

Fall 2012 Volume 26, Issue 3

In this issue:

2013 AGM Announced	1
WRNBC Bursaries Available	2
West Nile Virus Research	3
Upcoming Courses	4



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&



vancouver
aquarium™

present

2013 BC Wildlife Rehabilitation Conference

Join us March 1-3, 2013 in Vancouver, BC!

Hosted in conjunction with Vancouver Aquarium Marine Mammal Rescue

WRNBC and the Vancouver Aquarium are excited to announce our 2013 Wildlife Symposium and AGM. Here is a sneak peak at some of the exciting speakers and topics we have in this year's line-up:

- Marine mammal stabilization for the first 24 hours
- Aquatic bird stabilization
- BC's hummingbird banding and monitoring program
- Department of Fisheries and Oceans representative talk
- Update on Dr. Mira Ziolo's mountain gorilla veterinary project
- Update on discussions with the government

Registration opens later this fall and will be available both online (PayPal) or via regular mail. Stay tuned to our website and Facebook page, as well as your email inboxes!



***Pssstttt...** the IWRC 2013 Symposium is coming to Victoria, co-hosted by WRNBC! Stay tuned for details!*

New Open!

2013 Education & Travel Bursary Applications

Deadline is January 30th – apply early, don't miss out!



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2013 Education Bursary – \$500
2013 AGM Travel Bursary – \$300

WRNBC is now accepting applications for both education and travel bursaries.

The education bursary is awarded to a post-secondary student with experience in a wildlife rehabilitation setting who is pursuing a course of study in an area that benefits wildlife. Note that we received no applications for this bursary in 2012, so it went *unrewarded* – **apply today!**

The travel bursary is intended to help our members from the Interior and Northern BC offset the cost of travelling to and from the AGM.

Full details and application forms are available on our website.

www.wrnbc.org

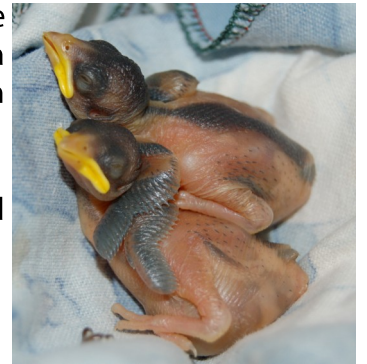


Photo: Christina Carrières

Please print this page and post for your volunteers and students, and pass along this information to any potentially interested candidates.

Quality over Quantity By Lani Sheldon, WRNBC Secretary

As summer has drawn to a close for most WRNBC rehabilitators and their volunteers, it is a wonderful time to reflect on the level of care we have been able to provide for our patients during the time of year when our facilities are at their busiest. It is during these challenging times that not only do our strengths shine brightest, but our limitations and challenges are in greater focus.

While it can be common conversation within the “shop talk” of the rehabilitation community to banter about ever increasing admission numbers, our focus should not be on quantity of care, but on quality.

Where quantities can matter is when we use numbers as a self-assessment tool. Take a snapshot of your Top 5 Species that your facility admits during the summer months. Note that there are many ways to “number crunch”; this is just one example. Even better, grab a student who needs to tackle a research project and have them crunch the numbers for you!

Finally (the fun part), ask yourself questions: are these numbers what you expect? Are they comparable to other facilities of similar size with similar species? Over time, are you seeing improvements, or are you seeing evidence that your facility may need to refocus on certain aspects?

Examine trends in mortality: where are your mortalities highest? What ages? Is mortality highest in the first 24 hours, or perhaps when the animals are moved to a new pen? Are there clues on their medical charts that indicate different or additional treatments may have been beneficial?

Do this each and every year, and look for ways to improve success rates while maintaining stringent release criteria. Talk to peers, attend conferences and tap into the growing knowledge base available to rehabilitators. Together we can all grow as animal care professionals.

Finally, ask staff and volunteers how they felt about the season. What did they find were strong points, and what did they find challenging? Caring for animals, first and foremost, requires us to care for ourselves and our peers – and this is what WRNBC is all about!

