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## Recap: 2013 Wildlife Rehabilitation Conference A Resounding Success!

Marcy Potter, Treasurer & Membership, WRNBC

Thank you, members, for attending the 2013 Wildlife Rehabilitation Conference, our first ever sellout! A huge thank-you goes to the Vancouver Aquarium and the Marine Mammal Rescue Centre (MMR) as well; Lindsaye Akhurst, manager of MMR, facilitated much of the weekend, including the incredible icebreaker, all the coffee, snacks, lunch and "swag," and the chance for everyone to tour the aquarium during breaks!

A variety of speakers kept it interesting. Ildiko Szabo from the UBC Beaty Biodiversity Museum discussed causes of death in birds. She was able to connect with many of our members, and new relations were formed between her and various centres. One moment that stood out in my mind was the video shown by Paul Cottrell, Pacific Marine Mammal Coordinator for the Department of Fisheries and Oceans. It showed him and his crew attempting to rescue a grey whale trapped in fishermen's traps off the coast of BC. Time was running out, and the danger of drowning was very real. Although we knew the outcome would be positive, I found myself (and a few people around me) holding our breaths. Everyone in the room joined in a sigh of relief when the whale broke free and swam away.

Lindsaye Akhurst covered the uniqueness of rehabilitation in neonatal harbour seals. Coleen Doucette discussed the importance of the initial stabilization of diving birds, whether they stay in your care or are transferred to another facility.

At the end of the first day, a roundtable of enrichment techniques and ideas was led by Tara Geiger of the BC Wildlife Park, Wallis Moore Reid of the Wildlife Rescue Association of BC and Gill Radcliff of Pacific Northwest Raptors. There were some amazing ideas going

around. I particularly liked the potato with feathers inserted in it! If you have further ideas, do not forget to utilize the member section on the WRNBC website to get a discussion going.

On the second day, Dr. Mira Ziolo continued her talk from last year's AGM on the concept of One Health and how each facet of human and non-human life is connected. To round out the day, WRNBC President Angelika Langen and Vice President Meghann Cant had an open conversation with Brent Gurd, Wildlife Biologist from MFLNRO and the AGM attendees on the ongoing struggles with the Schedule C issue. Angelika and Meghann have worked extremely hard for years on this issue and it is an ever-changing entity. Brent was very accommodating and honest with the group, and we thank him for coming in to have this open discussion with everyone.

Finally, although only one harbour seal was in care, MMR graciously showed everyone around their centre. I find their stainless steel kitchen incredible! The great thing about these tours is people can get some great fresh ideas for their facility, which is always exciting.

The WRNBC Board of Directors enjoyed catching up with those who attended, and remember we always welcome you to contact us with questions or suggestions. We do not have to wait a year for each AGM! Again, thank you for joining us as it was a very enjoyable weekend!



# News Briefs



## WRNBC Founder Elizabeth Thunstrom awarded Queen's Diamond Jubilee Medal

WRNBC is thrilled to announce that, this spring, WRNBC Founder and former

President Elizabeth Thunstrom was awarded the Queen's Diamond Jubilee medal for her work for wildlife and the field of wildlife rehabilitation. This prestigious award is given to Canadians in recognition of distinguished service to their fellow citizens, community or province.

Our congratulations go out to Liz from WRNBC and all of the organizations, volunteers and rehabilitators that Liz has facilitated and mentored over the years.

For more on this story, visit <http://www.vancourier.com/news/Special+medals+honour+Cities+residents/7892337/story.html>.

## Distemper could be prevalent in raccoons for 2013

A reminder to rehabilitation centres accepting raccoons that distemper could be prevalent in the 2013 season, based on data from our colleagues to the south. The cyclical nature of the transmission of this disease means that it follows a predictable pattern of an outbreak every few years.

Visit <http://www.mailtribune.com/apps/pbcs.dll/article?AID=/20130126/NEWS/301260317> for the full story.



## CBC Documentary: Dog Dazed

*Film visits the clash of dogs and their owners with the environment*



Photo: Isabella Cwieklinski for Dog Dazed

A new CBC documentary showcases the effects that domestic dogs can have on the environment, hoping to shed light on how dog owners can better educate themselves.

*"I got the idea for this film after going to a meeting to personally protest limiting my own dog's off-leash freedom in a nearby watershed," says [filmmaker Helen] Slinger. "Woke up the next morning very embarrassed that somehow I'd forgotten about the environment. Oops! A classic example of human myopia – always rich territory for a documentary."*

With North American dogs depositing nearly 30,000 tons of poop every day, their impact on the environment is significant. *Dog Dazed* is an insightful look into the social and environmental impacts of dog ownership.

View the full documentary here: <http://www.cbc.ca/doczone/episode/dog-dazed.html>.



