

British Wildlife
Rehabilitation Council
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Summer 2016 - Issue 65

The Rehabilitator

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



Participants in the BWRC
Summer Workshop
*at Reaseheath College
in June 2016*

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A word from the Chair

Welcome to the Summer 2016 edition of The Rehabilitator! In this issue we bring you news of our recent summer workshop at Reaseheath College, as well as details of regular reports from the Great Britain Wildlife Disease Surveillance Partnership and how to access them.


I am delighted to welcome new Trustee Dr Dan Forman to the BWRC. We met Dan when he presented at BWRC Symposium 2015 last autumn. Dan is currently Head of Zoology and Director of the Swansea Ecology Research Team at Swansea University, and a founding member of the Parasite Transmission Group. He has worked extensively on the ecology and conservation of British biodiversity and has a particular interest in carnivores, wildlife disease and parasitology, wildlife rehabilitation and ecological ethics.

Dan is also an active member of the Welsh Biodiversity Partnership and sits on several working groups including the Invasive Non-Native Secretariat. He currently lectures on a wide range of subject matter including ecology and behaviour, animal welfare, rights and behaviour in captivity, and serves on several ethics boards including Swansea University and the National Toxoplasma Reference Unit. Dan



Photo: Dan Forman





has been honoured with a distinguished teaching award and provides regular training courses on a variety of ecological and conservation themes for many organisations and undertakes a wide variety of outreach activities. He continues to work closely with the Gower Bird Hospital on a number of applied research projects related to wildlife rehabilitation, and we look forward to his input to the work of the BWRC.

In sad contrast, we also report the passing of one of the UK's wildlife rehabilitation pioneers (and probably the most well-known name in this field) Les Stocker, who died in July after a short illness (see page 13).

As always – 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 download a 'Rehabilitation Unit Contact Form' from the 'Find a Rehabilitator' page of our website (www.bwrc.org.uk) or see inside the back cover of this newsletter.

Terri Amory
BWRC Chair



Casualties to Cadavers

2016 Summer Workshop

at Reaseheath College,


11th June



Fifteen delegates, including rehabilitators working as individuals and from larger centres and staff from Reaseheath College, attended our one-day summer workshop entitled “Casualties to Cadavers” on 11th June. Held in classroom and laboratory facilities at Reaseheath’s new Wren teaching block, the workshop was primarily designed to look at how post-mortem studies of casualties could be used to inform future decision making in the assessment and treatment of casualties, but also included discussion of the triage process and practice of first aid techniques.

The day was led by experienced wildlife veterinarians Bev Panto from nearby RSPCA Stapeley Grange, and BWRC Trustee Molly Varga who runs a number of clinics in the






Midlands and North West of England. Feedback from delegates was very positive, reflecting the success of a similar session run at last Autumn's BWRC Symposium at Langford Veterinary Services near Bristol.

The BWRC thanks Lucy Cosgriff from Reaseheath College for her help in organising the event. Lucy's feedback from the event - "The workshop was a really engaging event that allowed for industry professionals to meet with students and learn as a collective. A mixture of practical and classroom sessions allowed for a range of techniques to be discussed. This included the correct bandaging procedures of bird species, tubing and injecting methods, health check techniques of a range of species and autopsy procedures. Bev and Molly provided expert advice and information regarding decisions made during triage and drew from their own experiences to effectively answer any questions. It was a great day, enjoyed by all and I felt that everyone went away having learned new skills, which they could take with them into the industry. It would be a pleasure to organise similar events in the future."

As with our symposia, we understand the importance of holding events in a range of different locations across the UK in order to make access easier for potential delegates. If you can provide meeting and laboratory type facilities and would like to host a workshop, please contact the BWRC by e-mail [**bwrcouncil@gmail.com**](mailto:bwrcouncil@gmail.com).





Great Britain Wildlife Disease Surveillance Partnership

by Dan Forman

Those of you able to attend last year's BWRC symposium in Bristol heard about the valuable wildlife disease monitoring and research that is being undertaken by many individuals and organisations including the Zoological Society of London's Garden Wildlife Health project. Helping record and monitor the occurrence and spread of diseases is potentially an important role that wildlife rehabilitators and rescue centres can play a significant part in assisting with, and indeed, many of our members already contribute materials and knowledge to these schemes.

The Animal and Plant Health Agency, in partnership with a number of organisations, publishes an excellent and accessible quarterly report on wildlife disease, animal welfare, wildlife crime and notifiable / emerging diseases and parasites.

