



## Wild Things Res-Q

Wiltshire Wildlife Hospital  
Registered Charity Number: 1056375  
Patron Reg Presley

### Autumn 2006

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### Flood forces baby Otter into farmer's garden



Our first otter at Newton Tony and it's a baby one, believed to have been separated from mum by floods this little female otter cub turned up in a farmer's garden in Shrivenham, north of Swindon. They took her to the vet in Faringdon who found it to be cold, weak and dehydrated. The vet rang us for advice and got the ball rolling.

Gary Willis, one of our Swindon crew, left work early to bring her down. She was still quite flat and dehydrated but nice and cosy wrapped up with Garys' hot water bottle. Bit by bit she took more and more fluids but really seemed to perk up when held (must have been missing mum). With advice from the otter sanctuary near Southampton we managed to feed her some raw trout (purchased by Tim from Tesco in Salisbury). She really seemed to bounce back well. Early next morning she went off with Ed from the otter sanctuary who thought that she stood a good chance at surviving. If all goes well she will be released back to the area that she was found.

[Don't forget this year's Christmas Cards and Raffle Tickets are available for sale from the shop in Chippenham, from the hospital or from Margaret Jenkin on 01225 868014 or 07743 205957.](#)



## Keep a look out for Hedgehogs

Please don't forget to check for hedgehogs before disturbing or setting fire to anything in the garden. At this time of the year hedgehogs are thinking about finding a safe place to hibernate over the winter. They may take a fancy to your woodpile or that untidy corner where you collect all your old leaves and garden rubbish, so please be aware that you may injure them or disturb their hibernation.

If you see any small hedgehogs, (under 650g), please give us a call. It is very likely they would not survive

hibernation under this weight. There have been many late litters this year because of the mild autumn so this is a real concern this year.

Equally, if you ever see a hedgehog out during the day then there is always a problem. Please ring us, place the hedgehog in a box (with a towel and a small bowl of water) and keep it warm until help arrives.

Alternatively, if you have transport why not bring it along to the hospital and have a look around at the same time.

## Volunteer profile: Karen Marriott

Karen Marriott is a new volunteer from Melksham; she joined us after contacting us regarding some baby rabbits brought in by her very naughty cat. She took an instant interest in our work and asked if she too could help.

Karen has been a real asset to the hospital, covering the Melksham, Chippenham, Devizes and surrounding areas. She is willing to deal with a wide variety of birds and mammals.

Whilst on holiday in Weymouth this year, she came across an injured swallow and drove all the way to Newton Tony with the bird before returning to finish her holiday.

Karen's interests include Arts and crafts, photography, nature, music, painting and reading. Karen says that since becoming a volunteer her confidence has increased and her faith in people has been restored, thanks to the

kindness and guidance Marilyn and Mike have shown toward her.



## How you could help this Christmas without costing you a penny

Would you like a way to help us without it hitting your pocket too much in the run up to Christmas?

Well, how about looking out three items from your loft, garage or cupboards and selling them at a local auction, car boot sale, on e-bay or by simply putting card in your local shop window.

The funds you raise from the things you haven't used for ages would help us get hundreds of mammals and birds through what weather forecasters are saying will be a cold winter.

If you made your donation with the use of a Gift Aid Form the Inland Revenue will even contribute 28p for every pound you send us.

The House Doctor is telling us all the time to de-clutter so, do as the Doctor says, and give the Hospital and the sick and injured animals a very Happy Christmas.

Mike Korkis, Hospital Manager

## CLOCKS AND KEY-RACKS FOR SALE

Thank you for your continued support of our Chippenham shop. You could help us even more by adding something from the shop to your Christmas shopping list. We have a selection of Wildlife, Cat and Dog, Horse, Wild Bird and Beatrix Potter Clocks available for only £10 and Key-racks for just £7.50.



If you are not able to come and see us in person please ring Margaret on 07743 205957 who could arrange postage for you.



