



# Wild Things Res-Q

Wiltshire Wildlife Hospital  
Registered Charity Number: 1056375  
Patron Reg Presley

## Spring 2007

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## NEW BORN FOX CUBS FOUND



Fox Cub, Samantha

Three, 2 or 3 day-old fox cubs were found huddled together at the bottom of a garden in Devizes. They were found by Sky, a Collie dog. Although every chance was given for the vixen to collect them she did not return and we were left with no choice but to bring them into the hospital to hand rear.

The fact of them being so young, and getting chilled through, played a big part in the first few days of their survival. Sadly, two have died but one still remains and she is doing as well as can be expected.

The little vixen is named Samantha although she bears no resemblance to her namesake (Sam Fox)!

### KITCHEN TOWEL APPEAL

We get through an enormous amount of kitchen towel, which we use during treatment, cleaning and for bedding. If you have any spare, would you please consider donating it? We promise we'll put it to very good use.

## Hospital Manager's Report

Spring is here again. Still chilly, but with the lengthening days bird nests are being built and babies of all sorts are being born. It has been a slightly odd winter, mild overall, but very cold at times, as the occasional burst pipes have proved.

We have been busy with a record number of hedgehogs to overwinter – most born too late for hibernation, but others that were underweight or poorly. Should the climate change as some predict over the coming years we will probably see a number of our species have difficulty coping. Only time will tell.

As well as the hedgehogs there have been a lot of larger mammals, swans and birds of prey, which is the normal fare for the winter. Most things we have been able to get back out again, but some have been so bad when they came in (especially the road accidents) that they have needed to be put down. However, I never look on these as a failure as I see it as positively helping the animal out of its suffering.

As I said, Spring is here again. That means another year of our wildlife coming into the world and all of the problems that they face (including the 'moggy multitude'). There will be a lot to do and if you can help in any way (if you are not already doing so) then do say so. The more helping out spreads the load and makes it easier to keep the levels of quality up.

We are planning to erect more outdoor facilities this year, concentrating on Sundays, as this seems to be the favourite day (work will be going on during the Saturdays as well, just let us know if you are coming). You will find enclosed a list of the dates which I ask you to pin up somewhere that you can see so that you don't forget about us. Come and camp for the weekend if you wish.

We have limited funds donated for the building of outdoor facilities so we shall mostly be working on these this year. It certainly would help on the rehab side. Let us all look forwards to a good year.

Mike Korkis  
01980 629470

### WE URGENTLY NEED A VOLUNTEER TO ORGANISE OUR FUND RAISING AND OUR STREET/SHOP COLLECTIONS

We desperately need someone to organise our fund-raising efforts and our street /shop/supermarket collections. It is a big job but crucial if we are to substantially improve our income generation. Could you help us please? If you think you can, please contact us on 01980 629470.

*Thank you.*

## GARDEN OPEN DAY



We were really pleased to be approached recently with a fund-raising idea by Mrs Mitchell of 'Mrs Mitchell's Kitchen & Garden' at 2, Warren Farm Cottages, West Tytherley.

She has very kindly offered to donate to us the proceeds from an Open Day at the classic country garden set deep in the Hampshire countryside on Sunday 12 August. There are many interesting plants for sale including especially hardy Geraniums, Oriental Poppies, Phlox, Echinacea, Heleniums, Rudbeckia and Michaelmas Daisies. She also sells unusual Chutney, Pickles, Jam and Marmalade made on site.

She is open April through to mid October from 10am – 5pm on Thursdays, Fridays & most Saturdays (check the answer-phone 01980 863101 for exact days each week).

[www.mrsmitchellskitchenandgarden.co.uk](http://www.mrsmitchellskitchenandgarden.co.uk)

## Donations

Our grateful thanks go to the following who have generously donated £25 or more from October 2006 to February 2007:

• Alison Abbot	£50
• Mr & Mrs Croft	£25
• Mr Davidson	£50
• Wendy Sargison	£30
• Mrs Davis	£50
• Pewsey Vale CRAFT & Tea Rms	£80
• Mr D.J. Wilson	£70
• Dawn & John Chappel	£100
• Sheila Little	£50
• Ms Ruth Paton	£100
• Andrew Grist	£100
• Defence Estates Durrington	£98
• Sue Baker	£34
• Mrs Evans	£50
• Dorothy Sergeant	£100
• June & Andrew Pennel I	£50
• K Moody (PBM)	£50
• JP & JF Amos	£25
• R Loudon & J Smith	£25
• E Astcourt Vets	£60
• Mr / Mrs Coopland	£25
• Mr / Mrs Remington	£100
• Dorothy Sargant	£76
• Ms RM Paton	£100
• S Evans	£50
• PJ & JC Ward	£25
• AR & GA Price	£30

