



Wild Things Res-Q

Wiltshire Wildlife Hospital
Registered Charity Number: 1056375

Issue 1 2006

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'Mrs Honey Badger' getting life-saving dental treatment – see page 5

Avian Influenza

I expect that most, if not all, of you have heard of this and the possible impact that it may have on our poultry industry if it arrives on our shores. As far as we are concerned it is the main suggested route of transmission, migrating birds, that would cause us difficulties. We deal with 2,000 birds every year and all of these could be effected by this pathogen.

It is difficult to get specific advice that pertains to our situation, in what measures to take in the event of a UK outbreak. General biosecurity measures are recommended and those that are not currently in place are being implemented. Further measures would be taken in the event of any outbreak. As this is a disease that can be passed to humans with possible fatal consequences, then it must be treated very seriously.

Volunteer profile: Nicola Rhind-Tutt

Nicola has been a regular volunteer for about 4½ years having met Marilyn through the local badger group 15 years ago. She generally helps out most Sundays at the hospital and does the occasional collection or rescue during the week along with some of the mountain of laundry the hospital generates.

Nicola is a qualified accountant five days a week but tries her best to counter that in her spare time. Her limited spare time is spent looking after her own 2 dogs, 3 (very spoilt) hens and several over wintering hedgehogs. Bird watching is also known to be a pastime that gets fitted in whenever possible, although she claims not to be a 'twitcher'.

Holding a full motorcycle licence and being the proud owner of a touring caravan, when the sun shines she takes to the roads to either hold up the traffic with the caravan or whiz past it on her classic RD350 sports bike.

Nicola enjoys travel and combines this with her passion

for wildlife, having watched whales, big game in South Africa and visited the Mountain Gorillas of Uganda. Closer to home, Scotland remains a favourite destination to watch Red Deer, Otters, Mountain Hare and Ptarmigan.

Due to the difficulties in isolating birds that may have, or carry, the disease, it is possible that we may have to close our doors to all birds if the worst comes, much as we had to during the foot and mouth outbreak. At the moment nothing is certain.

Currently we listen with everyone else to news of the progress of this disease and will do our part in getting any suspect bird deaths investigated by DEFRA. Obviously we hope that it does not reach our shores, but we must be prepared if it does.

Mike Korkis,
Hospital Manager

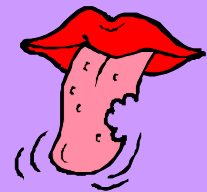
More information is available on the DEFRA website
www.defra.gov.uk



MAZZO v. COOT

A tribute to Marilyn by her sister Lesley

Mazzo, Mazzo what have you done,
That fat lip you're sporting doesn't look like much fun,
Kissing a Coot is dangerous, whatever were you thinking,
Don't say he must have done it just as you were blinking.



So find yourself some Dettol, a needle and some cotton,
And stitch your nose holes well apart, you must be feeling rotten,
You certainly look a picture, I don't think there's any doubt,
So place this brown bag on your head, should you need to venture out.

Message from the Chairman

A belated Happy New Year to everyone and I hope a Happy New Year for the many sick and injured birds and mammals that are brought to Newton Tony.

Each week the facilities improve and with it the prospect of more of our patients returning safely to the open countryside, which is where they belong.

The developments at Newton Tony drained our resources, however the efforts of a small but growing band of volunteers meant that we were able to raise very respectable sums of money particularly in the latter half of 2005.

With your help, giving just a few hours we can be sure that 2006 will be our most successful year to date and

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.

This year at the site

There are a number of things that we would like to achieve at the Newton Tony site this year. We've almost got the indoor unit complete in the big barn and would like to get the rest done as soon as possible. Spring is arriving and we will need it in full operation.

We also need to get some things up and running outside. A few aviaries, pens and ponds would be a great boost for us right now and shouldn't be difficult to achieve. We have most of the materials already and just need your help in getting them up. The work has already begun and with the advent of the longer days and, hopefully, better weather we can get these done.

Any time that you can give to help put these in place would be greatly appreciated. Work days are especially planned to get teams together, but if this is not your forte then you could do some mucking out, allowing others to get building instead. Helping with the fundraising means more money is available to buy the materials.