Example: Mallard Ducklings

admitted = _____

Release rate = _____ (# released/# admitted)

Release rate corrected for those triaged on admission = _____
(# released/(# admitted – # euthanized on arrival))

Ideas for improvements on areas of concern (example):

- Specialized workshop on duckling care for volunteers
- New solid-sided indoor brooders with easy-to-clean mesh bottoms to improve cage hygiene
- Move youngest broods into quiet room to reduce stress

Efficacy of Wildlife Rehabilitation Centers in Surveillance and Monitoring of Pathogen Activity: A Case Study with West Nile Virus



Surveillance is critical for identifying and monitoring pathogen activity in wildlife populations, but often is cost- and time-prohibitive and logistically challenging. We tested the hypothesis that wildlife rehabilitation centers are useful for monitoring pathogen activity using West Nile virus (WNV) as a case study. We hypothesized that birds submitted to wildlife rehabilitation centers would have a similar prevalence of antibody to WNV as free-ranging birds. From 2008 to 2010, we collected sera from peridomestic birds submitted to the Wildlife Care Clinic (WCC), a wildlife rehabilitation center in central Iowa, and tested them for antibodies to WNV. We also collected and tested sera from free-ranging peridomestic birds in the area from which approximately 50% of WCC submissions historically originated. Prevalences of WNV antibodies in free-

ranging birds and in peridomestic WCC birds were 2.3% (44/1,936) and 2.8% (2/72), respectively. However, none of the birds submitted to the WCC from the area where we captured free-ranging birds had antibodies (0/29). Our results indicate that rehabilitation facilities are not likely to be useful for monitoring WNV activity at small spatial scales or over short-time periods due to the low endemic prevalence of WNV, and low and variable submission rates. However, at larger spatial scales (circa nine Iowa counties), WNV antibody prevalence in peridomestic birds submitted to the WCC was similar to that of free-ranging birds. Although limitations to using rehabilitation birds to monitor WNV must be considered, testing these birds could be useful for monitoring WNV activity regionally, especially with many states limiting surveillance due to budgetary constraints.

Randall, N.J., B.J. Blitvich, and J.A. Blanchong. 2012. Efficacy of wildlife rehabilitation centers in surveillance and monitoring of pathogen activity: A case study with West Nile virus. *Journal of Wildlife Diseases* 48: 646-653.

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Upcoming Courses

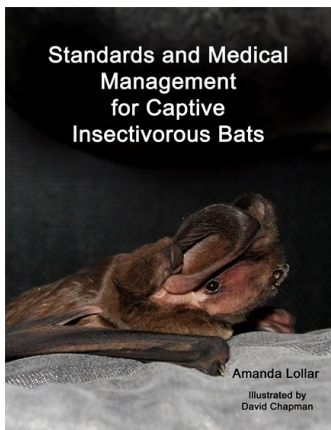
International Wildlife Rehabilitation Council



<http://thewirc.org/continuing-education/online-training/>

Oil Spill Volunteering	Online	On-demand
Pain Management	Online	On-demand
Parasitology	Online	On-demand
Wound Management	Online	On-demand
Fluid Therapy	Online	Coming soon
Zoonoses	Online	Coming soon

New text available for loan from WRNBC



Bats are highly specialized creatures requiring medical care and husbandry tailored to their specific needs if they are to be successfully rehabilitated.

WRNBC has now acquired a copy of BatWorld Bat Sanctuary's new medical text and procedure disk for our library.

If you are interested in borrowing this text, or any other resource from our library, please email marcy.potter@wrnbc.org.



Have a great case study to share? Spread your expert knowledge!



We want to hear from YOU! Email your submissions to info@wrnbc.org for our quarterly newsletter.

Distribution

January
April
July
October

Submission Deadlines

Winter – December 15
Spring – March 15
Summer – June 15
Fall – September 15

What has your Board of Directors been up to?

- Planning your 2013 AGM in Vancouver, BC!
- Helping to coordinate the 2013 IWRC Educational Symposium in Victoria, BC
- Planning the second basic session for Oiled Wildlife First Responder's Training – **postponed to 2013**
- Meeting with the Ministry of Forests, Lands and Natural Resource Operations for discussions on Schedule C wildlife, permitting and reporting requirements, and regional wildlife rehabilitation concerns

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Help us save paper and reduce costs! If you would prefer to receive your newsletter by *email only*, please contact our Membership Secretary, Marcy Potter, at marcy.potter@wrnbc.org.