## Statistics – October to February

## BIRDS

Barn Owl	3
Blackbird	10
Buzzard	7
Canada Goose	5
Chaffinch	3
Collared Dove	9
Coot	4
Crow	6
Field Fare	1
Great Tit	1
Greenfinch	1
Grey Wagtail	1
Hedge Sparrow	2
Heron	1
Herring Gull	3
Jackdaw	1
Kestrel	8
Kingfisher	1
Little Owl	2
Long Eared Owl	1
Mallard Duck	13
Nuthatch	1
Partridge	1
Pheasant	5
Pigeon (feral)	17
Pigeon (wood)	23
Robin	2
Sparrowhawk	5
Thrush	3
Starling	2
Swan	54
Tawny Owl	8
Water Rail	1
White Dove	7
BIRDS	212

## MAMMALS

Badger	12
Bat	
(Pipistrelle)	2
Deer	
(Fallow)	1
Deer	
(Muntaj)	2
Deer (Roe)	28
Fox	13
Hare	2
Hedgehog	204
Mink	1
Mole	1
Mouse	
(Field)	8
Otter	2
Shrew	
(Common)	1
Squirrel	2
Weasel	1
MAMMALS	280

## ODDS

Gheko	1
False Black	
Widow Spider	1
North American	
Crayfish	1
Chicken	15
White Goose	1
ODDS	19

Thanks also go to:

All our members who have chosen to pay their membership by standing order and have very kindly added a regular donation.

One of our very keen supporters, Sue Baker, who held a 'bring and buy' jewellery party on our behalf and raised £34.

All the people who sent in £5 and £10 donations over Christmas.

The Bath Cat & Dogs Home for sending mountains of hedgehog biscuits.

Jane Martin for managing the Adopt a Hedgehog and now Adopt an Orphan campaigns for us.

Nick Hayman, one of our volunteers and veterinary nurse Jolene Mursell, from Station Road Vets in Bath, who ran on our behalf in the Bath Half Marathon on 25 March.

## WORKING SUNDAYS

8 April  
22 April  
6 May  
27 May  
17 June  
24 June  
8 July  
29 July  
12 August  
26 August  
9 September  
23 September  
21 October

Saturdays will be also available on the same weekends to those that can't make the Sundays or want to do both. People can camp the weekend if they wish.

Please also see the flyer inside this Newsletter which you can pin to your notice board at home or at work.

# RESCUES & RELEASES

We had a [Tawny Owl](#) come in on 13 January. He was found on the ground with messy eyes, by a Mr Pike of Bromham near Devizes.

The owl had a ring on it and as Mr Pike used to be a 'ringer' some years ago he knew exactly how to establish the history of the bird. You can imagine his surprise, however, when he discovered it was a bird he had rung 14 years ago!

Although the owl's eyes started to look a little better, Strathmore Vets found them to be too severely damaged and sadly he didn't survive.

The fact that he was 14 years old was quite something.



On the 14 January, we had a [Pheasant](#) injured in a road traffic accident, brought into us by two ladies. They realised they had hit a Pheasant but what they didn't realise, was that it was caught in the grill of their car. They drove from near Frome to Devizes and upon arrival were horrified when they saw feathers sticking up from the grill.

They managed to get her out and saw that she had sustained a nasty gash down her neck going into her shoulder. She was a bit grumpy during her recovery with us but we were mindful of the fact she had been driven 10 miles stuck in the front of a car and forgave her.

We had a [Badger](#) brought in on 28 January. He was limping and had a small rump wound although his worst injury was to a paw. He healed quickly and we were able to release him back to Dilton Marsh on 18 February.



We've had 5 other [Badgers](#) in, all with rump wounds more than likely caused by arguments at the sett. These often occur around the time that young are being born usually when the females tell the males to basically "buzz off". They get into all sorts of scraps and scrapes usually resulting in wounds to the rump, neck and ears.

