



# Wiltshire Wildlife Hospital

Wild Things Res-Q  
Registered Charity Number: 1056375  
Patron Reg Presley

## Two of this year's delightful orphan cubs - Tucker and Elsa



*If you would like to adopt an orphan like fox cub, Tucker and badger cub, Elsa please see the back page*

## Fun Day on Sunday 16 August 11 – 4 at Newton Tony Village Hall

The Fun Day is perhaps our biggest fund raising event of the year and we rely upon the support of our members to make it a successful day and to raise urgently needed funds for our winter feed and running costs.

We would love to see you join in the fun – there is something for the whole family and this includes your dog too. Last year we held an incredibly successful Fun Dog Show and we will be repeating it this year - your dog could be this year's star of the show!

In the arena, and new for this year, will be the Shrewton dog display team and even a belly dancer or two.

If you have ever wanted to Wang a Wellie, or try your hand at shooting or just browse among our stalls this is the place for you. Refreshments will be available all day - Teas, Coffee, Cakes and, yes, a bigger and even better BBQ. See you there!

### Summer 2009

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## Chairman's Report

I apologise for the lack of newsletters. It is purely down to myself and Marilyn not getting the material written so that June can put it all together (*June – to be fair I've also been out of action in hospital and our previous printer withdrew their sponsorship!*). You all know how busy we are with the animal work, but it really has got to the stage that by the time the day's work is done then we just crash. So, butts have been kicked especially hard and here is the result.

You would think that we must be taking in more animals to make us all so busy, but that is not the case. The annual intake stays at around 3,000. However it appears that we are suffering from our own success as survival rates appear to have improved, particularly with regard to the survival beyond the difficult initial few days of infants, especially hedgehogs. Last year, and into this year, we over-wintered over 150 hedgehogs successfully. According to other wildlife rehab centres

that I have spoken to they lost most of their Autumn youngsters within the first two weeks of intake. Personally I believe this to be due to the disease/parasite prevention/elimination procedures that we follow. However, as you can imagine, this creates an awful lot of work over what has been our traditionally quieter period.

This has only been possible because we have a small, dedicated team of regular volunteers who have put themselves out to get all of the work done. This is not only the animal care (mostly mucking out), but also rescuers/collectors, home carers/rearers, site workers (building and maintenance) and fundraisers. Many thanks to all of those for keeping it together!

We do need more help - in all of the above. So, if you think that you can help, or know of anybody that would like to, please get in touch.

**Mike Korkis, Chairman**

## WILD THINGS RES-Q CHARITY SHOP



Our own Charity Shop in Bridge Street, Chippenham would be very happy to take all your unwanted presents, bric-a-brac, clothes and other good quality items to sell.

If you cannot get to us, please ring and we may be able to arrange collection on your behalf.

Enjoy a good read? Concerned about wildlife?

## THE SNOW FOX DIARIES

by Jan Mazzoni

This compelling new novel tells what happens when a woman who is fast-approaching middle age seeks solace in the countryside after she loses her job and her marriage hits a rocky patch. One morning she sees a rare white fox, and from this moment her days – and her life – change completely, her passionate concern for the beautiful, vulnerable animal soon becoming an obsession.

Though also concerned with relationships, family dynamics, and the enormous differences that exist between attitudes to life (and wildlife) in the city and in the country, this is ultimately a story about survival, the fate of the woman's marriage gradually becoming intertwined with that of the fox.

Readers' reviews have described it as: gripping, thought-provoking, absorbing, beautifully written and un-put-downable.

BUY IT THROUGH WILD THINGS RES-Q AND HELP WILDLIFE: Written by one of our volunteers who will donate a percentage from each sale towards our work. See it on our website ([www.wildthingsres-q.org.uk](http://www.wildthingsres-q.org.uk)), or visit our shop in Chippenham.

## WILDLIFE CARE & RESCUE TALKS

Marilyn would be happy to come along and talk to your group or society. If you would like Marilyn to bring her slides and talk to your group please ring us on 01980 629470 to discuss.