Donations

Summer quarter statistics

Our grateful thanks go to the following people who have generously donated £25 or more from July to September

Annabel Banks	£25	P. Norton	£100
N. Leighton	£30	A. Abbott	£100
C. Longhorn	£30	T.M. Collingway	£100
B. & J. Gilbertt Binns	£107	A. & C.M. Milford	£25
R. A. Howell	£225	E.W. Pearce	£35
P.G. McLoughlin	£15,000	E. P. Rackham	£500
Louise Maisonpierre	£5,282	B.M. & J. Skellern	£400
C. Irvine	£100	K. Moody	£250
G. Hedworth	£250	C. Still	£50
D. Grimsell	£75	J.M. & A.J. Tillbrook	£50
D. Trewren	£50	Alliance Surfacing	£50
R. James	£50	A.G. & K. Gerrish	£65
J. James	£50	T.E. James	£40
J. Gaugier	£50	G. Hedworth	£36.50
J. Tuke	£50	B. & S. Hatton	£30
P. Kitching	£50	A.L. & G.M. Finn	£50
H. Carberry	£50	S. R. Bacon	£25
D. Sargant	£50	A. May	£50
N. Smith	£25	J. Liddiard	£50
R. Smith	£25	A. Witchell	£50
G.R. & P.J. Pope	£25	M. Blake	£30
Fiona Guinness	£500	J. Hollingsworth	£100
J. Fowler	£100	S. Fisher	£50
J. Webb	£100	J. Morris	£30
M. Murison	£100	S. R. Hillier	£70
M. Warren	£100	J. Buckle	£40
R. Thomas	£100	John Lewis	£250
C. Turpin	£100		



WORKING WEEKENDS

1<sup>st</sup> FULL WEEKEND OF EVERY MONTH

A few kind people turned up to help on our September working weekend, which was spent clearing our old site in Allington. Unfortunately no one turned up for the October weekend – our school report would say, “could do better”. So please come along, no matter what skills you have, we’re sure we can find something really useful for you to do.

We don't bite!

Barn Owl	2
Blackbird	56
Blackcap	1
Blue Tit	2
Bull Finch	2
Buzzard	14
Canada Goose	7
Chaffinch	3
Collared Dove	38
Crow	4
Dunnock	5
Eagle Owl	1
Fantail Pigeon	1
Goldfinch	2
Greenfinch	6
Woodpecker	3
Grey Wagtail	1
Harris Hawk	1
Heron	2
Herring Gull	15
House Martin	59
Jay	1
Jackdaw	2
Kestrel	10
Lapwing	1
Little Owl	1
Magpie	3
Mallard	
Ducklings	44
Moorhen	2
Pheasant	9
Pigeon (feral)	22
Pigeon (racing)	7
Pigeon (wood)	155
Red-breasted Goose	1
Robin	8
Rook	2
Sparrow (House)	35
Sparrow Hawk	10
Song Thrush	5
Starling	10
Swallow	21
Swan	33
Swift	28
Tawny Owl	10
Treecreeper	1
White Dove	4
White Goose	3
Wren	2
<b>TOTAL BIRDS</b>	<b>655</b>

Badger	9
Bat (Pipistelle)	19
Bat (Babastrelle)	1
Bat (Long-Earred)	2
Deer (Roe)	22
Fox	9
Hare	5
Hedgehog	191
Mole	2
Mouse (Field)	2
Mouse (Wood)	3
Muntjac Deer	1
Rabbit	12
Shrew (Common)	1
Squirrel	17
<b>MAMMALS</b>	<b>296</b>

African Grey Parrot	1
Fake Black Widow Spider	1
Ferret	4
Ostrich	1
Peahen	1
Horse	1
<b>TOTAL DOMESTIC/ODDS</b>	<b>9</b>

Corn Snake	1
Frog	2
Grass Snake	3
Slow worm	4
Smooth Snake	1
Toad	1
Unidentified Snake	1
<b>TOTAL REPTILES</b>	<b>13</b>

WILDLIFE CARE

&

RESCUE TALKS

Marilyn would be happy to come along and talk to your group or society. Her last one for the Lacock Garden & Allotment Association raised a total of £100 for the hospital - £50 fee and £50 from a collection on the night.

Marilyn's next talk is at the Bourne Valley Club.

If you would Marilyn to bring her slides and talk to your group please ring us on 01980 629470 to discuss.



RESCUES & RELEASES

August really is the 'silly season'

August definitely lived up to its reputation as the silly season for us. One caller rang to say there was an Ostrich on the road between Teffont and Tisbury harassing cars. No Ostrich was found!