Our first 'baby' of the year came to us on 6 February. Hares do have their young early in the year and this [Leveret](#) was about 4 weeks old.

The RSPCA brought us a [Swan](#) from Basingstoke on 12 February where it had come down on the road with a bit of a bump. The RSPCA Inspector released it back in Basingstoke on 14 February.



A [Deer](#) came in on 9 December after being hit by a car travelling at 50 miles per hour throwing her into the air. The driver didn't stop but thankfully the driver of the car behind, Andrew Grist, did and stayed with her until Mike arrived. He had had trouble finding someone to help at first but eventually contacted someone who knew about us.

The badly bruised deer had bitten her tongue in the accident and by the evening, it had swollen up filling her mouth. We were so concerned we called for an urgent visit from the Vet. It was serious and her life hung in the balance for about 4 days.



Andrew named the Deer Beanz and rang up until Christmas time to find out how she was faring but each time the prognosis wasn't brilliant. We didn't hear from him until after Christmas which meant he didn't get to hear the news that she had started to make a real recovery.

If you rescue an animal, please make a note of where you found it so that we, or any other rescue organisation, have the opportunity to return it to exactly the same place. Thank you.

Marilyn was so thrilled and was dying to tell him the news but because he came to us via the Police, we didn't have his contact details. Then, in the middle of February and quite out of the blue he telephoned again. He was so excited to hear the news that he came along to see her later that week. He was a little overcome when he saw her in her sparkling eyed, good health, which was in such contrast to the little wreck he had picked up at the side of the road.

In fact, he was so appreciative of our work that he wrote out a cheque for £100 there and then.

A Coot that caught its foot in the dreaded fishing line came in to us on 7 February. Carelessly discarded

fishing line is responsible for so many horrific injuries to our water birds. We've seen a Kingfisher with a wing almost torn off and swans have died from lead poisoning. On this occasion, as you can see below, the Coot's toe was completely broken off.



## RSPCA site visit

Towards the end of last year the Trustees invited the RSPCA down to the site to inspect the premises and discuss our animal management procedures. RSPCA Head Office sent a vet, a regional wildlife inspector and one of the team from HQ Wildlife. They were on site for over 2 hours and very thorough. The vet, who produced a report for us, whilst on site stated that we were one of the better rescue centres that he had visited.

The report was comprehensive, covering all aspects of

## Barn Owl found dead

Marilyn was driving through Shrewton one night recently on her way from giving a Wildlife Talk, when she spotted a dead Barn Owl by the side of the road.

She stopped to find out if it had a ring on it, which it did and so she rang Nigel Lewis, our local Barn Owl expert and gave him the number. He later rang back and informed Marilyn that the bird was one that he had rung himself on 5<sup>th</sup> August 2000.

The bird was 7 years old and had helped to raise five

care, housing, policies and practice. His main suggested way forward for us was the formation of an Ethics Committee (which was something we were already forming) to create and review a manual of policy, practice and protocols with regard to the many species with which we deal.

The whole thing has been a useful exercise and should help us to go forward in a professional manner.

sets of young in a box he had put up in the area. He was obviously very sad to hear of the bird's demise but grateful to Marilyn for making the effort to stop and check for a ring.

This sort of information is vital to the Barn Owl work that Nigel Lewis does in our area. So, if you see a dead Barn Owl, please stop, take the number and ring us. We can either put you in touch with Nigel or make the call on your behalf.

## Update on Thor

You may recall Thor who was featured in the last newsletter. He is the roe deer that came to us following a road traffic accident that Marilyn treated homoeopathically. She massaged his injured hind legs twice a day with Arnica balm for several weeks. It was thought he may never recover the use of his legs and have to be put to sleep but Marilyn didn't give up and her perseverance paid off. He is now almost ready to go back to the wild in the next couple of weeks.

Thor is one of our firm favourites at the hospital and whilst we all want to see him released it will be a wrench especially for Marilyn. He dropped his antlers in November and has consequently grown new ones, which looked every bit like a velvet crown at first. Thor has now scraped the velvet off, a practice the Vet confirmed is perfectly normal, even though they looked incredibly sore for a time.

He is now looking fantastic but his hormones are now kicking in and so he really needs to be going soon.

