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**WILDLIFE  
REHABILITATORS'  
NETWORK**  
Of British Columbia

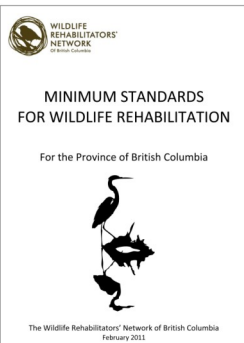
## Oiled Wildlife First Responder's Training Course November 2012

The first basic session was a resounding success, with participants attending from across the province. A second basic session (identical to the first) is tentatively scheduled for November 2012. Visit our website for more information, and to be placed on the priority notification list. WRNBC/OWS members receive discounted registration and priority placement.



**The first basic session was held in April in Nanaimo.  
Photo credit: Cheryl Brodie.**

## WRNBC *Minimum Standards for Wildlife Rehabilitation* are published and available online!



WRNBC thanks all of its members for providing insight and feedback into the preparation of the *Minimum Standards for Wildlife Rehabilitation in the Province of British Columbia* (WRNBC, 2012).

All members should have received a PDF of this document via email. You can also visit <http://www.wrnbc.org/the-network/minimum-standards/> to download a copy!

## Call to action: Lack of endangered species legislation leaves BC wildlife at risk!

By Kimberly Reid, WRNBC Director-at-Large

Biodiversity in British Columbia is unmatched by any other province in Canada, yet laws protecting BC species fall short in comparison. With more than 1,900 species currently on the endangered list, it is time for BC to legally protect wild animals, plants and insects impacted by urban, agricultural and resource development, industrial and household toxins, and climate change.

The Wildlife Act, our province's only legislation in this matter, protects only four species – less than 0.002% of species at risk. Combined with a patchwork of other provincial regulations and the federal Species at Risk Act (SARA), a total of 11% of endangered species are protected. If more than 85% of British Columbians polled want strong legislation protecting these species and their habitat, why has nothing been implemented?



Please join the Wilderness Committee in their efforts to protect BC species now and into the future. See <http://www.protectbiodiversity.ca/action> for more information about BC's endangered species and how we as British Columbians can help.



## News from rehabilitators around the globe: Spain

In a retrospective study\*, the causes of morbidity of little owls (*Athene noctua*) admitted to the Wildlife Rehabilitation Centre of Torreferrussa from 1995 to 2010 were analyzed. A total of 1,427 little owls were included in the study, with an average of 89 cases per year (range: 73–116). Within the sex category, 80.7% of animals (1,152/1,427) were classified as undetermined gender, 9.1% (130/1,427) were sexed as females and 10.2% (145/1,427) as males. The overall age distribution according to the calendar year showed that 66.6% (951/1,427) of birds were '1st calendar year' and 16.6% (237/1,427) were '> 1 calendar year'. Age could not be determined in 16.7% of birds. Primary causes of admission were orphaned young (53.2%), unknown trauma (24.7%), impact with motor vehicles (5.6%), other cause (5.5%), undetermined (3.7%), illegally captive (2.1%), natural diseases (2.1%), and gunshot (1.1%). Within the breeding season the frequency of admissions due to traumas – unknown trauma ( $\chi^2 = 147.108$ ;  $p < 0.001$ ) – and impact with motor vehicles ( $\chi^2 = 28.528$ ;  $p < 0.001$ ) and other cause ( $\chi^2 = 11.420$ ;  $p = 0.003$ ) were the most important causes. In winter, admissions were mainly related to unknown trauma and gunshot. Over the fifteen years we observed a significant increase in the orphaned young category.

Visit <http://abc.museucienciasjournals.cat/wp-content/blogs.dir/2/files/ABC-34-2-pp-401-405.pdf> for the full article.

\*Molina-López, R.A. and L. Darwich. 2011. Causes of admission of little owl (*Athene noctua*) at a wildlife rehabilitation centre in Catalonia (Spain) from 1995 to 2010. *Animal Biodiversity and Conservation* 34(2): 401-405.