Whatever the way we need your help, as well as anyone you can get to come along. Work days are published in this Newsletter, but ring anytime to see if you could be of help.

**Mike Korkis, Hospital Manager
01980 629470**

SPONSORED WALK 25 JUNE 2006

WALK FROM THE HOSPITAL - FOR THE HOSPITAL
For more details please contact
Marilyn on 01980 629470

enable staff and volunteers at Newton Tony to have even more successes.

The ways in which you can help are many, for example:

- Take part in street collections;
- Encourage others to join us;
- Join one of the advertised work days;
- Support the Open Day (Sunday 20 Aug);
- Donate at our Chippenham shop, or buy there;
- Organise your own event or sponsored activity.

Whatever you do, good luck!

Denis Westerberg

Donations

Our grateful thanks go to the following people who have generously donated £25 or more since October:

- | | |
|------------------------|------|
| • F.M. Henton | £50 |
| • G. & S. Willis | £50 |
| • Lois Rault | £50 |
| • B.M. Morris | £25 |
| • R. Cottam | £100 |
| • J.D. Watson | £30 |
| • P. McLoughlin | £100 |
| • L. Reynolds | £25 |
| • R.C. & G.H. Hatton | £100 |
| • V.T. & J Coupland | £25 |
| • M.B. Holliday | £40 |
| • A.L. & G.M. Finn | £25 |
| • D. Grimsell | £35 |
| • M.A.P. Hebden | £25 |
| • Mrs S. Tuck | £123 |
| • Miss Krayem | £150 |
| • R. Cottam | £50 |
| • Mrs Sandy Fisher | £30 |
| • Army Welfare Service | £100 |
| • A.P. Abbott | £175 |
| • M.P. Archard | £50 |
| • O.M.J. Axford | £50 |

RESCUES & RELEASES

Second badger in 100ft plunge over quarry edge

An unlucky badger came in to us via the RSPCA after falling 100ft over the edge of a quarry in Westbury, which is the second time this has happened. When examined it turned out that he

hadn't broken any bones but was understandably badly bruised. He did, however, have a bit of an attitude and whilst it is not uncommon for badgers to refuse to eat after a trauma this one refused for 6 days!

Latest 'tail' of the unexpected!

The winter quarter brought us just the one unexpected visitor. A Jack Snipe, which is more at home in marshland, came to us from a man in Sturminster Newton, Dorset. He had found the bird, which had a badly injured wing, and was having difficulty finding a local wildlife centre. We therefore arranged for a volunteer to meet him half way on the Salisbury to Blandford road at Cashmoor. Sadly, due to the extent of the injury he had to be put to sleep.



Kestrel from M4 road works

Bird loving McAlpine workers on the M4 brought us a kestrel that had been injured during high winds. He was badly bruised and had dislocated a wing, which

can sometimes be worse than a break but this one does not look too severe so we are hoping he will be ok soon.

Buzzard release in Mildenhall

Vice-Chairman **Geoff Gray** recently travelled to Mildenhall, near Marlborough to release a buzzard that had come in following an RTA. He had been standing at the side of the road eating when he was hit by a car. Luckily its mate managed to fly away unharmed. The driver was so upset she picked him up and took him to her local vet where they took a quick look and told her to take it back and release it. She did as she was told and although it did hop across into a field it didn't take off. She wasn't

happy so rang us for advice. We advised her to retrieve it and wait for volunteer **John Dudhill** to collect it. He took it to our vet who found it to have a concussion and bruising.

A few days later the woman rang to say that she had seen what she believed to be its mate hanging around at the same spot. When Geoff went out to release him, there certainly was a buzzard calling from nearby trees. It is hard not to conclude that it was the mate watching. Another happy ending!

Hedgehogs star on Meridian TV

You may have seen the hospital featured on Meridian TV's evening news and in many of the regions local newspapers during November.

hedgehogs to have late litters, which resulted in the increased number of small hedgehogs (under 650g) being spotted in gardens and parks just when they should be thinking about hibernating.

The stories were all about the huge numbers of underweight hedgehogs that came into the hospital during the late autumn and early winter period. The mild temperatures in the autumn prompted many

As the quarter's statistics on the back page show we dealt with 60 hedgehogs which brought the 2005 total to a record-breaking 568!

