



James Blonde's top wildlife tips !

Us hedgehogs don't hang around in winter as our food supply of insects has disappeared , so we find a nice quiet dry place under a log pile or shed where we build a special nest called a hibernaculum and go into a deep sleep called hibernation. If undisturbed we will be relatively safe until the spring so please leave us some undisturbed habitat and don't rake up all your dry leaves as they make very good nesting material. As hibernating uses up all our body fat to keep us going without food it is very important we gain enough weight before the winter sets in. Sadly some hedgehogs are born late in the autumn, and will never weigh the minimum 600grs to survive hibernation. The lucky ones that are found are cared for at places like our hospital, we will cost as much as £100 each to look after through the winter! It is worth bearing in mind that us hogs are very strictly nocturnal . If you ever see us out during the day, please help, we are in deep trouble and need to get to the hospital urgently.

So whats next for the SEWH ?

• New hospital build

Time to get REALLY excited, we hope to announce the official opening date of our new development and its purpose built facilities.

• More top tips from James Blonde

The do's and donts of orphan baby bird care from our resident secret agent.

• More patient stories

A few stories of some of our more fortunate casualties and other patients brought into our care from the 10,000 we receive each year.

• Smile for the camera

Film maker Mat Thompson explains his passion for wildlife and the epic project of bravely (and voluntarily!) documenting our activities and progress.

Contacting us & further info

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Answers to; wildlife; did you know (Page 3)

Q1: The Short Eared Owl.
Q2: 5400 species and is the 3rd largest group.
Q3: Adder-Grease Snake-Smooth Snake-Slow Worm-Common Lizard-Sand Lizard
Q4:Hedgehogs-Door Mice-Bats

Dedicated to putting **“wild life”**
back into the

Gobble Gobble !

A lucky Turkey managed to escape the christmas dinner table and found its way to refuge with us on Christmas eve.



The wounded bird was found on the A12 and brought to us for treatment. The friendly chap is now making a good recovery.

Hopping again



This poor toad was rushed to the hospital by a lady who had trapped the interloper in a door jamb. The examination revealed two broken legs but after a few weeks of care he surprisingly recovered from his injuries and was returned to his pond.

Winter 2009/10

South Essex Wildlife Hospital



Newsletter this issue features

Vive la différence P.1

A man made home P.2

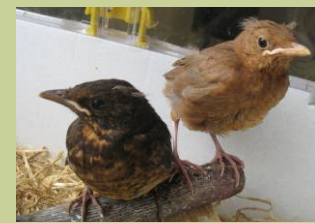
As seen on TV P.3

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Vive la différence

Many of our patients are referred to us from local veterinary surgeries. One creature we had never seen before was a fledgling 'ginger' blackbird which came from Wylies vets in Upminster.



This striking little chap was

fussed over until his eventual release. pictured here with a "normal" coloured young bird.

Given the run around

Despite a badly injured front leg this young fox still gave his rescuer the run around until he was eventually cornered under an abattoir waste trailer - a very unpleasant rescue for our vegetarian volunteer.



Onward and upward for the new hospital !

Does anyone out there remember our last update? I know it has been a while but that certainly doesn't mean nothing has been happening! Just to jog the grey cells, I know mine frequently need a shake up, a quick re-cap: We are receiving as many as 10,000 animals per year, everything from seals to slow worms. All our students passed their exams with our help and training, and we have been honoured with Charity of the Year Awards from The British Veterinary Nursing Association and Thurrock Business Awards. But there was one other small event. We were at long last been given the go-ahead by the planning department at Thames Gateway for our new hospital! Aided by the recommendation of some key credible experts, MP's and local councillors and a petition of over 26,000 signatures supporting our project 4 years of hard work had at last paid off. So, everyone has been asking "what has happened since?" After putting the building contact out to tender, it took a long time to find the right company who could complete the occurrence so

the project to a high standard within our very tight budget. Of course the recession only made things worse as much of the funding was coming from the sale of my house, the price of which had dropped unlike the price of the building materials. Long after distributing several sets of plans to various companies, some of whom quoted double our budget, we eventually had a meeting with W. A. Hills who had been working just across the road re-building the Orsett Hall after it was sadly burnt to the ground. Peter the contracts manager at Hills did his best to stick to our budget however; it still went over our limit. Yet again my parents agreed to bail us out as our current facility is owned by them and we have more than outstayed our welcome by about 12 years, they are keen to see us move on after giving us the land to build on! The diggers appeared very soon and behold, a building site emerged!