## Donations

OUR GRATEFUL THANKS GO TO THE FOLLOWING WHO HAVE GENEROUSLY DONATED £25 OR MORE FROM JANUARY TO JUNE 2009:

• ALISTAIR CAMPBELL	£40
• ANDREA MCCALLUM	£80
• ANON	£1000
• ANON	£200
• BERYL ROGERS	£50
• JENNY POTHERCARY	£60
• JO FROM MERE	£50
• JOHN NOBLE	£25
• JULIA TREGGLIAS	£100
• MIKAELA COMPTON	£25
• MISS E FOXLEY	£50
• MISS S KRAYEM	£250
• MRS HEATHER	£25
• MRS HILLIER	£100
• MRS S APPLEBY	£50
• MRS S HAMER	£25
• NAVNEET RAM, SURREY	£140
• PENNY & CRAIG LAWRENCE	£250
• SIR NIGEL THOMPSON	£50

Thanks also go to all our members and those who have chosen to pay their membership by standing order also all those that have very kindly added a regular donation.

*giftaid it*

## Statistics – January to June 2009

## BIRDS

Amazon Parrot	1
Alpine Accentor	1
Barn Owl	12
Blackbird	152
Black Headed Gull	2
BlueTit	35
Bullfinch	1
Buzzard	21
Canada Goose	4
Chaffinch	5
Coal Tit	2
Collared Dove	42
Coot	2
Crow	33
Dunnock	2
Great Tit	14
Goldfinch	13
Golden Pheasant	1
Great Spotted Woodpecker	3
Greenfinch	9
Green Woodpecker	2
Heron	6
Herring Gull	3
House Martin	7
House Sparrow	37
Jackdaw	34
Jay	5
Kestrel	14
Lesser Black Backed Gull	4
Little Owl	4
Long Eared Owl	1
Long Tailed Tit	8
Magpie	13
Mallard Duck	251
Mistle Thrush	3
Moorhen	8
Peregrine	4
Pheasant	18
Pigeon (fancy)	1
Pigeon (feral)	31
Pigeon (racing)	1
Pigeon (wood)	126
Red Throated Diver	1
Robin	40
Rook	19
Sparrow Hawk	6
Starling	24
Swallow	5
Swan	95
Swift	3
Tawny Owl	22
Tree Creeper	1
White Dove	7

## BIRDS

White Goose	1
Wren	6
<b>BIRDS TOTAL</b>	<b>1306</b>

## MAMMALS

Badger	36
Bat	16
Deer - Fallow	1
Deer - Muntaj	9
Deer - Roe	66
Fox	50
Hare - Adult	1
Hare - Leveret	2
Hedgehog	163
Mole	1
Mouse - Field	16
Mouse - Harvest	1
Mouse - Wood	1
Polecat	2
Rabbit	53
Squirrel	12
Weasel	1
<b>MAMMALS TOTAL</b>	<b>431</b>

## NATIVE REPTILES

Toad	1
Adder	1
<b>REPTILES TOTAL</b>	<b>2</b>

## ODDS

Chicken	3
Corn Snake	1
King Snake	1
Ferret	5
<b>ODDS TOTAL</b>	<b>10</b>

**GRAND TOTAL**  
**1749**

# RESCUES & RELEASES

We were called by a family in Andover; they had been “removing some trees”. As soon as you hear these words you think “Oh No!” Some people really do not realize just what may be living in their gardens. During Spring and Summer severe hedge cutting or tree felling leads to disturbed bird’s nests (and more work for us) and severe garden clearance/excavations means disturbed mammals nesting places. Taking down of sheds/Wendy houses and general clearing of wild areas could spell disaster for hedgehogs during the months of June to September. As an example we have taken in 11 families of disturbed hedgehog nests, all but one of these were garden disturbances.

The Andover hogs were living in a pile of dead leaves under the Leylandi trees that were removed. The hoglets (3) were in the remains of the nest with no adult hog in sight. They were only 2/3 days old, still with white spines. At that age they are so vulnerable to chilling because they can’t retain their own heat. Already my mind was well ahead; I was already hand-rearing 6 babies, with another 3 at 3 hourly feeds through the night – how was I going to get my beauty sleep if we could not reunite them with their Mum.



I took Emma, one of the many students we have taken on for work experience this year. This was an interesting situation for her to experience. The Andover family was full of remorse as we talked through our options:

- We could either leave them where they were; Mum may come back or move them elsewhere - we have done this before but with older hoglets and were successful. But, these tiny hoglets may crawl out of their trashed nest to find Mum, get lost and chill and die.
- Or, we could take them in to the hospital and give them some rehydration fluid (slightly dehydrated). We would have to wear gloves because when moving the hoglets we would not want to transfer our smell onto them. If we could reunite them with Mum, we would not

want them to smell of humans because she may eat them.