Unusual 'table for one'

One badger recently made the front page of the Devizes Gazette having startled staff by suddenly appearing at the foot of the stairs leading down to Franco's basement restaurant. It may have been caught in a bin behind the restaurant the night before while foraging for food.

on their first badger 'shout' skillfully manoeuvred him into a cage and took him to the hospital for a check-up.

Refuse collectors are thought to have disturbed the terrified badger, which ran down the stairs looking for cover. **Liz Maison-Pierre** and **Geoff Hedworth**, both

The good news is that he came to no real harm and Liz was able to release him outside the restaurant in the early hours of the next morning. It was important to release him exactly where he had been found so he would be able to find his way back home, hopefully without falling foul of traffic.

Rescue at Pewsey Wharf

It was late in the afternoon when Marilyn got a call from a man at Pewsey Wharf to rescue a juvenile swan spotted bleeding from its mouth. It was later discovered it had a fishing hook embedded in its wing although no one knew that at the time.

Marilyn had taken volunteers **Alison** and **Jayne** with her and by the time they arrived, they were fighting the light. What transpired must have looked very strange. One local girl with a boat and a woman with a mop tried to stop the swan's parents getting too close. Two narrowboat owners positioned their boats to funnel the injured swan towards Marilyn, Alison and Jayne who hoped they had enough bread to lure it to

the bank.

When eventually caught, Marilyn found two triple hooks caught in the 'elbow' of its wing. The mouth injury was in fact the result of the swan trying to pull the hooks out, tearing its tongue.

Marilyn, having removed the hooks, rang Ken Merriman, from the swan sanctuary near Ringwood who advised us to return it to the canal but suggested keeping an eye on it over the next few days.

Update on our sandwich eating badger

You may recall the female badger with a penchant for peanut butter sandwiches mentioned in the last newsletter. She came to us with concussion and an injury under her chin. She is in fact, now known as 'Mrs Honey Badger' because it seems she loves honey sandwiches even more than the peanut butter variety.

It was during one of Mrs HB's regular visits to the vet

that they confirmed she had put on weight. Marilyn was already suspicious that she was pregnant and this offered some confirmation. Wary of sedating her, the check up was limited to a visual check only.

Sometime later Marilyn noticed that Mrs HB was lactating and the next morning found that Mrs HB had given birth to two cubs. Sadly, the cubs didn't survive for more than a few hours. Unfortunately, she ate one and we think she may have rolled on the other.

Of course, this was a very sad outcome but it did mean that Marilyn could take her to the vets for the postponed sedated check up. It was then that Andrew Reader, from Stonehenge Vets, found a severely damaged upper canine, which he had no choice but to remove. The practice has superb dental facilities, very much like a human dental practice, so this was done in no time.



Four successful deer releases

We are pleased to report 4 successful releases of roe deer over the last few weeks. **'Maria'**, named after the woman who rescued her, came from Broad Chalke. **'Marilyn'** was brought in by our local RSPCA Inspector having been hit by a car at an accident black-spot near Basingstoke where 4 other deer had died in the same week. **'Perry'** came from Perham Down, near Tidworth. **'Apple'**, pictured on the back page, was a young doe that came from the Chippenham to Melksham Road.

All were successfully released when they were ready on a 450 acre deer park near Worcester. As all were young females we would have had difficulty reintegrating them if we had tried to return them to the places they had been found after such a period of time.

Not so successful was **'Flo'** who came in the Friday before Apple. She had a hormone deficiency that induces antler growth in females.

Unfortunately, Flo was very old with severe dental problems, which made eating difficult for her. We knew she would need soft food for the rest of her life and could therefore never be released back into the wild. We were, however, hopeful that she could go to a safe enclosed site but sadly she only survived for two weeks.

During those two weeks, she spent her time with Apple and provided her with fabulous support, helping her through some difficult times.

RESCUES & RELEASES

Street & Shop Collections

Thurs	30 March	Devizes	The Brittox
Sat	29 April	Chippenham	Street
Tues	9 May	Salisbury	Tesco
Sat	3 June	Andover	Street
Sat	10 June	Salisbury	Waitrose
Sat	5 August	Salisbury	The Maltings
Sat	2 December	Salisbury	George Mall

VOLUNTEERS NEEDED FOR COLLECTIONS

It is our intention to increase the number of street and supermarket collections during 2006 in an effort to substantially improve our income generation.

