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Research Opportunity: Anthropogenic Injuries to Wildlife



Liz Leyvas, a biologist from California, has begun gathering information about how much money wildlife rehabilitation centres and sanctuaries spend on native wildlife care, including the cost to run the facility and pay their employees (if applicable).

The purpose of this research is to approximate an amount of money that wildlife rescue centres and sanctuaries could benefit from in the form of compensation from wind energy companies. As of today, the USFWS only has voluntary guidelines that suggest compensation as a form of mitigation. Campaigns to enforce these guidelines are currently underway. When the wind industry starts compensating, they should have data on a real number that they can disperse to wildlife rehabilitation centres. The findings of this research will be presented at the Conference on Wind Energy and Wildlife (CWW) in Berlin in March 2015.

Please be aware that the expense estimates would be presented in summary format so no one will know just how much each facility spends. If you are interested in helping out and would like to send the information to Liz, then here are the details she is looking for:

1. Total annual cost to run the facility (includes employee wages, medical supplies, water, heat, maintenance, etc.).
2. Approximate number and percent of animals that arrive with presumed anthropogenic sources of injury (car, electric poles, wind turbines, buildings, cat-caught, etc.). Please indicate if you receive any turbine-collision animals (amount of patients not necessary).
3. Average number of permanent native residents per year and the amount of care.
4. What you would do if you had more money.



Liz will be taking a gross estimate of total costs divided by these specific animals to get a proportional amount of money (in the form of dollars per year) that goes toward their rehabilitation.

Contact Liz Leyvas at eleyvas2@gmail.com or 858.774.4702 with questions. Submit your information by email via eleyvas2@gmail.com.

(Reprinted with permission from the International Wildlife Rehabilitation Council; <http://theiwrc.org/resources/research#Anthropogenic-identifier>)

Rehabilitators Across Borders: The Power of Networks

Heather Schmitt, WRNBC Director, BC SPCA Wild ARC Assistant Manager

Earlier this season, Devna Arora, a rehabilitator in Pume, India, admitted a baby Indian Pipistrelle bat that had been caught by a cat. The little bat was dehydrated and suffering from minor scratches that had broken the skin, but had no substantial injuries. After a few days in care, the bat started exhibiting some concerning symptoms, and Devna sought advice on assessment and treatment. One of her first points of contact? The Wildlife Rehabilitators' Network of BC!



Photo: Devna Arora

Devna became a member of WRNBC when she was exploring PhD and employment options in Canada, and has remained a member since then because she appreciates the exchange of ideas and rehabilitation resources – something she finds lacking at this point in her country. She contacted WRNBC regarding her bat, looking to connect with other rehabilitators who were experienced in bat rehabilitation. We helped Devna get in touch with Amanda Lollar, founder and president of Bat World Sanctuary in Texas, in the hopes that she would be able to lend Devna the benefit of her extensive bat expertise.

Amanda quickly responded, and helped to answer Devna's questions on the best course of treatment and care for the little bat. Devna also heard back from several other rehabilitators that she contacted for advice, from as far afield as Australia – a truly international network of assistance came to the rescue for this tiny wild patient.

More than simply a success story for this particular bat, this case highlights the vital importance of respectful and open communication between rehabilitation centres. There is so much to learn about the natural history and best care practices for the countless wild species we rehabilitate, and the opportunity to learn from the experience of others is invaluable. As Devna relates, "I'm extremely thankful for all the help I have received," she says. "I couldn't have done this on my own. I feel truly blessed to be able to get help and guidance in time." Here in B.C., we are fortunate to have an extensive and knowledgeable network of wildlife rehabilitation professionals, and the opportunity to pool that expertise in cases like this showcases what can be achieved as a result.



Photo: Devna Arora

And last but certainly not least – how is the young bat at this point? "He is beautiful and absolutely fine now," says Devna. "I expect him to be weaned by the end of the month." We're very proud as a network to have played a small role in this successful rehabilitation collaboration, and we look forward to hearing the rest of this bat's story in the coming weeks!

Cast Your Vote!



It is WRNBC Board of Directors election time once again! Each member should have received an e-invitation to vote via Survey Monkey for next year's board members. If you haven't yet done so, please take a few minutes to cast your vote (each survey link is unique, so check your email for your election notice). Having trouble, or not sure you received your survey link? Contact info@wrnbc.org.