The partnership includes representation from the Scotland's Rural College, Institute of Zoology, National Wildlife Management Centre of APHA, Centre for Environment, Fisheries and Aquaculture Science, Wildfowl and Wetlands Trust, Natural England and the Forestry Commission England. You can sign up to receive these





Eurasian Otter with Ixodes ticks clearly visible on the ear. (Image courtesy of Clive Hurford).

reports directly and they may provide some useful reading and offer opportunities to get more involved in research and disease monitoring in the UK if you do not already do so. Key highlights in this quarter's newsletter include reports on the mass mortality incidents of starlings due to drowning, mute swan winter mortalities and the impact of PCBs on populations of orcas and other dolphin species in European waters.

Please find below links to the GB wildlife disease surveillance produced by the GB Wildlife Disease Surveillance Partnership:

- **2015 reports:**
<https://www.gov.uk/government/publications/wildlife-disease-surveillance-reports-2015>
- **2014 reports:**
<https://www.gov.uk/government/publications/wildlife-disease-surveillance-reports-2014>



New study on impact of rescue centres on our west European hedgehog population


By Lucy Clarke, Hartpury University Centre, Glos.

There has been extensive media attention recently on the current status of the hedgehog; the size of the population is thought to have declined to approximately 1.5 million individuals (Macdonald and Burnham, 2011). Morris et al. (1993) and Morris and Warwick (1994) monitored released rehabilitated adult hedgehogs, and both studies concluded that they probably cope well with release, identifying the importance of rescue centres to survival of individuals. However, the number of hedgehogs seen



Photo: Courtesy Lucy Clarke






by rescue centres is not known and there has been little focus on the impact wildlife rescue and rehabilitation centres have on the population of this endangered species.

Several studies have presented estimates of total number of animals seen by wildlife rescue centres; Stocker (cited in Molony et al. 2006) suggested 30,000-40,000 animals per annum, whilst Grogan and Kelly (2013) estimate in excess of 71,000 animals. In another study, Molony et al (2007) considered admissions data for the eight most commonly admitted species between 2000 and 2004, 14.5% were hedgehogs (n=754). However, as those that were dead on arrival or died within 2 days of arrival were not included by the authors it is not known the true scale of arrivals.

Whilst up to 42% of animals admitted to wildlife hospitals are released back into the wild (Kirkwood, 2003) there is a large amount of variation between centres, and little reliable data specifically relating to hedgehogs in rehabilitation exists in the literature, other than they are one of the most common species found in rescue centres. Therefore, wildlife rehabilitators could have a crucial role to play in helping supporting a healthy hedgehog population, and further research is key to understanding the scale of this. In order to address the lack of data, researchers from the University of Reading and Hartpury University Centre, Gloucestershire are launching a new survey.

This study aims to be the largest scale survey of hedgehog rescue and rehabilitation to date, using social media to collect data from those on the frontline of hedgehog rescue across the UK. To facilitate this we have set up a new online research community on Facebook and Twitter. Alternatively you can email





lucy.clarke@hartpury.ac.uk or call 01452 702465 for more information. The survey will be available throughout August and into the autumn. Please join us, and contribute to this nationwide project.



www.facebook.com/HedgehogResearch



@hedgehogscience



lucy.clarke@hartpury.ac.uk



01452 702465




**TO GET INVOLVED IN
THIS PROJECT CONTACT
LUCY VIA:**

References:

Grogan, A. Kelly, A. (2013) A review of RSPCA research into wildlife rehabilitation. *The Veterinary Record*, 172:8, 211-214

Kirkwood, J. K. (2003) Introduction: wildlife casualties and the veterinary surgeon. In *BSAVA Manual of Wildlife Casualties*. Eds E. Mullineaux, R. Best, J. E. Cooper. British Small Animal Veterinary Association. pp 1-6





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Tribute to a pioneer – death of Les Stocker MBE, HonAssocRCVS

31st January 1943 – 16th July 2016

By Anne Maskell, BWRC Hon Sec

We were saddened to learn of the recent death of BWRC co-founder Les Stocker on 16th July after a short illness. The catalyst for the formation of the BWRC was an article in BBC Wildlife Magazine in 1988, when the RSPCA's Stefan Ormrod expressed typically forthright views on the questionable skills and effectiveness of those working in the field of wildlife rehabilitation. Anticipating a confrontational and lively debate, Woman's Hour invited Les, who had founded The Wildlife Hospital Trust in 1983 (renamed St Tiggywinkles in 1985), into their Broadcasting House studio with Stefan. However the two found they had much in common; namely a desire to see an improvement in standards of care for wildlife casualties and a need for a forum for exchange of information for rehabilitators and for appropriate training and support. The idea for the BWRC





was conceived and this led to its hugely successful inaugural symposium on 19th November 1988 at the Zoological Society of London.