Can you help please?

We will limit the collection time to 2 hours per person (or less if you cannot give 2 hours). Please contact any trustee or the hospital with details of your availability.

Thank you.

Towards the end of 2005 we submitted a Gift Aid claim to the Inland Revenue for the tax years 2002 – 2004. Just before Christmas, we received a payment of over £2000! As a very small charity, this is obviously an enormous help to us.

Can you Gift Aid your donations or membership fees?

Gift Aid enables us to claim back from the Inland Revenue the basic rate tax that you have paid on your gift, donation or membership fee. If you do not pay tax then you are not able to use the Gift Aid scheme and there is no need for you to read on.

However, if you do pay any kind of tax in the UK, income

tax, capital gains tax at any rate, tax on savings, income and tax credits on dividend income, you may be able to help us **at no cost to yourself**.

All you have to do is complete one simple form declaring that you wish to make your payment to us under the Gift Aid scheme. One form can cover all past and future payments so you don't need to worry about filling in a form every year.

As mentioned, the Gift Aid scheme allows us to reclaim the basic rate of tax you have paid on your gift, donation or membership fee but only if you have paid at least that amount during that tax year. So, for instance, if you gift aid a £10 donation this tax year, you need to have paid £2.82 in tax. We claim back the £2.82 from the Government, which makes your donation worth £12.82 to us.

If you pay tax, **please** ask us for a Gift Aid Form. If you're not sure if you have paid enough tax and would like to talk it through, please ring me Trish, on 01722 412493.

TRISH ANDREWS
TREASURER

SPOT THE DIFFERENCE

There are seven differences, can you spot them all?





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WILD THINGS RES-Q CHARITY SHOP

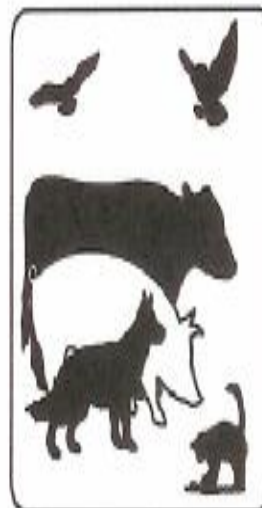


Our Charity Shop in Bridge Street, Chippenham would be very happy to take your unwanted presents, bric-a-brac, clothes and other good quality items to sell.

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)

24 Hour Emergency Cover

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

The 'Rescues and Releases' featured on pages 4 and 5 highlight just a few of the animals we have seen in the hospital during the winter quarter. The tables below show everything we have handled during the period.

BIRDS	
Barn Owl	4
Blackbird	8
Black Headed Gull	2
Buzzard	8
Canada Goose	1
Chaffinch	3
Coal Tit	2
Collared Dove	12
Crow	2
Dunnock	1
Ferral pigeon	9
Greenfinch	1
Golden Plover	1
Greater Black Backed Gull	1
Hedge Sparrow	1
Heron	2
Herring Gull	5
Jackdaw	6
Jack Snipe	1
Kestrel	7
Kingfisher	1
Magpie	4
Mallard Duck	9
Mistle Thrush	1
Moorhen	2
Partridge	1
Pheasant	4
Racing pigeon	1
Reed Warbler	1
Robin	1
Rook	1
Sparrow Hawk	2
Song Thrush	3
Swan	26
Tawny Owl	7
White Dove	2
Wood Pigeon	5
Total	148

MAMMALS	
Badger	11
Pipistrelle Bat	2
Long-Eared Bat	1
Fox	6
Hedgehog	60
Roe Deer	28
Muntjac	6
Rabbit	3
Squirrel	2
Total	119

ODDS	
Budgie	1
Eagle Owl	1
Ferret	4
Lizard	1
Muscovy Duck	5
Quail	1
Tame Rabbit	1
Terrapin	3
Total	17



Apple – see 'Successful deer releases on page 5

WORKING WEEKENDS ARE HELD ON THE FIRST WEEKEND OF EVERY MONTH

Please come along, no matter what skills you have we're sure we can find something really useful for you to do.