

Winter 2014 | Issue 57

The Rehabilitator

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



**LOWER MOSS
WOOD
WILDLIFE
HOSPITAL**

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INTERNATIONAL OTTER SURVIVAL FUND



BRITISH WILDLIFE REHABILITATION COALITION SYMPOSIUM 2013

In aid of Lower Moss Wood Wildlife Hospital

Symposium Sponsored by



**British Hedgehog
Preservation Society**



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A word from the Chair

Happy New Year! In this Winter 2013/14 edition of The Rehabilitator we will be reporting on another successful Wildlife Rehabilitation Coalition Symposium, hosted by staff and volunteers from Lower Moss Wood Wildlife Hospital. We will also hear from Emma Higgs of Wildlife Rehabilitation Ireland about their Wildlife Crime Conference held in Co. Meath in September 2013. Events to look forward to include RSPCA Stapely Grange's new Wildlife Rehabilitation Course early in the new year, soon to be followed by a similar course for veterinary nurses. We have added a new page to the BWRC's website on which we hope to create as comprehensive list of courses related to wildlife rehabilitation as we can, so if you would like to add your course to the site please let us know. (www.bwrc.org.uk). Don't forget you can also "Follow us on Facebook" now!



Annual Contributions

We would like to thank all of you who pay annual contributions towards production of the 'The Rehabilitator' and other BWRC activities by standing order and remind you that contributions cover the period 1 January to 31 December, therefore a payment should be taken from your bank during the first week of 2014. If your contribution has not been received by the end of January we will contact you to check there is no error.

For those who do not pay by standing order, a contribution form can be found on the back of this edition - please return the completed form to Janet Peto, BWRC, PO Box 8686, Grantham, Lincolnshire NG31 0AG, enclosing a stamped addressed envelope if you require a receipt.



Wildlife Rehabilitation Coalition Symposium 2013

I N 2013 it was the turn of Lower Moss Wood Wildlife Hospital to host the Symposium at Chelford Village Hall, near Knutsford in Cheshire on 19th October. Acting Chair Terri Amory opened the event with a brief introduction to the Coalition partners and general housekeeping, and then the first of the speakers, Tim Thomas took the floor with his presentation on priorities and pitfalls of wildlife hospital unit design. Tim has kindly permitted us to print an article based on his presentation in this edition (see pages 8-12).

Tim was followed by Megan Morris-Jones, who founded Cuan Wildlife Rescue based in Much Wenlock in Shropshire in 1990. Megan briefly introduced veterinary surgeon Barbara Jones, who uses holistic techniques at Oakwood Veterinary Centre in Oswestry, Shropshire, and with whom Megan has been exploring the benefits of acupuncture and laser therapy in the treatment of wildlife, particularly swans that have been rescued after flying into power lines. Megan noticed that birds brought in holding their wings normally would lose this ability after a few days in captivity, dropping one wing. Barbara explained how the alternative treatments she was using – based on the correction of interruptions in the flow of energy “Xi” around the body - appear to facilitate rapid recovery of the nerve and muscular function and control of the birds’ wings, and so significantly reducing the duration of captivity needed for rehabilitation. Barbara can be contacted via her website - <http://www.vetholistic.co.uk/>.

After morning coffee, Sophie Lund Rasmusson, who completed her Masters degree with Copenhagen University in April of this year and works for the Danish Animal Protection Society, described her





investigations into the ‘personality’ of hedgehogs in terms of willingness to approach a novel object, and whether this has any relationship with post release survival. Sophie compared 10 wild-caught with 14 rescued animals, and found that there was variation in behavioural responses between individuals (some were ‘bolder’ than others) but no significant difference between the two groups. The animals were released and radio-tracked, and no differences in post-release survival rates were found between wild caught and rehabilitated hedgehogs, or between bold and shy individuals. However the significance of these results is limited at this stage by the small sample sizes (numbers of animals used) and the high incidence of clinical and sometimes lethal Salmonella infection in the animals studied. Sophie would like to go on to investigate the reasons behind the salmonellosis in captive hedgehogs in the centres she worked with.

Sophie’s presentation was followed by another post-graduate research project, this time UK-based, presented by Jess O’Doherty who has worked at the RSPCA’s Mallydams Wood centre near Hastings for six years. Jess studied Zoology at Aberystwyth, and is currently working towards an MSc



in Ornithology with the University of Birmingham.

Jess presented the results of her investigations into the post-release survival of two groups of juvenile buzzards one group rehabilitated and released in Somerset and the other in East Sussex. While the group sizes and practical difficulties with radio tracking limited the statistical significance of

the results, the survival rate of buzzards released in Somerset (53% survived to 20 days) was lower than those released in East Sussex (68% survived to 64 days). Jess hypothesised that this was likely to be due to the higher population density of buzzards in the south west making it more difficult for fledgling birds to compete with the existing wild population to find suitable territories.