**Land-based Spill Preparedness and Response: Summary of Consultation Comments**

In early 2013, WRNBC provided feedback on the Ministry of Environment’s [Intentions Paper](#) on Land-based Spill Preparedness and Response. WRNBC focused on the lack of enforceable federal and provincial legislation to ensure that oil spill cleanup specifically includes a wildlife response that upholds internationally recognized standards and protocols, and supported the establishment of a provincial spill response fund.

The ministry has now posted a summary of the results of this consultation process, which can be viewed at [http://www.env.gov.bc.ca/epd/codes/spr\\_eep/pdf/Spill-Preparedness-Response-Summary-Comments.pdf](http://www.env.gov.bc.ca/epd/codes/spr_eep/pdf/Spill-Preparedness-Response-Summary-Comments.pdf).



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



We want to hear from YOU! Email your submissions to [info@wrnbc.org](mailto:info@wrnbc.org) for our quarterly newsletter.

<u>Distribution</u>	<u>Submission Deadlines</u>
January	Winter – December 15
April	Spring – March 15
July	Summer – June 15
October	Fall – September 15

**Oiled Wildlife First Responders’ Training: “Bridging the Gap”**

Mel Gordon, Director, WRNBC & OWS

The Oiled Wildlife Society of BC and the Wildlife Rehabilitators’ Network of BC hosted two basic Oiled Wildlife First Responder trainings on March 16 and 17, 2013 in Vancouver. It was an exciting and informative weekend, generating much interest and discussion amongst the 82 participants.

The goal of the training was to give participants the tools to help bridge the 48-hour gap from the occurrence of a spill until a professional oiled wildlife responder is in place.

The one-day training included an overview of the Incident Command System and the agencies involved in dealing with an oil spill in British Columbia; health and safety; transportation and capture procedures; wildlife handling;

temporary housing options; and oiled wildlife stabilization procedures. Interactive labs were also scheduled to give people hands-on training with field capture, intake procedures and wildlife handling.

Nanaimo on April 14, 2012 with 54 participants. Due to demand from these trainings, we hope to offer two basic trainings per year in different areas of the province.

The basic training is the first step in becoming part of a network that builds preparedness for responding to oiled wildlife. The goals of the network are for participants to get involved in a variety of projects ranging from network coordination, social media communications, and advanced animal care training projects to identifying facility locations and equipment development.

If you have any questions regarding the training, or would like to be placed on the notification list for upcoming trainings, contact Melanie Gordon at [melanie@oiledwildlifesociety.com](mailto:melanie@oiledwildlifesociety.com).



The very first Oiled Wildlife First Responders’ training was held in

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## Upcoming Conferences and Courses

### International Wildlife Rehabilitation Council



<http://thewrc.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

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### Living With Wildlife 2013

Vancouver, BC

September 20, 2013



<http://www.furbearerdefenders.com/lww-2013>

Across Canada, municipalities are reporting an increase in the number of interactions between humans and wildlife. These interactions can present a public health and safety concern and conflicts can result in the death or suffering of wildlife. In particular, animals such as coyotes, beavers and raccoons are often perceived to be a nuisance or pest.

To address this problem, our third annual *Living With Wildlife* conference brings together experts in their field to discuss a wide variety of solutions of how we can coexist with urban wildlife.

This conference is ideal for government officials including provincial, regional and municipal staff, as well as First Nations, farmers, wildlife rehabilitation groups, animal control, academics and individual citizens who want to make a difference in their community by preserving their natural environment.

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### IWRC Symposium 2013

Victoria, BC

November 4-9, 2013



<http://thewrc.org/symposium>

The theme for this year's symposium is "Rehab in the Ring of Fire." The IWRC will again be offering practical skills seminars. These seminars will target two specific areas essential for wildlife rehabilitators: first, hands-on skills like wing wraps for birds, physical exams or gavage; and second, practical knowledge in areas like pain management, medical math or release criteria. The seminars will be a combination of interactive lecture, hands-on lab and case studies with time for you to ask questions and perfect your techniques with help and guidance from experienced wildlife veterinarians, veterinary technicians and wildlife rehabilitators. Should you wish to present a talk, you can now submit an abstract for review by the IWRC Symposium committee.

## Board of Directors

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## What has your Board of Directors been up to?

- Corresponding with the Minister of Environment on the domestic deer incident in Ucluelet, BC
- Helping to coordinate the 2013 IWRC Educational Symposium in Victoria, BC
- Meeting with the Ministry of Forests, Lands and Natural Resource Operations and Ministry of Environment for discussions on Schedule C wildlife, permitting and reporting requirements, and regional wildlife rehabilitation concerns

**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](mailto:marcy.potter@wrnbc.org).