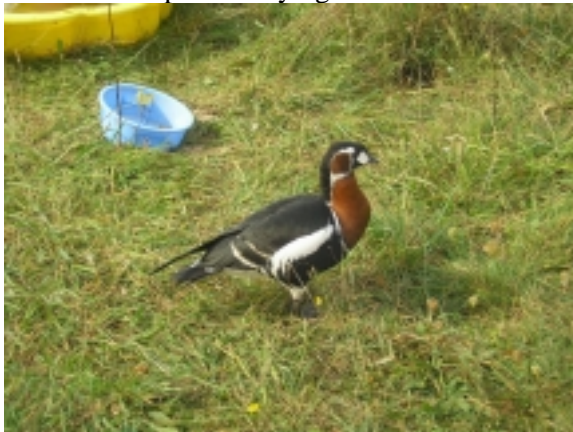
Following another call, our volunteer Richard from Wroughton was sent out to pick up a Mallard and 8

ducklings and when he got there they were all sat watching television.

I guess that must have been Donald Duck / Count Duckula or Tales of the Riverbank then! Over to you for more suggestions.....On Golden Pond, .....

Less frequent guests

We do not see many Red Breasted Geese but one came in to us on 3<sup>rd</sup> September from Rode. He was re-homed on a large pond with others as it was pinioned which is where the wing has been clipped at the elbow to prevent flying.



with a very badly damaged wing on 21 October.



Later that week we were called to Rushall near Pewsey for an owl with a wing injury. When Marilyn and Judy arrived, it was identified as being a Long Eared Owl, which are not often seen. Sadly, the wing was severely injured and there was no choice but to put the owl to sleep.



Only a few days later on 7<sup>th</sup> September, a very overweight looking Slowworm was brought into us with a damaged tail due to a cat attack. She produced five live babies and all six were released on 19<sup>th</sup> September.



A rare Barbastrelle bat came to us from Ludgershall

Finally, a caller reported they had found 50 1cm long, oval shaped, transparent eggs on leaf mulch. Volunteer Karen Marriott collected them and when examined they were found to be SLUG EGGS!

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.



## Homeopathic treatment for Thor

Thor is a roe deer that came in to us after a road traffic accident with badly injured hind legs. Although the vet was satisfied that there were no broken bones, Thor could not stand and it has taken a great deal of time and effort on Marilyn's part just to get him to stand.

She massaged him twice daily with Arnica balm, which is very good for bruising and added a few drops of Hypericum (which is good for nerves and nerve endings) to his water every day.

Thor and the other Roe deer we have in the hospital have all responded well to the natural remedies.



## House Martin nests collapse

We received three separate calls for help due to collapsed House Martin nests on 3<sup>rd</sup> September alone. The nests in All Cannings, Winterslow and Dinton all had young inhabitants, which saw a late influx of House Martin nestlings to the hospital. This was worrying, as

time was getting short for the youngsters to grow in time for migration. However, all but one went off successfully which will be overwintered by Suzie Fever our volunteer from Alderbury.

## Diary of other late summer and autumn releases

We successfully released Sparrowhawks in Andover on 24th August and Swindon on 2<sup>nd</sup> October. Tawny Owls were released in Rushall on 27th August, in Swindon on 21st September and yet another in Bath on 2<sup>nd</sup> October.

We saw quite a few Sparrowhawks coming in with concussion this summer, usually the result of their early flying expeditions that ended in them hitting windows and injuring themselves.

A Buzzard came into us on 23rd August having fallen into a sewerage tank at Erlestoke. He had badly damaged feathers and in these circumstances, it aids recovery to have a large aviary space, so we asked the Hawk Conservancy if they could take him for us. They agreed and we successfully released him back in Erlestoke on 19th September.

We released a Badger on 3rd September in Mildenhall, Marlborough and another from an RTA was released in

Erlestoke on 17<sup>th</sup> September.

The fox cubs went to our isolated soft release site after Mike and volunteer Tim went there the week before to check the pen was still safe and secure.

Our Autumn Hedgehog release programme started in early October.

We released a Roe buck at Weyhill on 29 October.

Finally, the Lapwing, pictured in the last newsletter, was released on 1 November, after consultation with the RSPB, who advised us to release him with a local flock.