After lunch Alan Eagle, Manager of the UK branch of the Santander Foundation (an organisation which awards grant funding for social welfare projects) provided advice on how best to seek and win grant funding for charities. You can find Alan's 'top 10 tips' on page 17 of this newsletter but please don't apply to Santander for funding because they only fund human welfare projects!

Alan's presentation was followed by a high speed look at raptor anatomy by Carli Dodd RVN, a veterinary nurse with 16 years' experience specialising in exotics and co-founder of Avian Veterinary Services, one of the UK's few dedicated bird practices, based in Northwich, Cheshire in 2010. Carli engagingly described the key features and adaptations of the anatomy of birds in contrast to other animals, with excellent illustrations, in a presentation that land-based college animal care lecturers would kill for!

After tea, Carli's colleague Richard Jones BVSC, MSc, MRCVS took up the pointer to describe the priorities and techniques of first for raptor (and other bird) casualties. Richard has had a passion for raptors since childhood, and studied veterinary medicine at Liverpool University. Specializing in avian medicine, he completed an avian residency and Masters programme at The Raptor Center, University of Minnesota, in 2001, and set up Avian



Veterinary Services in 2010. Richard shared a little of his wealth of experience in raptor husbandry and medicine, again with a great selection of his own photos. He particularly emphasised the importance of immobilizing broken wings as soon as possible, because if left loose even in small animal carrier they can rotate, quickly occluding the blood supply to the end of the limb so that the tissues die and it becomes irretrievable even with surgery.

The final presentation of the day was given by Molly Varga, BVetMed DZooMed (Mammalian) MRCVS, who works in Zoo, Exotic and Wildlife Veterinary Services, for Cheshire Pet Medical Centre. Molly is also Veterinary Advisor to Supreme Pet Foods, and the newest member of the BWRC committee. Awareness of difficulties in relationships between rehabilitators and veterinary profession led Molly to present an over view of the challenges faced by veterinary practices engaging in wildlife work, with suggestions on how some of these challenges might be met. An article based on Molly's presentation will be published in the next edition of the Rehabilitator.

The final session of the afternoon was an open discussion, in which difficult issues such as dealing with non-native species, and the badger cull were primary themes. Unfortunately there are no simple answers other than the sometimes disappointing fact that we must work within the parameters of current legislation.

Those of us with the stamina(!), returned to Chelford village hall that evening to enjoy Ray Jackson's band SLUG performing a fund-raising gig for the Lower Moss Wood Wildlife Hospital, supported by the lovely acoustic tones of "Lucas Marks and the Glorious Unknown". Slug themselves were a little more 'energetic' with a classic rock set from across several decades including my favourite Sweet Home Alabama. A great night and a few more pennies in the pot for new facilities at the Wildlife Hospital!



Design of Rehabilitation Facilities *(presented at Symposium 2013)*



Tim spent 40 years working in the RSPCA's Wildlife Department, responsible for advising them on their wildlife rehabilitation strategies. During this time he was closely involved with the concept, planning, design and building of the RSPCA's four wildlife rehabilitation centres, advising on design detail, infrastructure and, during the build, troubleshooting the host of difficulties encountered. He was also closely involved with the design and planning for a number of small wildlife rehabilitation facilities destined for the Society's domestic



centres, and has had the opportunity to learn from the experiences of staff and behaviour of the animals once the facilities were in use.

Tim is now a freelance consultant dealing with a range of conservation and rehabilitation projects, both at home and overseas, recently working on a project involving the design of temporary facilities for the rehabilitation of oiled wildlife in Europe, the Middle East and Africa.

His presentation for Symposium 2013 concerned basic design strategies and key elements to consider during the planning and development programme for a wildlife rehabilitation facility.

Is your centre in need of a re-vamp, or are you building anew? Either way, there are things I have learnt over the years on many similar projects that may help with your project. These thoughts and ideas are aimed at giving you a workable, ergonomic, finished rehab facility that meets a huge range of criteria from building regulations to animal welfare, and from staff demands to health and safety requirements.

There are however, so many factors to take into consideration and that make up a good practical design that I will not be able to cover them all in this short article but I will cover some of the main issues and points that I feel are important. As a priority, I always recommend proposed centres setting out what animals they wish to deal with, and those they don't, early on in their project planning. This, broadly speaking, dictates what you are designing for. If you intend to rescue seals or swans, for example, they will require much larger resources than a centre dealing with only hedgehogs or small passerines. It is the same with the numbers of animals you plan to accommodate. This will be a balancing act that is based on your wishes, space, finances, other centres, veterinary support and a range of parameters that can only be guessed at during such an early stage.