We decided to go for the latter option, and wearing gloves, we carefully put them in a small carrier. We arranged with the Andover family to look out for Mum later that evening and if they saw her to catch her and phone the hospital - no matter what time!

I took the hoglets back to the hospital and, again wearing gloves, one by one gave them some rehydrating fluid which they took readily, then placed them on a heating pad.

At 10pm the phone rang and an ecstatic voice on the other end of the phone said “we’ve got her” They said she had come out from behind the shed and laid on top of the spot where the nest had been!

I jumped in my car and drove back to Andover to collect Mum. I could not wait to reunite her with her babies. (I did have a detour to another rescue but that is a story for another day).

Once inside the box with the babies there was a lot of rustling noises, then quiet. We closed the box knowing we could not disturb her for 2 weeks or more or until a little mini hedgehog appears outside the box.

When we checked them after 3 weeks, Mum was fiercely protective and was huffing and puffing at us. Mum and babies are all doing well and will be returned to Andover soon.

We seem to be expanding over the borders of Wiltshire more and more. We quite often help the RSPCA in Hampshire especially with deer. The Inspector for the area is a very pretty dark haired lady called Kerri. When she goes out to deer casualties, because we have been working together for a number of years, she knows what could be classed as a ‘viable’ animal, i.e., releasable. She is also of the same mind as us; we do not amputate as it is not fair to force a disability on a wild animal especially a deer. If it is something that happens in the wild and they can learn to cope with it then that’s ok. So the casualties we see are usually concussed deer and because of this the stress level is reduced and they can be transported without undue problems.

We received a roe buck from Kerri last month; he was picked up near Alton in Hampshire. He was very quiet and clearly suffering from concussion, he was also blind, which is something that also happens for 99% of concussed deer cases. The blindness is usually temporary. We found this out while looking after a deer called ‘Whistler’ in 1998, the sight can come back in a week to a month but in all cases it has returned. It is hard to explain what happens but something just shuts down in the brain.

The first thing we do is give the deer an anti-inflammatory injection to reduce any swellings and

also pain relief. Fluids are also important as they lose body fluids when in shock.

The buck took fluids from a syringe and started to nibble food after 2 days and that is always a good sign. After a week he was getting a little jumpy when I entered the pen, so that tells you his sight was beginning to return. As soon as it becomes impossible to put food and water in without him jumping around you know it is time for release.

Catching a lively deer prior to its release can be hair-raising to say the least. This is the most stressful time for the deer. Mike and Geoff (our volunteer from All Cannings) caught him and placed him in our wooden oblong carry box which Ken Coombes made some years ago and is still going strong. It has back and front "drawbridge" doors so you load in the back and release from the front, remembering which has the head. Many times we have been fooled into thinking we are opening the head end only to find we are staring at a cream "powder puff"!



We always release on a Sunday evening as late as we can to avoid busy night traffic. We took him up around the back of the village from where he came on the A32 and he exited the box at a steady pace (see photo above).

Let's hope he keeps away from the road but at least he was given a second chance.

**Marilyn Boyes Korkis**

## In Praise of Tweety Pies

Everyone who works with wildlife – especially birds – soon learns that their patients have a bad habit of dying. It's understandable. They don't come to us until they're in such trouble that human being (their biggest enemy) can actually pick them up. If that isn't traumatic enough there's the transportation, unfamiliar noises, possibly having to be force fed, given medication. Who can blame them for giving up? Then there are, what I call Tweety Pies after the famous yellow cartoon bird, who despite being continually chased, ambushed, splattered, blown up and squashed flat - always bounces back. In other words, birds who survive against all odds.

Like the sparrow who'd been brought indoors by a cat. When the scolded cat released the bird it fluttered away – and dropped into a bucket of bleach water. The distressed cat owner scooped it out and decided the only thing to do was give the bird a good wash. He dried it with a hairdryer. He then tried to feed it, found the bird wasn't interested and passed it on to me. Incredibly, it lived.

Or, the pigeon found wandering around a local farmer's chicken run, completely bald having obviously been plucked by a Sparrowhawk who couldn't quite bring itself to deal the lethal blow. It took a while for the feathers to grow back, but they did.