## Up 4 Grabs!



*Up 4 Grabs is a new column where members can post items they have available to donate to other centres. Reduce, reuse, recycle! To submit an item to Up 4 Grabs, email [lani.sheldon@wrnbc.org](mailto:lani.sheldon@wrnbc.org).*

**Available:** One pair of heavy leather welder's type gloves in good condition

**Contact:** [ethunstrom@shaw.ca](mailto:ethunstrom@shaw.ca)

## A message from our friends at the Alberta Wildlife Rehabilitators' Association:



*The following is an excerpt of correspondence sent to WRNBC via AWRA as honorary members. AWRA has been working to improve the inclusiveness of rehabilitation permits in Alberta.*

Some good news to share! Medicine River has received their research permit to foster coyote pups to wild families! They will be microchipping and marking the pups before putting them in the den with a wild family, and a student has been hired to monitor these pups to determine their acceptance into the family and their survival. Extensive reading of other coyote research project papers has been very encouraging that this post-release study will be successful.



The success of the project will be shared with the AWRA membership. As coyote pups remain on the restricted list, AWRA is encouraged to know that this year, at least, any orphaned pups that are brought to rehabilitation centres can be saved and not euthanized, which was the alternative if this project had not been approved.

AWRA is requesting that any pups received at the AWRA centres be transferred to Medicine River for the research project. The more pups they get, the better the research results will be. If this is successful, we are hopeful that Alberta Sustainable Resource Development (SRD) will then put fostering coyote pups back on the unrestricted list.

This is the first of three research projects that the AWRA Government Liaison Committee has proposed to SRD. The second in the series is raising and releasing coyote pups, and the third is rehabilitating and releasing injured adult coyotes. If these three projects prove successful, then we may be able to again rehabilitate coyotes.

If any centre is interested in the second research project of raising and releasing coyote pups, a much more in-depth project, please contact the Government Liaison Committee and we can work with you to get this project approved. This will probably have to involve a university professor or student and will involve intense planning and preparation. So we would suggest that if you are interested, that you begin the process very soon to get it approved by next season. This will ultimately be good for all rehabilitators and especially for those coyotes that would otherwise be destroyed.



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.



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The Wildlife Rehabilitators' Network of BC explicitly disclaims any legal liability for the contents of this newsletter, and the opinions expressed herein are not necessarily those of the Network or its representatives.



## Volume 4 of *Bats in Captivity* is now available!

Volume 4 of *Bats in Captivity* covers information on the legal aspects of maintaining and shipping bats in Australia, Canada, Europe and the United States. This volume also contains papers on developing traveling trunks and loan boxes, the use of ultrasonic mobility devices in education programs, conditioning and training bats for public demonstration and outreach programs, and exhibiting bats in zoological institutions. In addition, there is comprehensive information on excluding bats from man-made structures, as well as how bat houses and artificial roosts are constructed and used.

Visit <http://logos-press.com/books/bats-in-captivity-legislation-public-education.php> if you are interested in obtaining this volume.

If you are interested in any of the previous volumes, they can be viewed at the following links:

Volume 1: [http://www.logos-press.com/books/bats\\_in\\_captivity\\_biological\\_and\\_medical\\_aspects.php](http://www.logos-press.com/books/bats_in_captivity_biological_and_medical_aspects.php)

Volume 2: [http://www.logos-press.com/books/bats\\_in\\_captivity\\_aspects\\_of\\_rehabilitation.php](http://www.logos-press.com/books/bats_in_captivity_aspects_of_rehabilitation.php)

Volume 3: <http://logos-press.com/books/bats-in-captivity-diet-feeding-environment-housing.php>

## Dumpster Diving?



Does your facility admit animals that have required rescue from dumpster entrapment? Bi-State Wildlife Hotline is gathering data from centres across North America on this issue.

Visit <http://www.wildlifehotline.com/welcome/about-us/dumpster-survey/> to participate.

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

- Planning your 2013 AGM in Vancouver, BC!
- Planning the second basic session for Oiled Wildlife First Responder's Training
- Finalized the WRNBC Minimum Standards for Wildlife Rehabilitation
- Meeting with the Ministry of Forests, Lands and Natural Resource Operations on issues relating to permitting and Schedule C wildlife

## Current Board Members

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