Naturally, you will wish to do some research on what these animals need in terms of care and release facilities. Much of this will be done through your own visits, searching the web and your own knowledge. Try to be as

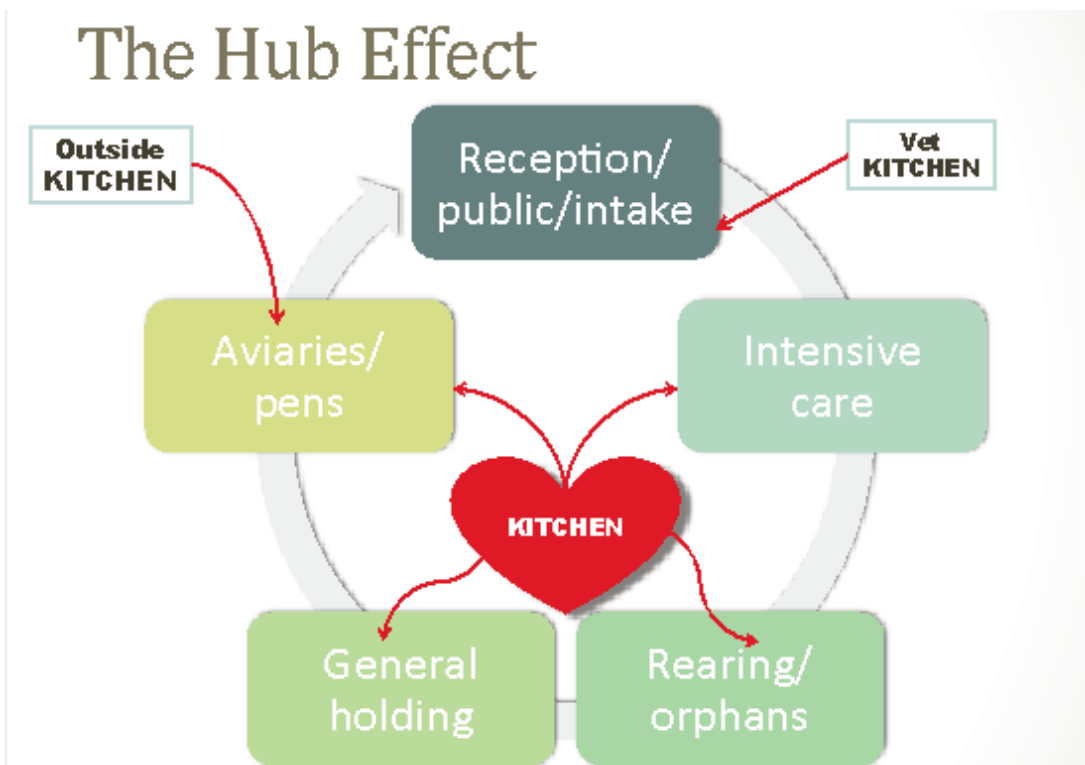


up-to-date as possible, and even begin to develop facilities that will provide “tomorrow’s” rehab innovations and practices. I suggest that most of this information will be gathered during visits and talking to people involved in the rehab field. They will always have some of the best ideas, but never totally disregard your vet’s views who, incidentally, should be on board from the outset.

Remember that the rehabbers themselves have not always got things right first time and that taking their design following a quick look round will provide less than half a picture! There will always be something that they wish to change, upgrade or even scrap and begin again. Ask the searching questions and mainly the ones that start, “Well, what problems have you encountered with [this room]..?” or “What would you do differently with [this animal in a room like this]..?”

And don’t stop there! Always ask the staff or volunteers, it is these people that use the facility day-in & day-out and will often have the best ideas to make things better. And remember your own (potential) staff, consult with them too; believe it or not, they will have their ideas too!

Another essential question to ask is about the available funding. With all the



information you have gained and taken into account things may need to be adjusted up – or most likely, down!

Architects and builders should be a major part of the proposed build. Do employ those that are sympathetic and have some animal savvy – and will listen! These people have a range of skills that will be invaluable in setting out the project and during the build process. However, do not let them have their head: they may well not have much (any?) knowledge about animal care facilities and how a rehab centre needs certain parameters to operate effectively. Maintain a regular and frequent dialogue with them throughout, stick by your exact requirements and don't compromise on the essential details. Important elements that are often weakened by substitution or “down-sizing” are water supply and its drainage, precise ventilation and the need for sufficient electrical sockets. It's the sucking of teeth just before the start of work that is a tell-tale warning sign of “I wouldn't do it like that, what I suggest, is..!”

In new builds, I have found that one of the most efficient designs is one that works around central core - a hub. Many centres have found this design to be ideal in terms of ergonomics primarily by reducing the distance staff walk to facilitate the various pens and care areas. Just like any good party the room that is used most in a rehab centre is the kitchen. It therefore seems sensible to centre your operation around this facility. Although a hub design implies a circular operation there are many instances where both linear and square set-ups have been employed and work as efficiently.

Naturally, where longer distances or special kitchen equipment is in demand, such as for outside pens or the vet room, small satellite kitchens can be incorporated into the design. These small kitchens do not need to be as elaborate as the main one, incorporating essential items only – a sink (plus hot and cold water), small storage area, food containers, and, if really necessary, a fridge.