Dedicated to putting **“wild life”**
back into the

A Man Made Home



Collaboration with the Badger group resulted in 7 young badgers being reared at our hospital and rehabilitated into a new artificially built sett organised by Frank Last the chairman of the local Badger group. Our volunteer Michelle did the hard work on the 3 youngest cubs whom she reared from only a few days old. They were soon joined by 4 more and quickly developed into a tribe of furry monsters. Once old enough they were transferred into their new home.



SEWH are very grateful to Russell the land owner for building the sett. The release was also covered on video by producer Mat Thompson and will soon be available through our website.



Gathering the troops for feeding time!

We have dealt with over 1000 hedgehogs this year and we will be over Wintering over 200. In the Spring time we will be looking for release sites. If you can help please contact us.

Nigel the Site Manager was given strict instructions that no wildlife was to be hurt during operations. He has to date rescued a pigeon, a rabbit, a vole and some snails. Nigel even taxied a stray racing pigeon back home to Ipswich from us to its owner on his way home. Weather permitting; the building started in September is due to be completed in February! The only unpleasant occurrence so far was a visit from some bandits one night who wanted to help themselves to one of the JCB's. They obviously hadn't realised I was sleeping in a caravan (my new home!) next to the site. I have become accustomed to being woken at 7am by the rumbling of plant machinery but instantly knew this was not our ground workers so ran

Out, in my underwear grabbing a coat and my mobile phone. The suspects must have seen me coming and made off in a stolen 4X4 vehicle across the field. I was only worried they may have scared our "homing herons" who roost on the fence there. The bandits returned 5 weeks later. Their attempt to steal a mini digger failed when it sunk in the mud of the farmer's ploughed field.



for our sick, injured and orphaned wildlife by raising the funds for the hospital building, although there is still more work ahead to fund the outbuildings and

fund the outbuildings and new equipment we need. We have compiled a "Wish List" of immediate needs and would like to appeal to everyone to consider giving whatever support you can. It has been a fantastic achievement to get this far and we are so grateful to everyone who has helped us to look forward to such an exciting future. The task of funding new equipment and animal rehabilitation accommodation is now top of our priority list and we are all so excited about the big 'move' into our new home having having a classroom/meeting room, three wards instead of one, operating theatre, prep room and a proper reception area will be such a luxury!



It does seem at last our dreams are finally coming true and obviously would not have done so without the support of everyone who has contributed to keeping our charity functioning. We are so grateful for all the donations and fundraising events people have honoured us with. I don't know what we would do without you all, well I do but the thought doesn't bare thinking

thinking about ! I would also like to thank all our fabulous volunteers and students who ease my workload by cleaning up after our patients.



We have a fabulous bunch of "workers" who give up their time regardless of the weather and perform what is often a pretty unpleasant The task of funding new

job for some frequently ungrateful clients; we all have the scars to prove it!



Sue Schwar
Charity Founder

British Wildlife - Did you know ?

Answers can be found on the back page

Q: The Tawny Owl is the commonest resident UK owl. Which is the rarest?

Q: Beetles are the largest group of insects in the world with a massive 350 000 species. How many are found here in the UK?

Q: There are 6 species of British reptile. Can you name them ?

Q: Three types of British mammal hibernate for the winter, but which ones?



As seen on TV ! Muntjac success

Rearing 3 baby muntjac deer was fun but very time consuming...



Fi Fi (Whos rescue was covered on animal 24/7) Lou Lou and Willy have stayed with us in our Deer paddock. They were bottle fed but have now reverted to a wild nature after their release into the paddock.



Above : Muntjacs are very good at jumping ! At least Fi Fi is helping herself to Sues peas and not her M&M's.

A Sticky End

We have had several dreadful incidents of baby birds being stuck fast to sticky mouse traps. We would very much like to see these nasty contraptions banned.

