual price

If you are not yet a member but are interested in signing-up or just finding out more about the benefits it offers, please come to the registration table at the symposium, where membership for 2016 is on offer at £10 (usual price £15 per annum)

The following payment options can be used:

- Cheques payable to the BWRC posted to *Anne Maskell, 20 Garlic Row, Cambridge CB5 8HW*
- Payment may also be made by debit /credit card via www.ottershop.co.uk.

HOWEVER YOU PAY, PLEASE ENSURE THAT A COMPLETED BOOKING FORM IS SENT TO annemaskell@gmail.com or Anne Maskell, 20 Garlic Row, Cambridge CB5 8HW.

Bat Conservation Trust



*Bat Conservation Trust and Bat Care
News present*



Bat Care Conference 2015



Peter Crome/BCT

Date: Saturday November 21st 2015

Venue: Boumville College Conference Centre
Longbridge, Birmingham

Cost: Max £45 per delegate Includes food. May come
down subject to external funding being secured.

For the first time since 2011, a national conference dedicated entirely to bat rescue and rehabilitation! A day of talks and workshops with something for everyone, whether they are just starting out or have been caring for bats for years. Providing the opportunity to meet other volunteers from around the UK discuss the issues and swap experiences. **Booking to open in mid-September 2015.**

Updates via the BCT Bat Care Network *Bat Carer's Bulletin* – if you are not a member of the Network please register your interest via

enquiries@bats.org.uk

Your conference What are the key issues in bat rehabilitation today? What talks and workshops would you like to see? To give your input email suggestions to batcarenews@phoncoop.coop and cc. jbarker@bats.org.uk



BACK TO BASICS - Hypo - and Hyperthermia: The Silent Killers

Molly Varga MRCVS

The need for suitable food and habitat is well recognised as a significant factor in rehabilitation success, but environmental temperature - whilst critical – may be overlooked. Here our Veterinary Advisor Molly Varga explains how abnormal body temperature in casualties can be recognised and addressed.

Although suitable environmental temperature is well recognised as an absolute requirement for reptiles, it is less well recognised for avian and mammalian species. For example the thermal comfort zone for rabbits is 0-21 degrees centigrade. Outside this temperature range rabbits use both physiological and behavioural measures in order to manipulate their immediate environment. This means that at lower temperatures the animal's physiological response is to shiver (muscle contraction generates heat energy) and behaviourally they seek the shelter of their burrows where the temperature is much more consistent than that outside. If the environmental temperature rises above 21 degrees, rabbits undergo vasodilation (blood vessel diameter increases to allow increased blood flow) particularly in the ears to promote heat loss (they cannot sweat or pant effectively). Behaviourally they again seek the relatively consistent temperature in the burrow to avoid heat outside. Many other wildlife species use similar strategies in order to preserve a suitable body temperature.

Hyperthermia means an increased body temperature, caused when an animal's body absorbs more heat than it is losing. Hypothermia is a reduction in the body core temperature, caused when an animal's body is



losing more heat than it absorbs.

Both hypo- and hyper-thermia occur when an animal's physical and behavioural ability to control body temperature are overwhelmed. Fever occurs when an animal's immune system alters the body temperature set-point in order to fight infection: it is a result of an illness and is not related to the environmental temperature.

Hypothermia leads initially to shivering and mental confusion, however as the body core temperature reduces further the shivering stops and the heart rate slows, eventually leading to cardiac arrest. Hypothermia can have a massive impact - particularly on animals that are undergoing a general anaesthetic. Hyperthermia leads to panting, sweating and a rapid weak pulse. The blood pressure drops causing the animal to collapse. The heart struggles to maintain the circulation, organ failure and eventually death supervene.

As soon as an animal is either injured or ill then the ability to regulate body temperature is compromised, either because they cannot move to a different environmental temperature or because the illness or injury affects their physiological ability to maintain body temperature.

Add in the stress of being held in captivity and it's easy to see how failing to consider environmental and body temperature can have a major impact on the success of rehabilitation attempts.

Chick under anaesthetic is laid on a heat pad and bubble wrap to prevent hypothermia.
(Photo: Molly Varga)



** only check the heart rate or take temperature if it is safe to do so. You can use a stethoscope or feel for a pulse on the chest wall. Remember that a stressed animal will always have an abnormal body temperature.*



HOW CAN WE RECOGNISE HYPO OR HYPERTHERMIA?