A couple of smaller but equally important points are that during any build process, do make sure that you try to do the job once and finish it. I have seen projects run short – of finances mostly – and then have to “patch it up” with short measure or, worse still, bodge it up later with further pipework or wiring or a “bit of concrete”. As well as looking



unsightly these will allow rapid deterioration and ingress of unwanted animals.

Finally, there are all the fixture and fittings. I look at this from the hygiene and staff efficiency point of view. And in most areas and especially the busiest of rooms, I would insist on open shelves and free-standing cupboards. Both of these elements allow for openness so that “dirt” can be clearly visible and then cleaned up. Eye level kitchen cupboards, for example, hide food bowls, trays, tools and equipment that can lurk unseen from one year to the next.

Standard kitchen white goods are always a problem area. If an animal should “release itself”, Murphy’s Law states that, the escapee will always get behind the fridge! Then what do you do? It is a major operation to extract the little blighter who, as soon as you have turned off the electricity, got a second person to help move the monstrous white container, collected the net and prepared the capture details, immediately dashes across the room and disappears behind the freezer!

Do, therefore, ensure as far as possible that any domestic appliances are of a type or positioned so that they do not create more problems by harbouring small escaped animals (or even ones that may “accidentally” gain access). Remember that these can create a significant hygiene problem or indeed a welfare concern.

With these brief thoughts in mind I wish you luck with your projects. Continue with all your discussions and planning. Keep visiting and talking to fellow rehabbers many of whom have “been there and made that mistake before” and will be more than willing to tell you their experiences and failures! And, of course, if I can help - contact me.

Tim Thomas MBE

www.timswildlife.co.uk

Editor’s note:

Further information is available in the BWRC’s Guidelines for Wildlife Rehabilitation Units which can be found on our website <http://bwrc.org.uk/#/guidelines/4549073116> or a printed copy requested via contact details at the end of this newsletter. In particular Appendix IV recommends that each unit produces a ‘statement of facilities’ which will outline the maximum capacity of the unit and its working practices, giving a list of factors to be considered. This includes giving consideration to the appropriate course of action if your centre is asked to accept casualties after reaching its full capacity!



RSPCA Wildlife Rehabilitation Course 21st – 24th January 2014



Course Programme – Led by Richard Seddon (unless otherwise stated)

- Tuesday 21st :** 1.00 a.m. – 5.00 p.m.
Welcome
Introductions
General overview of Stapeley Grange – *Lee Stewart*
Tour of Centre - general
Regional Wildlife Transfer Plan – *Lee Stewart*
- Wednesday 22nd :** 9.00 a.m. – 5.00 p.m.
Wildlife 1 review – CD to be provided when you book course
Bird Identification
Admission data
After the first 24 hrs
Transfer
Feeding the patient
Captive Care - maintaining the animals improvement
Hedgehog rehabilitation – *Wendy Burrows*
- Thursday 23rd :** 9.00 a.m. – 5.00 p.m.
Accommodation - controlling the environment
Facility and room designs – what do you need?
Bird of Prey rehabilitation – *Maxine Bland*
Tour of Education garden - balancing student requirements and an animal's needs
Designing your facility – what species can you accommodate and what can you see through to release?
Data analysis – what can you do with your data? – *Lee Stewart*
Releases and post release monitoring - Fox rehabilitation - *Rob Scrivens*
Wildlife legislation – what you need to know about Section 14
Wildlife Crime – bird trapping, snaring and misuse of spring traps etc
- Friday 24th :** 9.00 a.m. – 12.30 a.m.
Badger Baiting in the North – *Geoff Edmonds*
Feedback on designing your facility exercise
Question time
Wind up and reflection

Contact Lee via e-mail: lee.stewart@rspca.org.uk or phone: 0300 123 0722

Course contributors:

Richard Seddon (RSPCA Trainer), Geoff Edmonds (Inspector and Wildlife Officer), Lee Stewart (Centre Manager), Maxine Bland (Supervisor), Wendy Burrow (Supervisor) and Robert Scrivens (Supervisor)



Registration Form

Participants Information:

Name/s: _____

College / Facility: _____

E-mail Address/s: _____

Postal Address: _____

I hereby wish to register myself for the 2013 Stapeley Grange 'Wildlife Rehabilitation Course' which is due to run 21st-24th January 2014.

Signed: _____ Date: _____

Signed: _____ Date: _____

Signed: _____ Date: _____

Cost for course: £200 + VAT / person for RSPCA approved facilities
£400 + VAT / person from non RSPCA approved facilities

Tea and Coffee provided

Lunch can be arranged at an additional cost of £5 / person / day

Please find enclosed a cheque made payable to **RSPCA Stapeley Grange** for £ _____
(a 50% refund will be returned if you have to cancel your booking. Places can be transferred if needed)

Please bring: Paper and pens, Warm clothes
Waterproofs and boots (in case weather is bad), Cameras
And a sense of humour!!