Since then Les has achieved recognition as an authority on the care of British wildlife and has published a series of books and articles. Over 200,000 casualties have been treated at St Tiggywinkles in Buckinghamshire, which now has its own City and Guilds approved training centre. His legacy will continue through their work.

Our thoughts are very much with his wife Sue and family at this sad time.



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
(overleaf or on our website www.bwrc.org.uk)

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 on our website Directory of Rehabilitators please fill in the Rehabilitation Unit Contact Form

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 (BWRC) Terms and Conditions of Associate Membership

1. Associate Membership Applications

- 1.1 Applications for associate membership will be considered by the BWRC who have the right to refuse applications.
- 1.2 By submitting an application form by email, the Associate Member is deemed to have signed the application form.
- 1.3 All information provided by you to us must be true and accurate at the point of applying. In the event of a change of circumstances such as moving jobs, change of contact details you must notify the BWRC by phone, email or in writing so that our records are up to date.

2. Membership Payments, Renewals and Cancellations

- 2.1 Associate Membership is £15 per person per calendar year starting on 1st January. Associate Membership will be activated at point of approval of the application but payment must be received within 30 days of application.
- 2.2 Payment can be made by cheque, BACS or Standing Order. If Associate Membership payment remains outstanding we will notify you by telephone, email or letter.
- 2.3 It is the member's responsibility to advise the BWRC of their intention not to renew. Subscription payments not received within one month of becoming due will result in the membership being considered lapsed and all services or benefits may be suspended pending payment. However, Associate Membership charges will continue to accrue, until resignation is received in writing, subject to the cancellation procedure outlined below. To cancel your membership you will need to notify us in writing stating a reason which will be recorded for internal use only. Refunds will not be given for cancelled memberships.

3. Membership Levels

- 3.1 Individual Associate Membership.
 - 3.1.1 Associate individual non-voting membership of the BWRC does not count as membership for legal purposes; therefore Associate Members do not have any voting rights, legal obligations to act in the interests of the BWRC, or any liability to contribute to the assets of the BWRC on dissolution.
 - 3.1.2 Associate membership belongs to the individual and not to the organisation regardless of who pays for the membership. Any dispute arising from this must be resolved by the member and their organisation. You will be issued with a membership number which you should use when calling us to help identify you quickly.
 - 3.1.3 It is the Associate Member's responsibility to keep their membership number confidential. The BWRC reserves the right to withdraw Membership or to prevent any Member from renewing if the Member is misusing the membership benefits (for example, allowing someone else to use the benefits of their membership package).

4. Associate Membership Benefits

- 4.1 Associate Member benefits are only available if subscription payments are up to date.
- 4.2 Associate Member benefits may change without notice.

5. Terminating Membership

- 5.1 The BWRC reserves the right to withdraw membership or to prevent any Associate Member from renewing membership if the Member puts the BWRC into disrepute.
- 5.2 The BWRC reserves the right to withdraw membership if the Associate Member is deemed to have misused the membership privileges.
- 5.3 Associate Members are not permitted to use the BWRC logo and/or name for the purposes of self-promotion on any of their organisational materials, including website.
- 5.4 Associate Members are not permitted to use their membership status with the BWRC for self-promotion.
- 5.5 If an Associate Member is found to have contravened the terms and conditions stated in 5.3 and 5.4, above membership may be terminated by the BWRC without prior warning.

6. Variation of Terms & Conditions

- 6.1 These terms and conditions may be revised from time to time. If they are revised, we will post or email the revised version to you. It will be your responsibility to keep up-to date with all such changes and your continued membership shall be deemed acceptance of any changes to these terms and conditions.

31 January 2015



British Wildlife Rehabilitation Council

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.	<table border="1"><tr><td>Signed</td></tr><tr><td>Print name</td></tr></table>	Signed	Print name
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, 27 Admiral's Way, Eaton Socon, St Neots, PE19 8TD*

British Wildlife
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BWRC Trustees

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

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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