We'll Be Seeing You in Smithers!

WRNBC is thrilled to announce our next BC Wildlife Rehabilitation Conference, hosted in conjunction with [Northern Lights Wildlife Society](#) in Smithers, B.C. on March 6-8, 2015!



Each year, WRNBC hosts a symposium to provide networking opportunities, continuing education seminars and workshops, roundtable discussions on current events and research programmes. Expert speakers will provide presentations on a wide variety of topics, and the AGM also provides an important venue to interact with representatives from various government agencies.

Check out our [conference webpage](#) for more details in the coming weeks, including information on accommodation options available (there will be limited – but substantial – accommodation available free-of-charge, thanks to NLWS). In the meantime, we encourage you to book your flight early to secure the best deals.

Request to Participate in Survey on Raccoon Parasite



You are invited by wildlife disease researchers at The University of Georgia to participate in a research study to assess the understanding of *Baylisascaris procyonis* (raccoon roundworm) among persons who have contact with wildlife. In addition, the use of preventive measures (e.g. glove use, hand washing, raccoon treatment) will be assessed.

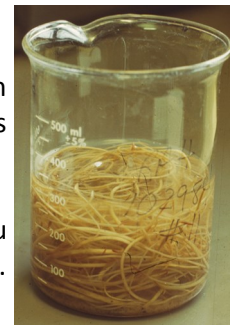
Any person over the age of 18 that has contact with wildlife (i.e. wildlife rehabilitator or animal care provider) is eligible to participate. Even if you do not rehabilitate raccoons, the researchers are very interested in having all persons with wildlife contact or contact with cages/feces/feeders to participate.

Your participation will involve filling out a short survey that is estimated to only take about 5 to 15 minutes of your time. All responses will be anonymous.

The findings from this project will provide information on knowledge of *B. procyonis* among individuals who have contact with wildlife. The findings will be presented at various conferences and the results published in an open access journal that will be free to read.

Once the survey is completed, you will receive links to various electronic resources with information on *B. procyonis*, including a map of the currently known distribution. The researchers welcome additions to the map if you have confirmed infections in raccoons.

Please access the survey at https://ugeorgia.qualtrics.com/SE/?SID=SV_cN5zJHhNNa9poDr. If you have any questions about this research project, please feel free to contact the study supervisor, Dr. Michael Yabsley, at myabsley@uga.edu.



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Getting 'Wild' with New Year's Resolutions



With the New Year almost upon us, it's a great time to highlight the needs of your local wildlife rehabilitation centre for your community. If you offer Animal or Cage Sponsorship programs, it's worth crafting a seasonal press release or pitching a media spotlight. If you've got an In-Kind

Donation Wish List, don't forget to feature it on your social media networks, and let volunteers know it's available to help spread the word. Make sure your supporters remember your wild patients for their New Year's resolutions!

Bursaries Available — Apply Now!

WRNBC is once again accepting applications for our Education (\$500) and Conference Travel (\$300) Bursaries. Both members and non-members are encouraged to apply.

Education Bursary information:

<http://www.wrnbc.org/the-network/bursary/>

Application deadline is January 30, 2015.

Conference Travel Bursary information:

<http://www.wrnbc.org/conference/>

Application deadline is January 15, 2015.

We'd love to hear from you!



Do you have a great rehabilitation case study to share? Tips and tricks on better practices for a particular species? Share your expert knowledge with us! We'd love to feature your submission in our quarterly newsletter. Email your contribution to info@wrnbc.org for inclusion in our next issue.

Distribution

January

April

July

October

Submission Deadlines

Winter – December 15

Spring – March 15

Summer – June 15

Fall – September 15

Resources for WRNBC Members

Remember to check out the members-only section of the WRNBC website! You can catch up on government communications and chat with fellow wildlife rehabilitators about patient care, caging and other important topics.

www.wrnbc.org/members-only

Need access to the site? Email info@wrnbc.org for the password.

Board of Directors

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What has your Board of Directors been up to?

- Communicating with MFLNRO on permitting and Schedule C wildlife issues
- Planning your 2015 BC Wildlife Rehabilitation Conference!
- Responding to the Second Intentions Paper for Land Based Spill Preparedness and Response in B.C. as part of the MOE consultation period

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.