Please return form and cheques to: Lee Stewart
Stapeley Grange Wildlife Centre
London Road, Nr Nantwich
Cheshire, CW5 7JW



RSPCA Wildlife Nursing & Rehabilitation Course

27th-28th January 2014



Course Leader – Bev Panto BSc (Hons) BVetMed MRCVS – Veterinary Officer, Stapeley Grange

Two Day Course Programme:

Monday 27th January:

9.30 a.m. – 5.30 p.m

Overview and tour of Stapeley Grange's wildlife facilities
Role of vet nurses in general practice in treating British wildlife
Wildlife for beginners : Identification, husbandry, feeding
Managing wildlife admissions in practice and data collection
Transporting wildlife
Making the most of your practice's facilities and equipment

Wild social activity on Monday evening!

Tuesday 28th January:

8.30 a.m. – 4.30 p.m

Practical sessions – Handling, crop feeding, radiography, parasitology
The first 24 hours - Triage, stabilisation, euthanasia
Further diagnostics and therapeutics
Wildlife anaesthesia – monitoring, techniques & species differences
Health and Safety & zoonotic disease
Cadaver sessions - Practicing techniques

Cost for course:

£130 + VAT per person

Lunch, Tea and Coffee provided both days



Contact Bev via e-mail: Bev.panto@rspca.org.uk or phone: 0300 123 0722

Course contributors:

Bev Panto (Stapeley Grange Veterinary Officer), Wendy Hawley (Stapeley Grange Wildlife Nurse)
Richard Seddon (RSPCA Trainer) Lee Stewart (Stapeley Grange Centre Manager)

Registration Form

Participant(s) Information:

Name	Position	Veterinary Practice	Email Address	Postal Address

I/we would like to register for the 2013 Stapeley Grange "Wildlife Nursing and Rehabilitation" Course on 27th-28th January 2014.

Signed: _____ Date: _____

Signed: _____ Date: _____

Signed: _____ Date: _____

Course cost: **£130 + VAT** (£156 inclusive of VAT) per person.

No of places required _____ x £156

Please find enclosed a cheque made payable to **RSPCA Stapeley Grange** for:

Total cost: _____

(Places are transferable. A 50% refund will be returned in the event of a booking cancellation.)

Please note any dietary requirements/allergies _____

Please bring: Paper, pens, warm clothes, waterproofs and boots (in case weather is bad), cameras & a sense of humor!!

Please return completed form and cheques to: Lee Stewart
Stapeley Grange Wildlife Centre
London Road, Nr Nantwich
Cheshire, CW5 7JW



Getting funded

Having seen the best and the worst of grant applications over the years, **Alan Eagle** has drawn together his top ten ways to avoid your application being binned

About eight years ago I conducted some informal research among 14 large trusts and foundations about what makes a grant application successful and the main reasons why they fail.

I revisited the subject early this summer and very little had changed. In light of those findings, and my own experience of assessing applications, I have drawn together these tips on how to get it right.

1. Have a plan

Great applications don't start with the application form. You should start by reviewing what your charity needs in order to reach its goals over the next year to three years. Don't just chase the money. Have a funding strategy and stick to it.

2. Know your funder

Once you've identified which funders you are going to approach visit their own website or get a copy of their latest funding guidelines. Don't rely on abstracts on other organisation's websites.

3. Understand the criteria

Read all of the guidance. If there is anything that you don't understand, ask the funder.

Most funders spend a great deal of time and effort trying to make their criteria and guidance as clear as possible so take care to read it. Most applications fail because the applicants haven't met all the criteria.

4. Evidence

Rather than simply attest that there is a need for this piece of work in your area, show evidence that you have consulted with your members, clients and beneficiaries, and that this is the best way of delivering what they want. Also provide evidence of the long term difference that this grant will make to your beneficiaries.

5. Follow the instructions

Make sure that you include everything you're asked for. Up to 50 per cent of applications fail because the business plan, budget or annual report and accounts aren't included. Where the funder uses an application form, ensure that you answer the question rather than putting 'see attached'. Conversely, don't send things which you have been specifically asked not to send.

6. Be concise

Use clear language and avoid jargon and acronyms. If you must use initials then use the title in full the first time followed by the acronym in brackets.

7. Include an honest budget

Ask for the money and state exactly what this will be used to buy. You should include a simple budget at the very least. Please – no more £1,000 computers! We watch the PC World adverts too you know. Cost out each item accurately.

8. Proof-read

Finishing touches are important – get

someone else to read your final draft before you send it. If possible, make it someone who does not work in your field.

9. Passion sells

The most powerful applications come from people engaged with service delivery. As a fundraiser, if you aren't involved in delivering the service that your charity engages in then use quotations from the people that do as well as those who use the services.

10. Appoint a deputy

Make sure that at least one other person has a copy of the application and is fully briefed. That way if you're away on holiday or maternity leave when the funder calls or visits all your hard work won't be wasted.

