### 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 ...

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



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Physiotherapist Diagnostician Psychologist Veterinary nurse

First aid attendant Dietician

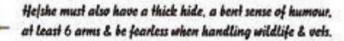
Mind reader Faecal commoisseur Urologist Wild animal handler Animal behaviouralist

Ambulance driver Grief counsellor for other carers

Gravediager Adviser

Superman Insomniae

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











# 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







### 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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