



South Essex Wildlife Hospital

Dedicated to putting 'life' back into the 'wild'

Issue: Autumn 2007

Update!



Dearest Supporters and Friends,

Finally, after battling for 3 years we have at last, I am very pleased (but exhausted!) to be able to give you the great news that we have, at last, been given the planning permission for our desperately needed new purpose built wildlife hospital!

Having been turned down by Thurrock Council in June 2007 we decided to submit a revised application to Thurrock Thames Gateway Development Corporation as they now handle applications in Thurrock measuring over a hectare. Our plans still had to be considered by the council for a recommendation, this time a new committee voted unanimously in favour of our application. The development corporation had wasted no time in dealing with our case and in a matter of weeks we went through a series of meetings and site visits. At the nerve wracking hearing the committee decided we needed to submit a business plan to prove our sustainability before passing our application so deferred the decision until the next hearing. Steve Ireland, our chairman, volunteered for the task and completed this additional information. On this occasion the Gateway Committee went against their planning officer's recommendation and decided that we did have the exceptional circumstances required in order to build in the greenbelt. Yippee!

Undoubtedly our success has been not only due to the fact that we are already well established with a proven track record but also from the tremendous support our hospital plans gained from the public and other expert organisations. We obtained wonderful references from Angela Smith MP, RSPCA, RSPB, Writtle Agricultural College, Peter Harvey BSC, Zoological Society of London, Essex Badger Group, Thurrock Wildlife Society, Secret World, The Fox Project, npower, Tigress Television Productions, Riverside and Goddards Veterinary Surgeries.

In addition our members and supporters collected an incredible 26,000 signatures on our petition!



Now given the go-ahead the new hospital in Orsett will look like this.



The British Veterinary Nurses Association

The BVNA conference launches our appeal as we are honoured to be nominated as their 'Charity of the Year' 2007, having had our work with wildlife & education recognised by this national organisation.

In addition to becoming the BVNA's charity of the year we were also very proud to have won the community award sponsored by npower at the Thurrock Business Awards. I didn't think we stood a chance at this and very nearly didn't bother to order tickets for the ceremony as there was tough competition from other, perhaps better recognised, local charities.



Sue & her Dad receive the award at the ceremony

The judges from npower, Gary Sharp and Sue Butcher, must have thought us worthy of the award when they came to visit despite Dennis telling them off for walking on the clean floor!

Thank you so much to everyone who contributed and gave support; thank you for wanting our charity to continue and grow; thank you for showing those in authority who produce planning policies for the community that wildlife does count, and thank you for caring for those animals that need our help. Now our hospital has the secure future that our patients need and deserve.

Now of course begins the challenge of raising more funds towards our project. We have, I'm pleased to say, sufficient funds to cover a majority of the building costs but it goes without saying the more money we have the better the end result will be.

Groundwork, fencing and landscaping can be expensive, although I suspect equipping our new facilities will also take a hefty nip out of the budget! Consequently we should like to appeal to anyone who can assist with our mission to please get in touch; we would love to hear from you. There are already several people, companies and charitable organisations who have earned their own plaque to be displayed at reception or an enclosure (e.g. an aviary) of their choice! Potential volunteers, fundraising co-ordinators and equipment suppliers or anyone who would like to contact us for further information can do so on the hospital telephone number. Many thanks of course to all who have already, and continue to help us going year after year.



Lucy, one of our work experience students, hand feeding a poorly badger cub.

Despite his injuries he was rehabilitated with several other cubs.

Practically every problem encountered this last 'busy' season prompted the response of 'but when we get our new hospital!' Everything seems to be bursting at the seams or needing repair. When the resident livery horse sadly had to be put to sleep we did gain use of two stables which proved invaluable extra room for a variety of casualties, and a tack room which was soon occupied by the maintenance department (Dennis) improving production no end!

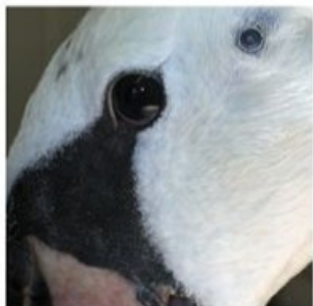


Some of the several stars filmed for a series of BBC1's animal 24-7 programme, these orphaned fox cubs are just a few of the many who increased in numbers so rapidly we had to build another new enclosure.

'The film crew'. Sally and Lee were regular visitors this summer. Typically when they are around, nothing interesting happens, but as soon as they leave it's back to normal... inundated with calls! Well, at least we had extra help feeding the baby birds!



The RSPCA normally deliver their casualties to us in carriers, but a new inspector brought us a hedgehog still stuck in a mesh panel! A firm push to the top of the hogs head and she immediately fell out, much to the inspector's embarrassment! Not all trapped casualties are so lucky and we have seen some really nasty injuries caused by fencing and netting.



Deliberate cruelty to wildlife is always upsetting. A gang of youths with an air gun were seen to be taking shots at the water fowl on the lake at Lower Dunton Road. Volunteer Kevin was furious when he returned with this swan with an airgun pellet lodged in the side of its face. A fishing hook was also removed from its wing.



Another domestic pet casualty. On this occasion a grass snake has a large flap of skin ripped from its side by a cat.



'Come on, hurry up, I'm on my own out here'. Five swan eggs were brought to us. Their mother had been shot dead. A local resident thought they were doing the best thing by taking the eggs home not realising their dad, the Cob, would have incubated them himself. Sadly only 2 survived due to the interference.

Snowball the goat (not wildlife, but it's a long story!) shows momentary interest in something other than food when another young fawn arrives. Baby deer are often difficult to get feeding especially when they arrive collapsed and dehydrated & sadly don't all pull through like this little chap did.



Sue and Kate had a late night forage all the way to Great Holland for this very poorly seal pup. Sadly he did not pull through from pneumonia and hypothermia despite round the clock care and tube feeding. But he certainly won't be forgotten... Sue caught seal pox from him!

As always I would like to thank everyone who continues to support our charity, all our members and hard working volunteers. We have been left a generous legacy by Mr Frederick Grove Murrell which will go a long way helping our hospital appeal.

We also are immensely grateful to Hilary our volunteer who manages to put our newsletters together despite enduring ongoing breast cancer treatments.

With very best wishes and deepest gratitude to all who support our achievements and ambitions.

Sue Schwar

Sue Schwar
Charity Founder



Two of our fox cubs meet Basil Brush, a distant relative, during an appearance on Blue Peter. Another educational opportunity.

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