Successful fundraising doesn't stop once you've got the grant. Another major reason why bids are currently failing is that charities are not returning their impact reports on an earlier grant. This wasn't a major issue for funders when I did my initial research eight years ago but now it has become the second major reason why funders are rejecting applications.

As the demands on funders increase this is likely to remain an important issue.



Alan Eagle is manager of the Santander Foundation.

www.santanderfoundation.org.uk



Irish Wildlife Crime Conference

IN September 2013, Wildlife Rehabilitation Ireland (WRI) ran Ireland's first All-Ireland Wildlife Crime Conference. It brought together an extremely diverse audience of over 150 delegates, for a weekend of talks and practical sessions, with the intention of promoting greater understanding, cooperation and communication between the law enforcement agencies, charities, NGOs and the public in general.

Much work has been put into animal protection legislation in Ireland and WRI believe it can be most effectively implemented by ensuring communication and cooperation at all levels. The conference aimed to establish and enhance effective and cordial working partnerships throughout the island of Ireland. This was the first time that such a conference had been convened to discuss wildlife crime in a comprehensive all-island context and, as such, WRI hoped it would prove to be a historic milestone in Irish wildlife protection. The conference was addressed by national and international speakers and addressed a wide variety of issues including bird poisoning, poaching, badger baiting, forensics, and the use of illegal traps and snares.

The opening address was given by **Fergus O'Dowd**, T.D who is Minister of State at the Department of Communications, Energy & Natural Resources. Minister O'Dowd explained how Inland Fisheries Ireland is "bringing the fight to the poachers". The Minister's presence and contribution to the conference demonstrates his commitment, on behalf of the government, to taking effective measures in tackling wildlife crime in Ireland. The next speaker was **Feargal O'Coighligh**, Assistant Secretary with responsibility for built and natural heritage issues, including biodiversity policy, with the National Parks & Wildlife Service (NPWS) of the Department of Arts, Heritage and the Gaeltacht. "Wildlife crime does



not recognise political boundaries, and like many other challenges in the biodiversity field, it is vital that we pool all our resources, knowledge and experience to help us meet common challenges”, Feargal reasoned.

Wildlife crime

Lorcan O’Toole gave a talk entitled ‘Persecution of Irish Raptors and the impact on the Irish Food Chain’. Lorcan is Project Manager of the Golden Eagle Trust which is dedicated to the conservation and restoration of Ireland’s native birds and their habitats. According to Lorcan, poisoning still seriously threatens the reintroduction project. Dr. Barry O’Donoghue, of the NPWS, is responsible for the implementation of the inter-departmental protocol on bird of prey poisoning and persecution. Barry explained that the information gathered is only the tip of the iceberg; most incidents go unrecorded, nevertheless the results from the Report can provide intelligence that in turn can aid enforcement in combating illegal persecution and poisoning. Bob Elliot gave a talk entitled ‘Catching the Killers’. Bob is Head of Investigations for the Royal Society for the Protection of Birds (RSPB). A few of the illegal activities the RSPB assist the police in dealing with are; egg collecting, shooting, trapping, crow cage trap abuse, disturbance/ destruction of nests and poisons and poisoned baits, and Bob used case studies to explain how his team help catch the culprits. Alan Stewart works as a wildlife crime Intelligence Officer with the UK National Wildlife Crime Unit. Alan pointed out that “there are well-known criminal links between Ireland and mainland UK in relation to deer poaching, hare coursing, badger baiting, finch trapping and the provision of pesticides...I would hope that through this ground-breaking conference we can also exchange intelligence to make it much less attractive for people to travel throughout the British Isles to indulge in wildlife criminality.” Damien Hannigan from the Wild Deer Association of Ireland gave a presentation entitled “Ireland’s deer poaching epidemic; causes, methods used, prevention, and impact on our deer population”. Damien said deer poaching has increased significantly, the motivation is mainly financial, and the poaching methods can be dangerous and barbaric. Dr David Scallan gave a talk on “The criminality associated with commercial tourist game-bird hunting in Ireland”. David is the Public Relations Officer with the National Association of Regional Game



Councils, which is the national organisation representing the interests of individuals involved in game shooting.

Poisons and wildlife

The afternoon sessions on both days of the Conference were practical, interactive and discussion focused.

Damian Clarke, of the NPWS, presented data from John Lusby's barn owl study. (John is the Raptor Conservation Officer with Birdwatch Ireland). John's study proves that the unrestricted use of rat and mice poisons is having a catastrophic effect on Ireland's barn owl population but by implementing small changes, outlined in The Campaign for Responsible Rodenticide Use 'CRRU Code', we can significantly reduce the threat to non-target species. Bob Elliot and Elizabeth Sharp did a joint workshop on 'Poisons: Field Signs'. Elizabeth is the Senior Analyst in the Chemistry Section, Pesticides & Wildlife Branch of Science and Advice for Scottish Agriculture, and investigates suspected poisoning of animals. Bob and Elizabeth used case studies to explain how poisoning incidents are investigated. Roy Thompson and Val Swan spent the afternoon out in a marquee surrounded by a substantial array of both legal and illegal traps and snares, which they used for their practical session. Roy is a Conservation Ranger with the NPWS and Val has retired from the NPWS, and is one of the most experienced law enforcement officers in Ireland. Mícheál Casey's practical session was titled 'Poisoned wildlife casualties: modes of action, sampling & packaging of cadavers for toxicology tests'. Mícheál works in the Department of Agriculture Regional Veterinary Laboratory and emphasised the importance of the 'chain of evidence' and the value of correct sampling and packaging. Dr Clyde Hutchinson, one of the directors of Wildlife Rehabilitation Ireland (WRI) gave an over-view