HYPOTHERMIA

- Shivering (this will stop as the animal gets colder)
- Hunched posture (the animal tries to make itself as small as possible in an attempt to retain heat)
- Reduced level of consciousness (most wild animals that have been brought into captivity will be on 'high alert': any animal that has no interest in its surroundings has a reduced level of consciousness).
- Low heart rate*
- Low body temperature*

HYPERTHERMIA

- Panting
- Open posture e.g. wings extended (in the case of a bird)
- Visible blood vessels dilated (obvious e.g. on the ears of rabbits or hares)
- Gums and tongue appear very red (only check this if it is safe to do so)
- Pulse is rapid and weak
- Body temperature is elevated

WHAT CAN WE DO TO HELP A WILDLIFE CASUALTY MAINTAIN A NORMAL BODY TEMPERATURE?

- Measure the room temperature in the wildlife ward: use heaters or fans appropriately: remember that these are wild and not domestic animals and they are habituated to temperatures lower than normal room temperature.
- Be aware of draughts: the highest risk of hypothermia is not abnormally low environmental temperature but a combination of a draught and possibly an animal that is wet and shocked.



- Provide a suitable hospital habitat: include material that an animal can use to insulate itself and provide shelter from windows with direct sunlight.



- In more severe cases use incubators or heat mats/pads (**BE VERY CAREFUL**: these can cause burns if the animal either cannot physically move away from the heat or is perhaps not conscious enough to do so)
- Where an animal is very hot then cooling using water could be considered, or the judicious use of fans. A good tip is to use water bottles filled with salt water (1 teaspoon of salt to one pint of water) frozen and placed in front of the fans: this can act like a mini air-conditioner and increase the effectiveness of the fans.
- Always monitor carefully for improvement or deterioration in the animal's condition.
- In severe cases veterinary treatment may be required: the administration of warmed or cooled fluids, warm or cold water enemas as well as the cautious use of steroids may make the difference between success and failure.

Recognising and addressing hypo and hyperthermia is an easy way to improve rehabilitation success without wildlife casualties having to undergo invasive treatments.



Skin Disease Survey

(From the Bat Carer's Bulletin by
kind permission of Jessamy Barker)

I am a vet studying skin and ear disease in bats in association with the Royal Veterinary College. I have been doing some work with the fruit bats at Durrell Wildlife Park in Jersey, but after talking to my local bat group it seems that UK native bats experience some of the same problems.

To find out what, when and where problems are happening I have devised a survey which is being circulated to all zoos and bat keepers. I would particularly like to hear from people involved in rescue and care of native bats so it would help me to circulate the survey to as many people as possible. It's not technical, doesn't take very long and respondents have a chance to win a Kindle Fire in a prize draw. I wonder if you would be able to include the link in your next newsletter to bat groups?

It's just as useful to me to hear from people who don't see any problems in their bats. I am particularly interested to hear from anyone seeing bats which lose part of the ear flap as a result of disease.

Thank you for your help,

<https://www.smartsurvey.co.uk/s/139947OBJXUEnglish/>

Kay Fountain B. Vet. Med. MVS (Conservation Medicine) MRCVS

The Bat Care Trust (BCT) now has a new helpline number. The main part of the number is exactly the same; just the prefix has changed. Callers should now dial **0345 1300 228** instead of 0845 1300 228. So, it's just the '8' in '0845' which has changed. Both numbers will be working simultaneously for many months and the service will remain the same.



Post-capture complications in rescued deer-research survey request



URGENT ATTENTION: Do you rescue deer?

My name is Lucy Haile and I am a fourth year veterinary student at the Royal Veterinary College, London. I have always had a strong interest in the rescue and recovery of wildlife and wish to involve this in my future career. In pursuit of this I am currently conducting **a research project on deer casualties**.

I have had experience in the field myself rescuing distressed deer and understand that it is not always easy to know how best to manage these cases. My research project plans to look at the different problems wildlife centres see when rescuing deer and approaches to overcome these. The research goal is to increase the **understanding of post-capture complications in deer** and their management strategies with the aim of **developing beneficial protocols to improve recovery success rates**.

To gather some baseline information I have created a **quick survey** (no more than 10 minutes). I would be extremely grateful if any wildlife centres who see deer could please fill it in. This is to assess what is commonly seen to get a better understanding of what needs further investigation. The more responses the better!

Please click/type in the following link if you would like to help:

<https://www.surveymonkey.com/r/YPJHB7C>



I would ideally like to have enough responses to **close this survey at the end of August** to then be able to assess the data before progressing with the rest of the study. So please reply soon!!

Please email me with any questions or if you would like further information on lhaile1@rvc.ac.uk. Also if you have any ideas and suggestions or any beneficial information about the project, please do get in contact.



Photos used by kind permission of Lucy Kells at The Wildlife Aid Foundation.