Then there was the blue tit that flew into a window, nearly knocked itself out, was rescued and tucked in the dark to recover before being released – when it

## Badger Rest & Recuperation

It was towards the end of the day at the beginning of July, when I got a call to a badger in

Chapmanslade. It had been in the garden, on the lawn all day and when it did move, it moved gingerly on its

flew into the window again. By the time I took it on it was chirpy, eating well, but reminded me of a drunk with its inability to stay upright, its preference for leaning against things, and its very dodgy flying. Weeks later, it was able to be released.

Or the pied wagtail who was spotted in the road, unable to fly. Mistaking it for some other kind of bird, its rescuer concluded it had simply become grounded, so enthusiastically she flung it into the air ..... three times, after each of which it crash landed. Miraculously the injured wing (which was the original problem, probably caused by flying into an overhead wire) healed perfectly.

I've just released another Tweety Pie, a grey wagtail this time. The story was that it was spotted clinging desperately to a bin in a skip, which had just been lifted onto a trailer, and driven 10 miles back to base to be emptied. No-one could believe this tiny ball of feathers could have survived such a journey. A search was made through the rubble for its nest, which was eventually found in a piece of pipe. Sadly, there seemed to be no other survivors. Once fully grown we set it free on a friend's farm, and the joy with which it soared up into the blue sky, dipping and circling, reminded me of what it's all about. You can cope with all the tragedies as long as – every now and again – you have Tweety Pie to bring a smile back to your heart.

**Jan Hunt, Volunteer**

**RESCUES & RELEASES**

# RESCUES & RELEASES

feet. Something was wrong! Of course, when I arrived the badger had gone (as is often the way). It was getting dark, so I needed a torch to search around under the shrubs and I eventually found it curled up under a bush.

The cage was prepared with the lid open and using a grasper I caught the badger and got it into the cage. There were no obvious external injuries and I passed it on to Mike to take to the hospital. We think it must have had a knock and was bruised and so just needed some time to recuperate.

It was less than a week later when Mike told me “the Chapmanslade badger” was ready to go back out as it was wrecking the pen it was in each night!

Mike brought the badger to Warminster, along with a **buzzard**, for me to release. Although the buzzard was also from Chapmanslade, I still had to make two journeys, one late afternoon for the buzzard, to allow enough daylight for it to orientate and possibly feed itself, and one just after dark to release the badger.

The buzzard needed to go out on the Frome side of Chapmanslade where there is some high ground. As crops were high in the surrounding fields, I went up a dirt track away from the main road.

I used some gloves and slowly reached into the box, gripped the bird either side, and carefully lifted it out.

Although it had stood bolt upright when it was in the box, as I placed it down in the middle of the track it seemed to deflate and lie flat on its chest on the ground. I slowly walked backwards, and soon the buzzard launched, cleared the fence (and all the other birds in the area!). The buzzard was more interested in gaining height not food and soon gathered momentum and height, disappearing into the tops of some mature trees about ¼ of a mile away.

I went back with the badger about 9.45, placed the cage down the far end of the lawn, then pulled back the cover halfway and left it for 10 minutes. This was to allow the badger to have a good sniff of its surroundings and hopefully recognize where it was.

The householder was delighted to see the badger back and he showed me where they come in and out of his garden (under the fence behind the oil tank).

I went back to the cage and slid out the front panel, there was very little activity, so I completely opened the top, and slowly rolled the cage onto its side, to allow an easier means of escape. We both stood back and heard some rustling of the newspaper in the cage as the badger stuck its nose up against the cage in our direction. It then suddenly bolted out of the open side of the cage in the opposite direction to us, bolted across the lawn and into the shrubs. We heard it shuffling along the back wall in the under-growth, and

then it shot across another section of lawn, behind the oil tank and away into the distance.

The householder shook my hand and said how much better the badger looked and moved! The badger certainly knew where it was and did not hang about!

## Blackbirds Lucky Break

It was early April this year, when there was a knock at the door, a dog walker with two blackbird nestlings wrapped in a baby’s woolly hat, transported on the roof of a pushchair! The lady said she’d found them in the gutter of a pavement close to some offices (no sign of the parent or nest). As it was getting dark and they were getting cold, we took them in and set up the heat pad, administered a dose of Baytrex and fed them some live mealworms. One was already weaker than the other and didn’t make it through the night. The other one was bright enough but had a broken-leg (probably from the fall). It didn’t look good for the blackbird as it is was only hopping and a bird needs two legs.

I rang Mike to explain the situation, and that I was going to have a go at splinting the leg. While it was not fully feathered, the injury was more exposed as the break was half way up between the knee and the body.