Roy Thompson and Val Swan (NPWS) display a range of traps and snares.



of the work being done by WRI. He explained that WRI exists to promote wildlife rehabilitation and improve wildlife welfare and conservation in Ireland.

Wildlife law enforcement and investigation

Fergus Healy, Chief Superintendent with An Garda Síochána, gave the first talk on Sunday morning on ‘The role of An Garda Síochána in the prevention and prosecution of wildlife crime’. Successful prosecutions for wildlife related crimes are in single digit numbers between 2008 and 2012 but Fergus hopes to have more joint seminars with NPWS to increase the knowledge in An Garda Síochána. Martin Walker, Inspector for Carlow, provided a presentation of wildlife crime case studies that he has brought before the courts during his 31 years service as a member of An Garda Síochána.

Enda Mullen’s presentation was on ‘Wildlife Crime and Bats in Ireland’. Enda works in the NPWS, and explained that the people who commit most of the crimes against bats are ordinary people in their own homes, and to combat this, there is a huge need for education to allay people’s fear and misconception of bats. Emma Meredith’s presentation was ‘Wildlife Crime - Police Service of Northern Ireland (PSNI) perspective’. Emma is the wildlife liaison officer for the PSNI; she offers advice, support and assistance to local police who investigate wildlife and/or animal cruelty offences. Ian Hutchison gave a talk on ‘Operation Meles’ (OM). Ian is a retired police officer who also worked as a wildlife liaison officer. The objective of OM is to “Improve and increase the recording of incidents, crimes and intelligence for badger persecution and to improve the investigation process and increase awareness of badger persecution across the UK”. Colin Pirie’s talk was ‘Intelligence; the bedrock of effective and successful investigation’. Colin is a Senior Intelligence Officer at the UK’s National Wildlife Crime Unit, (NWCU). The NWCU work closely with the police and UK Border Force to assist in the prevention and detection of wildlife crime using intelligence from all UK police forces and a wide range of organisations, and by assisting and advising police forces in wildlife crime investigation. Dr Jon Lees’ talk was an ‘Introduction to Partnership for Action against Wildlife Crime NI (PAW NI)’. Jon is a



Wildlife Officer with the Northern Ireland Environment Agency. PAW NI's mission is to reduce wildlife crime through effective and targeted enforcement, better regulation and improved awareness. Ian Hutchison presented a badger 'Scene of Crime Investigations' workshop. Ian explained it's important to familiarise yourself with wildlife legislation so if you come across a suspected crime scene, you'll know what evidence is needed to prove an offence has been committed. Bob Elliot did a 'Scene of Crime Examination' practical on birds, explaining the types of persecution mainly suffered by the various raptors, using case studies of incidents in which the RSPB have been involved. Alan Stewart did a 'Scene of Crime Examination' practical where he explained how to gather evidence at a crime-scene, and talked about forensic techniques used in Scotland in the investigation of wildlife crime incidents.

Plenary Session: Conference Conclusions

The purpose of the conference was not only to inform delegates and to set up links between the different agencies and groups, but also to draw out advice and a route forward from the knowledge of the delegates themselves. Maurice Eakin, of the NPWS, facilitated the discussion session. Suggestions proposed included; raise the profile of wildlife crime, evidential based political lobbying by NGOs, identifying and resolving the problem areas in the existing structures, and forensic facilities to be made available to aid the fight against wildlife crime. Most of the delegates and speakers made reference to the fact that at least, for the first time, there was an Irish wildlife crime conference that had brought together a very large number of different agencies and interests with the combined interest and determination to tackle wildlife crime in Ireland.

Emma Higgs

Veterinary Nurse

Director Wildlife Rehabilitation Ireland

Editor's note – check out Wildlife Rehabilitation Ireland's website (<http://www.wri.ie>) and the associated Irish Wildlife Matters website (<http://www.irishwildlifematters.ie/>) to find a great range of advice on the rescue and rehabilitation of a range of species.



Annual Report 2013

T Amory, January 2014
Annual General Meeting 2012

THe last BWRC Annual General Meeting was held at the Blue Cross Animal Hospital, Victoria, London on Monday, 19th November, 2012. Trustees present were Ray Jackson MBE (Chair), Kay Bullen (Vice Chair), Tim Thomas MBE (Secretary), and Janet Peto (Treasurer). Members present were Anne Maskell and Terri Amory. Members not present were Adam Grogan, Simon Allen, Grace Yoxon, Chris Percival and Molly Varga.