**RESCUES & RELEASES**

## Corinne bags food donation from major company

Volunteer, Corinne Henderson, sent 32 letters to companies across the country appealing for food donations but didn't plan on such a hefty response.

Masterfoods, which makes big-brand dog and cat foods such as Pedigree and Whiskas, wrote to Corinne and offered her a full tonne of food, which worked out to be 2,300 cans, provided she could arrange to collect them.

Corinne wasn't deterred when she discovered we hadn't got a van that size available – she spoke to local company Williams Self Drive which kindly donated the use of the van allowing Corinne's brother-in-law to make the trip to Melton Mowbray.

The food was much appreciated by the animals, as is everything

that Corinne does for the hospital. Thank you Corinne.



## Return of the Barking Crow

We had a batch of crows in with feather re-growth problems and we put them in an open top pen with perches so when they felt the need to go they could. We are very close to the Dog Trust at Newton Tony and although the dogs can be heard barking they don't bother the patients.

Crows are renowned for being very intelligent and we had one that mimicked the Dog Trust dogs barking – the pen fell

silent one day so we presumed he had gone “over the wall”. Some weeks later a young man picked a crow up from the side of the road in Boscombe Down about 5 miles away. The crow itself didn't appear to be too badly injured so we put him in the opened topped pen. Sure enough, it wasn't before too long before we heard that familiar sound “Row, Row, Row, Row, Row” – yes, he had returned!

## Volunteer profile: Ken Coombes



Ken Coombes has been with the hospital since it started in 1994. He lives in Calne and is a very experienced mammal/bird hand-rearer specialising in the small birds Wrens, Robins, house Martins, Swallows, and Swifts as well as being able to deal with everything else that needs rescuing or collecting.

Not surprisingly Ken has always led an active life, he joined the Air Training Corps and got to fly a Hansen, an Oxford and a Harvard as well as doing 10 hours flying in a Tiger Moth. Ken has also flown a glider and participated in aerobatics.

Ken loves brass band music and played the trombone for many years in a band.

His love of the outdoor life and passion for all animals led him to become a big part of WWH and the good reputation it has today. Ken, being a “ladies man” would recall a particular rescue or collection from the opposite sex and would say “She were a lovely girl” with a twinkle in his eye!

When having quiet moments Ken loves nothing better than walking his dogs on the Marlborough Downs, and at the same time not missing a single sighting of our wonderful wildlife.

## WILDLIFE CARE & RESCUE TALKS

Marilyn would be happy to come along and talk to your group or society. Her last one for the Countryside Club, Warminster raised a total of £25 for the hospital. If you would like Marilyn to bring her slides and talk to your group please ring us on 01980 629470 to discuss.



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***Our practice puts the health and wellbeing of your pet first***



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**WILD THINGS RES-Q CHARITY SHOP**



Our Charity Shop in Bridge Street, Chippenham would be very happy to take your unwanted presents, bric-a-brac, clothes and other good quality items to sell. If you can't get to us, please ring Margaret on 07743 205957 and she may be able to arrange collection on your behalf.

**Strathmore Veterinary Clinic**

6 London Road  
 Andover  
 Hants, SP10 2PH



Opening times:  
 Mon - Fri: by appointment  
 Saturday morning: 9 - 10  
 (open surgery)

Tel: (01264) 352323  
 Fax: (01264) 336296

24 Hour Emergency Cover

## ADOPT AN ORPHAN

Spring is almost here and we await the usual influx of young orphaned animals. In fact, it has, as the front page shows, already started - even without the warmer weather!

This year we'd like to offer you the opportunity to Adopt an Orphan for Easter, for Birthdays, For Anniversaries, for anything you choose.

Adoptions make great presents so why not buy one for a friend or family member - what could be better than the gift of knowing you are both helping to care for a young badger, hedgehog or duckling?

For a specified donation, detailed below, each adoptee will receive an adoption certificate, a booklet about the chosen animal, a photo of your adopted orphan in an appropriate card and for children adoptees will receive a colour-in picture as well. If you'd like to adopt an animal then please send a cheque made payable to Wild Things Res-Q along with details of whom the adoption is for and where you would like it sent. If you have any questions don't hesitate to call us on 01980 629470.

Choose from the following:

Badger cub

£25



Fox cub

£25



Hoglet

£15



Owlet

£15



Duckling

£10



Song Bird

£10

