

Introduction to Bat Care

Bridget Parslow



The bat care process

- A call comes in
- The finder is given advice:
 - Use a tea towel or similar to pick it up
 - Put it in a closed box with air holes and a small dish of water with tissue in it
- An ambulance driver is asked to collect the bat and deliver it to a suitable carer
- The carer will examine the bat and treat as necessary



Pitfalls

- The finder may be unable or unwilling to catch the bat
- They may not have a suitable container
- There may be some hours before the ambulance driver can hand the bat over to a carer



Therefore ...

Ambulance drivers should be prepared!

- have their rabies jabs
- carry a suitable container in their car
- carry and use gloves



Hand over

Be sure to pass on:

- Finders details, including whether they want feedback
- Information about where & how the bat was found
- The bat!



What does the carer do?

- Assess the bat
 - ID
 - Health
 - Life cycle stage (adult, juvenile, pregnant etc)
- Decide on treatment
- Deliver treatment or take bat to a more suitable carer/vet
- Keep records



Recording forms

- These are available from Bat Care News
 - [Bat rescue register](#)
 - [Examination procedure](#)
 - [Examination record](#)
- Other formats are also fine!



WHAT IT TAKES TO BE A WILDLIFE CARER ...

Qu



A wildlife carer is required & expected to be a ...



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Diagnostician * Physiotherapist
Psychologist * Veterinary nurse
First aid attendant * Dietician
Urologist * Mind reader * Faecal connoisseur
Wild animal handler * Animal behaviouralist
Ambulance driver * Grief counsellor for other carers
Gravedigger * Adviser
Superman * Insomniac



& be on call & on duty every day & night of the year

He/she must also have a thick hide, a bent sense of humour,
at least 6 arms & be fearless when handling wildlife & vets.



Qualifications/expectations

- Ambulance driver:
 - Flexible
 - Confident with people (and hopefully bats)
 - Car owner!
- Carer:
 - Time & space
 - Bat handling & ID skills
 - First aid skills



Initial Assessment

- Look but don't touch
 - Obvious injuries?
 - Even or lop sided?
 - Moving normally?
- If OK to handle, check
 - For hidden bleeding
 - Wings & tail (age as well as injury)
 - Ears, eyes, jaws & teeth
 - Gender & reproductive status
 - Parasite burden



Immediate Aid

- Fluid – water or rehydration fluid
- Dry safe place to hide (secure!)
- Veterinary appointment?



Causes of grounding

- Youth!
- Injury
 - cat attack
 - collision
 - baro-trauma
- Illness
 - starvation
 - infection



Special considerations

- Pregnant or lactating females
- Babies
- Pre-hibernation release



Janice Whittington



Treatable or untreatable?

- Breaks –
 - One wing or both? Upper or lower arm or fingers?
 - Legs, pelvis, spine
- Head injuries
- Exposed organs
- Crush injuries
- Babies
 - from what age can we raise them?
 - what about release?



Possible outcomes

- Release
- Natural Death
- Pts
- Long term captivity – is it right?



Feeding a captive bat

- Ensure the bat is warm & hydrated
- Introduce meal worm innards
- Then decapitated meal worms
- Finally try live mealies



- Care for your mealies properly!!



Photo credits

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