I cut up a cotton-bud and used two cm lengths either side of the leg. The piece on the inside had the cotton bud on top to pad out under its groin. Medical tape was then used to strap the two splints around the leg (like a mini cast). We then carried on with the course of Baytrex and hand-fed live mealworms.

The early signs were looking good as the feet were square and it was feeding well.

After nearly two weeks with the dressing in place I finally decided to remove it; my fear was any earlier, the leg would just fall apart!

So with a pair of sharp, pointed scissors, I cut down the length of the cast, opened it up and carefully removed it. There was a lump where the break had been, but everything was healed and working as normal. The blackbird by this stage was perching and developing as normal.

After about three more weeks of hand rearing it was picking up and ready for release. We released it in our garden and of course like most animals that go, they just go, no “thank you very much” or “see you around”!!! But for us, of course, a real sense of job satisfaction and achievement.

**Nick Hayman, Volunteer**

## Volunteer profile: Ann Tomlin



Ann Tomlin, is one of our valued volunteers, she lives in Hilperton with 3 dogs, 4 rabbits and various birds.

Ann used to be a lollipop lady in Warminster many years ago but can still be seen putting those skills to work when ushering a mum duck and ducklings through heavy traffic to water. Mother ducks seem to have an uncanny knack of nesting in less than appropriate places.

Ann has had a few duck experiences, which now fill her

with either dread, or embarrassment.

On one occasion she managed to gather the ducklings into a bucket, mum was following closely but was seen to shake her head as Ann climbed a wall and disappeared into stinging nettles.

Another occasion was mum and ducklings in a garden in Melksham, Ann had managed to gather the ducklings into a carrier but mum duck was proving too difficult to catch. After what seemed like an age, the man who's garden it was managed to catch her. Ann was so excited that she planted a big kiss on the man but in the height of passion, she accidentally let mum go again. All ended well.

Ann has a fear of heights but is often seen up ladders or chimneys in the pursuit of pigeons.

She has been bitten by a ferret, almost lost her sandals in a cowpat whilst chasing a cygnet and sent an empty box to the hospital which should've contained a hedgehog, only realising when she opened the car door the next morning and was faced with a whiff of hedgehog poo. If you spot a lycra-clad cyclist, with trailer and flag then it's probably Ann, she does quite a few rescues on her bike, her other get up is G.I. Jane.

### DO YOU RESCUE WILD ANIMALS?

If you rescue an animal, please make a note of exactly 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.

## WORKING WEEKENDS

We have the materials on site to build some more pens. We need more pens to house our animals so that they can be properly rehabilitated.

In the past we set certain weekends as 'Working Weekends' so that we could get as many on site at a time as could spare the time to get things built. We usually did one per month, to get materials in place and to allow people to get on with their normal lives for the rest of the month. Please find below the working weekends for the rest of 2009.

If you can come, please do. If you can, let me know in advance. It will give me an idea of numbers and some car sharing may be possible.

Dates for the remainder of this year are:

- 8/9 August
- 12/13 September
- 17/18 October
- 21/22 November
- 5/6 December

## CAN YOUR COMPANY SPONSOR OUR WORKING WEEKENDS?

On the first weekend of each month, Wiltshire Wildlife Hospital opens its doors to all comers to help with a wide range of activities at our Newton Tony base.

Volunteers play a vital role in the daily running of the Hospital. Becoming a volunteer can be extremely rewarding and there's something new to learn every day. We need help caring for our animals, from responding to call-outs to feeding and mucking out bedding. All we need is enthusiasm and dedication - supervision and on-site training is provided. Whether it's carpentry, building, electrical work, plumbing or any other specialised skill you have to offer, we can use it!

All your employer needs to do is spread the word – for one weekend only, you and your work colleagues can join forces and have fun. Have a chat with us - we're sure we'll find something for everyone.

If your company is interested in sponsoring a working weekend in 2009, contact Mike on 01980 629470.

## ADOPT AN ORPHAN

### LIKE THE ONES ON THE FRONT PAGE

We have had our usual influx of young orphaned animals and we would again like to offer you the opportunity to Adopt an Orphan - an ideal gift for an animal lover at any time of the year.

Adoptions make great Birthday or Anniversary 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 Wiltshire Wildlife Hospital 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

£7:50



Fox cub

£7:50



Hoglet

£7:50



Owlet

£7:50



Duckling

£5



Song Bird

£5

