



## **December 2012 Newsletter!**



**In this Issue of our newsletter you will find:**

- **Looking after wildlife this winter**
- **NEW website!!**
- **How you can help**
- **Success Stories**



# Another Busy Year!

This year at the BWRC we have taken in over 920 animals and Still counting. Of this 920 95% have been wildlife and the other 5% were small abandoned pets including rabbits, ferrets, guinea pigs and small birds.

## Ducklings!

This has been the year of the duckling! We have had 83 orphaned Mallards plus 6 beautiful tufted ducklings. For our small hospital this is a very large number. This is not including the 33 that we were called out to which we were able to relocate with their mums onto ponds and canals after hatching them in some very peculiar places!

One special group of mallards actually came in as eggs as their mother sadly died before she could hatch them out. The 8 eggs were put into our Incubator, we weren't sure if they would hatch with them being off heat for so long but amazingly one week later they started to hatch and have all 8 have been released :)

Mallards will rarely nest next to water and will often nest under shrubs and hedges either in peoples gardens or secluded quiet areas. Once hatched she will then take them to her local water source. Sadly this is when they are most at risk as there are many dangers awaiting them such as predators, cars and various obstacles such as kerbs and drains. Most mallards thankfully will try and move them on early in the morning to keep dangers at a minimum. One problem that we often see is well meaning members of the public finding a family of ducks and trying to help them along, then un-intentionally scaring the mum away which then leaves the babies alone and needing assistance.

**Please call a wildlife centre before attempting to move or help any wild animals.**



In September we had a **Manx Shearwater** admitted to the hospital after being found at the side of the road. Usually found on the West Coast of the UK, we suspect this Shearwater got blown off course by the bad winds. After some TLC and lots of fish it was released in Barmouth, Wales, a few weeks later. Hurrah!

# Hedgehogs-helping them this winter!

We are currently getting a large number of hedgehogs being brought into the centre as worried members of the public are concerned about the hedgehogs not hibernating or not being big enough to survive the winter.

Although they do need to be a good weight we are finding that they are being picked up and brought into us a little too soon. It may be that simply caring for it yourself in the garden by putting out some food and supplying a nice warm bed is all that it needs.

This will then save the hedgehog being handled and brought into captivity where sadly they can lose weight due to stress.

**If you see a hedgehog that you are concerned about then please do call a wildlife centre to ask for advice before handling.**

The 'ideal' weight for a hedgehog is around 600grams but do bear in mind that they have a second litter later on in the year, which means the little ones won't quite be up to weight for a few months...that's a lot of bugs and beetles to eat!

By doing a few simple things you can give vital assistance when food is often scarce.

## **What to feed:**

- Tinned Cat meat, preferably in jelly not gravy and **not fish based**
- Cat biscuits
- Left over chicken/meat
- Bowl of water **NEVER GIVE THEM MILK!**

Make sure you provide fresh food and clean water every night!

## **Hedgehog houses/boxes**

**You can buy hedgehog boxes from the Internet or some large garden centres, or if you're the handy type then they are simply a wooden box with a lid and an entrance tunnel that is big enough for hedgehogs and not other larger animals.**

**You can then fill this with shredded paper/straw anything that will keep them warm! You will find that they will take in their own nesting materials too such as leaves and dry grass!**

## **Other ways to help this winter.**

With the cold winter approaching it's an important time to look out for our wildlife. Some things that you can bear in mind are:

**Putting out food for the wild birds and animals this winter can play a vital role in ensuring their survival.**

**Feed food such as**

- **Wild bird seed, sunflower seed, suet blocks and meal worms for garden birds as these are all foods rich in energy, allowing them to keep warm and maintain body weight.**
- **If you are lucky enough to have badgers visiting your garden then with the ground frozen they might struggle to find worms-their favourite food, so scattering unsalted peanuts, fruit, meats and even biscuits will help them along! Foxes love all of the above too!**
- **Be aware that when tidying your garden that various hedgerows, shrubs and long grasses provide shelter and food sources for many wild animals.**
- **Blackbirds and thrushes in particular love to eat rosehips, elderberries and blackberries.**

**Always leave a bowl of fresh, clean water out for birds and animals**



## Successful stories from 2012

We wanted to share just a few of our favourite success stories from the year.