## Police arachnophobia?

In August, we received a telephone call from Police Control needing some assistance with a caller who was concerned she had a black widow spider and eggs in her shed. Mike Korkis drew the short straw and brought it back to the hospital in a lunch box!

After contacting experts it was decided it was a false black widow and harmless after all!



# RESCUES & RELEASES

## Late summer puts hedgehogs in danger

Just as we started our autumn programme of hedgehog releases, we started to see more and more young hedgehogs coming in to us.

The very warm late summer meant that many hedgehogs were drawn into having late or second litters, which will struggle to get large enough to survive hibernation over the winter.

One such group came to us at about 3 days old and they will over-winter with one of our volunteers, Yvonne from Andover.

## Nearly brown bread!

In was also in August that we were called to Trowbridge to rescue a Dunnock that was brought into a house by a cat, dropped and then flew into the toaster and became stuck.

Ann Tomlinson of Hilperton went to the rescue and came away with toaster and bird in situ.

It wasn't long after arrival at the hospital that the bird decided to release itself – when caught it was treated for the cat attack and released.

## Fox caught in a gin trap!

The RSPCA asked us if we could take in an adult fox that had caught his foot in a gin trap.

The trap became detached from its base and the fox was found with the metal teeth still attached to his leg.

Luckily, after being examined at Stonehenge Vets where it was found that there were no fractures, we were able to release the fox back in Swindon.

## Christmas Recipe for a successful wildlife hospital



*A handful of badgers  
A bundle of spikes  
A few cuddly bobtails  
A sprinkle of wood mice*

*A scratching of squirrel  
A peck of barn owl  
A doe eyed fawn  
And a touch of wild fowl*

*Take the ingredients from above  
Make them into one  
Keep them warm and nurture them  
Your work is never done*

*Whip up a few good volunteers  
And give them a good foundation  
From which to learn and to grow  
To enrich our organisation*

*Put on a topping of your choice  
It can be anything you like  
But I recommend the very best  
That is Marilyn and Mike*

*Corinne Henderson*

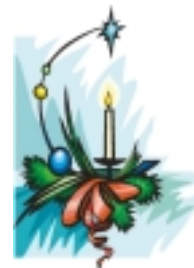


## VOLUNTEERS NEEDED FOR FUND-RAISING COLLECTIONS

We need to increase the number of street and supermarket collections during 2007 in an effort to substantially improve our income generation. Could you help please?

All we need is up to 2 hours of your time. When you make your New Year's Resolutions, please make one of them to contact Mike Korkis on 01980 629470 or 07850 778752 with details of your availability.

*Thank you.*





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OR E-MAIL ME AT  
[ANDREW@WILDTHINGSRES-Q.ORG.UK](mailto:ANDREW@WILDTHINGSRES-Q.ORG.UK)



## 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

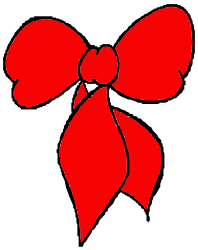


Opening times:  
Mon - Fri: by appointment  
Saturday morning: 9 - 10  
(open surgery)

24 Hour Emergency Cover

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

## Adopt an Over wintering Hedgehog



As many of you know the largest single species we treat are hedgehogs. Last year we treated a bumper number of 568! With the mild autumn this year many hedgehogs have had second and even third litters, these youngsters are unlikely to have enough time to put on the required weight to hibernate and thus survive the winter. We are therefore already seeing lots of young hedgehogs in the hospital, which will need to be over wintered with us. To over winter just one hedgehog costs approximately £15 so we have decided to run an "Adopt an over wintering hedgehog" scheme.



For a minimum donation of £5 each adoptee will receive an adoption certificate, a booklet about hedgehogs, a photo of your adopted hedgehog in a Christmas card and for children adoptees a colour-in hedgehog as well. Adoptions are great Christmas presents so why not buy one for a friend or family member. If you'd like to adopt a hedgehog then please send a cheque made payable to Wild Things Res-Q along with details of who the adoption is for and where you would like it sent. All adoption packs ordered by 16 December 2006 will be sent out in time for Christmas. If you have any questions don't hesitate to call us on 07850 778752.