BWRC Trustees

Terri Amory, Janet Peto, Tim Thomas, Anne Maskell, Simon Allen, Molly Varga, Adam Grogan, Chris Percival

BWRC would like to thank volunteers Caroline Gould **Website Administrator** and Jayne Morgan **Facebook Page**

Newsletter designed and produced by Nadine Barrow

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

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The views and opinions expressed in this newsletter are

those of the authors and do not necessarily reflect the official policy or position of the British Wildlife Rehabilitation Council.

BWRC website: www.bwrc.org.uk

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www.facebook.com/BritishWildlifeRehabilitationCouncil



British Wildlife Rehabilitation Council Associate Membership Form



Please complete these details and return the form to:

**The Treasurer,
BWRC
PO Box 8686
Grantham
NG31 0AG
(admin@bwrc.org.uk)**

Your name.....

Address.....

.....

.....

.....

Post Code.....

Email.....

Tel.....

Please tick to confirm you have read the Terms and Conditions of BWRC Associate Membership

Please tick this box if you are a practising rehabilitator (for BWRC statistics only).

Regular payment of membership allows us to plan for future activities knowing funds are available. If you would like to help in this way by paying by standing order, please complete this form (including your name and address above). Please note that Associate Membership runs from the 1st January to 31st December each year.

PAYING BY STANDING ORDER

Please pay the British Wildlife Rehabilitation Council £15.00 plus a donation of £..... on the 2nd January 20.....(year) and annually thereafter to:

National Westminster Bank PLC, Account number 36290521 Sort Code 54-41-26

My account number Sort Code.....

Bank name

Bank address

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

Signature Date

PAYING BY CHEQUE/ BACS

Associate Membership fee (1st January to 31st December 20.....) of £15.00 plus a donation of £.....

Please tick this box if you require a receipt.

BWRC newsletter The Rehabilitator will be sent to the e-mail address you have given above. Tick this box if you also wish to receive a printed copy (to the postal address given above).

The BWRC WILL NOT PASS YOUR DETAILS ON TO ANY THIRD PARTY

(If you wish to be listed in the Directory of Rehabilitators on our website please fill in the Rehabilitation Unit Contact Form downloadable from the "Find a Rehabilitator" page of our website - www.bwrc.org.uk.)

If you are a UK tax-payer your membership (and donations) can be worth 25% more to the BWRC – so £10 becomes £12.50 at no extra cost to you. Please tick the box and sign the declaration below. Thank you.

Please treat this and all future membership fees as Gift Aid

I understand that I must be paying an amount of income tax or capital gains tax at least equal to the tax that the BWRC reclaims on my membership fee. I will inform BWRC if and when I no longer meet these criteria.

Signature..... Date.....



British Wildlife Rehabilitation Council

Registered Charity No. 1157841

REHABILITATION UNIT CONTACT LIST DETAILS FORM

The following details are to be included in the Rehabilitation Unit Contact List held by the BWRC and displayed on the BWRC website. **Fields in bold are mandatory.**

1. Name of rehabilitator or organisation	<input type="text"/>
2. Address (or town/district)	<input type="text"/>
3. County	<input type="text"/>
4. Telephone number	<input type="text"/>
5. Alternative telephone (e.g. mobile)	<input type="text"/>
6. E-mail address, if applicable	<input type="text"/>
7. Web address, if applicable	<input type="text"/>
7. Species of casualty accepted and any additional comments on the facilities of the unit to be included in your entry – alternatively, please note here if your organization provides a related service other than direct rehabilitation [continue overleaf if necessary]	<input type="text"/>
8. Opening hours/preferred times for calls, if applicable	<input type="text"/>
9. Are you prepared to collect casualties? [If so, specify area/terms as necessary]	<input type="text"/>
10. If you are sending us a hard copy of this form, please sign alongside & print your name to confirm that you understand that the above details will be stored in the BWRC Contact List database and may be displayed on the BWRC website.	Signed
	Print name

IF YOU ARE RETURNING THIS FORM BY EMAIL, PLEASE INCLUDE THE FOLLOWING STATEMENT ON THE FACE OF YOUR EMAIL TO ENABLE US TO USE YOUR DATA:

"I hereby give my permission for the attached details to be stored in the BWRC Contact List database and displayed on the BWRC website."

PLEASE HELP US TO KEEP THE BWRC REHABILITATION UNIT CONTACT LIST UP TO DATE BY NOTIFYING US OF ANY CHANGES TO THE ABOVE DETAILS AS SOON AS POSSIBLE.

Please return to: *Mrs Anne Maskell, 20 Garlic Row, Cambridge CB5 8HW.*