On 5<sup>th</sup> June we had a young buzzard brought into us that on arrival was very close to death, it was not able to stand on its legs, it was starving and we didn't hold out too much hope. Dawn, the centre manager quickly set up a hospital cage with a heat pad and while that was warming she rehydrated the bird with a special tube feeding method. It was kept in the dark to reduce stress levels and left for a few hours before needing to be rehydrated again. Dawn repeated the procedure until the bird was looking a lot brighter and was able to stand, then we were able to hand feed him bits of meat, which he thankfully took without too much of a fight, within a week the buzzard looked like a totally different bird! He was eating for himself and putting on weight. Soon he was fit enough to go into an a pre-release aviary where he had the room to fly and build up muscle strength. After another 2-3 weeks he was ready for release! Dawn took him to a local field with lots of trees and a good food supply and released him back to the wild! This buzzard was so poorly when he came into us that we honestly didn't think he would make it, so to see him fly away was amazing. This is the most rewarding part of the work that we do.

The fox cub with the Funny ears! In April we had (you guessed it) a fox cub brought into us from a local vets, she was about 6 weeks old and in a bit of a mess. When she was found she was covered in maggots and was lying out on a cycle path. She was brought in to us where we suspected she had been poisoned. She was very weak and had the strangest ears which were bent over at the top, this is not normal for fox cubs. It was touch and go again whether she would make it but with a bit of TLC she did, and as she got stronger her ears went back to their normal position! We released her back into the wild at one of our release sites in September and it was lovely to see her run off into the distance.



## How you can help us

There are a number of ways that you can help us at the wildlife centre.

- Sponsoring one of our resident animals-which you can now do on our new website via PayPal at [www.thebwrc.com](http://www.thebwrc.com)
- Save newspapers and shred paper for us to use as bedding in the hospital.
- Collect tins of cat and dog meat for the hedgehogs, crows and foxes.
- AMAZON WISHLIST! We now have an amazon wish list which is a list of things that we use need/use. Simply click and purchase and its delivered straight to us. Find this by going onto [www.amazon.co.uk](http://www.amazon.co.uk) then click on 'WISH LIST' then a search bar will appear and type in 'British Wildlife Rescue Centre'

You can now follow us on Facebook and Twitter for regular updates and pictures of our residents at the centre and the animals admitted to the hospital. Search for British Wildlife Rescue Centre on Facebook and @BWRC1 on Twitter.



facebook



twitter

### DESPARATELY SEEKING HANDYMAN/WOMAN

**THE WILDLIFE RESCUE CENTRE REQUIRES THE HELP OF A DIY/MAINTENANCE PERSON TO HELP WITH THE ONGOING UPKEEP OF THE CENTRE. AS THE CENTRE IS TOTALLY SELF FUNDED AND RUN BY VOLUNTEERS WE CAN ONLY OFFER A PLENTIFUL SUPPLY OF TEA AND BISCUITS AND GOOD COMPANY! IF YOU ARE INTERESTED IN SPARING A FEW HOURS A WEEK PLEASE CONTACT US ON 01889 271308 MANY THANKS!**

## Our NEW Website!!

We have finally been ballooned into the 21<sup>st</sup> century HOORAH! We have a brilliant new website for you!

[www.thebwrc.com](http://www.thebwrc.com)

On here you can see news linked straight from our Facebook and twitter feeds, sponsor animals directly through PayPal, up and coming events, a plan of the centre, pictures, fundraising ideas, see our amazon wish list and much more. Please do take a look! Thank you.

### Merry Christmas!

We wish you all a very happy Christmas and very healthy new year.



British Wildlife Rescue Centre

Amerton Farm

Stowe-by-Chartley

01889 271308

Caring for all injured and orphaned wildlife



We would like to give a **BIG THANKYOU** to some of the people who support  
The centre throughout the year.....

To Mr and Mrs Williamson for their weekly trip to the laundry  
to wash all the animal towels and blankets

To Gill the shredder who painstakingly collects and shreds  
Newspapers for the animals bedding.

To Marie and Martyn who have provided us with some brilliant  
tombola prizes and various food items for the birds and  
animals

To John Broberg our dedicated vet who is always on call for us  
and willingly treats any patient that we take to him.

Also a big thank you to all our sponsors, visitors and especially  
our volunteers who turn up whatever the weather to feed,  
clean and care for all the residents at the centre and in the  
wildlife hospital.