The Chair, Secretary and Treasurer were re-elected. **Kay Bullen** notified the committee that it was her intention to stand down as Trustee and Vice Chairman. She agreed to stay until her replacement was appointed. Thanks were expressed to Kay for her longstanding support and contribution to the work of the BWRC.

2011-12 accounts were agreed.

Other activities in progress at that time:

- BWRC **website** (kindly hosted and managed by Caroline Gould of Vale Wildlife Rescue)
- BWRC **newsletter** The Rehabilitator (kindly produced by volunteer Jayne Morgan, who also opened a BWRC Facebook page).
- Feedback from **Symposium 2012** was reviewed, and early plans made for **Symposium 2013** to be hosted by coalition partner Lower Moss Wood Wildlife Hospital.
- Early discussions regarding a **Student Symposium** based in colleges, and possibilities for workshops and revival of a national casualty recording scheme.



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- Adam and Terri were assisting Emma Higgs of the Wildlife Rehabilitation Ireland in a review the of the International Wildlife Rehabilitation Council's introductory course.
 - The issues of constitution and membership were under review.

Activities since AGM 2012

Face-to-face meetings took place on 11th February, 29th April and 24th June (9th September was planned but cancelled due to low attendance).

Teleconferences took place on 6th June, 3rd September, 9th October and 4th December.

Terri Amory was appointed **Vice Chair** to replace Kay at the meeting on 11th February. Ray notified the organisation of his resignation from the Chair for personal reasons on 4th April, at which point Terri became **Acting Chair** (and a Trustee at the subsequent meeting).

The Rehabilitator Spring 2013 (Issue 55) was published on 20th June and an Autumn 2013 edition (56) was published on 2nd October 2013. Due to the workload involved Nadine Barrow was contracted to produce The Rehabilitator (from November 2013).

A successful **Symposium 2013** was organised and took place on 19th October. The BWRC **Facebook page** was officially launched at the Symposium.

Acting Chair and Treasurer met with a charity-specialist solicitor from Andrew & Co. LLP Solicitors, Lincoln, on 18th October to discuss the process of changing the BWRC to a **Charitable Incorporated Organisation**. Pros and cons of the two forms of CIO were discussed.

The BWRC were asked to support a **PhD proposal** – (no further details can be published at this time).

Early discussions have taken place regarding **Symposium 2014** to be hosted by coalition partner International Otter Survival Fund (IOSF). Proposed Objectives for 2014 – to be agreed at AGM 2013



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- Decision on the type of CIO to be adopted and whether to pursue that process with Andrew and Co LLP Solicitors.
Production of a five year ‘business’ plan
 - Support IOSF in the planning and marketing of Symposium 2014
 - Continue with resumption of quarterly newsletter production.
 - Continue to develop BWRC website and Facebook pages
 - Maintain links and cooperation with Wildlife Rehabilitation Ireland.
 - Review and respond to the PhD proposal.
 - Recruitment of new BWRC members

Additional projects for further consideration/development

- Student symposium series
- Rehabilitators’ Continuing Professional Development - practical workshops
- Achieving recognition of BWRC events as CPD for British vets and vet nurses

UPDATE

AGM 2013 took place at the Victoria Charity Centre, London on Monday 6th January 2014. Trustees present were Terri Amory (Acting Chair) and Janet Peto (Treasurer). Members present were Anne Maskell, Adam Grogan, Simon Allen, and Chris Percival. Apologies were received from Tim Thomas (Trustee and Secretary) Grace Yoxon, and Molly Varga.

Terri Amory was elected as Chair and the Secretary and Treasurer were re-elected. 2012-13 accounts were agreed.

The proposed objectives for 2014 were discussed and measures agreed to progress with each, including the instruction of Andrew and Co Solicitors to act for BWRC in the adoption of the Foundation model of Charitable Incorporated Organisation. The additional projects will be reconsidered later in the year.



Income and Expenditure

(1 April 2012 to 31 March 2013)

Income		
Sale of Proceedings	£43.58	
Contributions	£577.00	
Membership	£10.00	
Profit from Symposium	£867.28	
Bank Interest (Gross)	£90.66	
		£1,588.52
Less: Expenditure		
Travel	£645.10	
Postage	£37.62	
Administration, Room Hire & Legal Fees	£180.17	
		£862.89
Profit (Loss)		£725.63

BWRC Committee

Executive Committee

Acting Chairman - Terri Amory

Treasure Janet Peto

Honorary Secretary - Tim Thomas

Committee Members

Anne Maskell, Simon Allen, Molly

Varga, Adam Grogan, Chris

Percival, Grace Oxon

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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Charity No. 1073757

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.



British Wildlife Rehabilitation Council Annual Contribution Form

Please print clearly

Name:

Address:

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..... Post Code

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

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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