

2017

To what extent are veterinary practices prepared to treat wildlife patients? A cross-sectional study of perceptions of responsibility and capability of treating wildlife in UK veterinary practices

Barnes, E.

Barnes, E. (2016) 'To what extent are veterinary practices prepared to treat wildlife patients? A cross-sectional study of perceptions of responsibility and capability of treating wildlife in UK veterinary practices', The Plymouth Student Scientist, 10(1), p. 1-21.

<http://hdl.handle.net/10026.1/14137>

The Plymouth Student Scientist
University of Plymouth

All content in PEARL is protected by copyright law. Author manuscripts are made available in accordance with publisher policies. Please cite only the published version using the details provided on the item record or document. In the absence of an open licence (e.g. Creative Commons), permissions for further reuse of content should be sought from the publisher or author.

Appendix A. Invitation to participate in the questionnaire (cover letter)

**To what extent are veterinary practices
prepared to treat wildlife patients?**

Tell us about wildlife in veterinary practice

Win £50 Love2Shop™ High Street gift vouchers

Dear Colleague

I am a final year BSc Animal Conservation Science student at Plymouth University. For my dissertation I am exploring the perceptions of responsibility and capability of treating wildlife patients in UK veterinary practices. I really appreciate any help you can provide.

As representatives of your veterinary practice, I invite qualified veterinary surgeons or veterinary nurses (registered with the RCVS), to participate in this research by completing this online questionnaire.

The questionnaire should take no more than 10-15 minutes to complete. You will be asked both open and closed questions as an opportunity to share your views and experience of wildlife cases at your veterinary practice.

For full details about the survey and the prize draw, select the **'TAKE ME TO THE SURVEY'** button at the end of this message.

If you have any questions about the study, please contact my Project Supervisor, Dr Mark Farnworth on 01752584477 or email mark.farnworth@plymouth.ac.uk.

Many thanks,

Emily Barnes
RVN CertVNES

[TAKE ME TO THE SURVEY](#)

Please do not forward this email as its survey link is unique to you.
[Opt out](#) of receiving surveys from this sender

Powered by  **SurveyMonkey**

Appendix B. Questionnaire as designed on SurveyMonkey®. Each question appeared on a separate page



To what extent are veterinary practices prepared to treat wildlife patients?

Dear Colleague

I am a final year BSc Animal Conservation Science student at the University of Plymouth. For my dissertation I am exploring the perceptions of responsibility and capability of treating wildlife patients in UK veterinary practices. I really appreciate any help you can provide.

As representatives of your veterinary practice, I invite qualified veterinary surgeons or veterinary nurses (registered with the RCVS), to participate in this research by completing this online questionnaire.

This questionnaire should take no more than 10-15 minutes to complete. You will be asked both open and closed questions as an opportunity to share your views and experience of wildlife cases at your veterinary practice. Please only complete the survey once and by 17.01.16. You must be 18 or older to participate.

For the chance to win £50 in Love2Shop™ High Street gift vouchers, please follow the instructions at the end of the survey.

If you have any questions about the study, please contact my Project Supervisor, Dr Mark Farnworth on 01752584477 or email mark.farnworth@plymouth.ac.uk

Many thanks,

Emily Barnes
RVN CertVNES

Consent Agreement: Please read the following before continuing: Your answers will be handled anonymously and your name will not be recorded with your data. All results will be aggregated and reported as totals or averages. Individual responses will not be identifiable. You have the right to decline answering any of the questions or to withdraw from the experiment altogether, without penalty. In which case, your data will be destroyed and will not be included in the analyses of participant data or included in the results. At the end of the survey you will find information that you can use to contact me with any questions you might have. If you want to stop completing the survey at any point, you can simply close the browser window. You will not be penalised in any way for doing so. If you are happy to continue, then please select the appropriate option below. Thank you for taking part.

Please select one of these options:

- ☐ I have read the study information and give my informed consent to continue
- ☐ I do not wish to continue

To what extent are veterinary practices prepared to treat wildlife patients?

What is your role at your veterinary practice?

- ☐ Veterinary Surgeon
- ☐ Veterinary Nurse

To what extent are veterinary practices prepared to treat wildlife patients?

What type of practice do you work in?

- ☐ First Opinion
- ☐ Referral
- ☐ After-hours emergency
- ☐ Combination of 2 or more of the above

To what extent are veterinary practices prepared to treat wildlife patients?

What is your practice categorised as?

- ☐ Large Animal
- ☐ Mixed Animal
- ☐ Small Animal
- ☐ Other (please specify)

To what extent are veterinary practices prepared to treat wildlife patients?

Which statement best describes the location of your practice?

- ☐ Urban
- ☐ Semi-urban
- ☐ Rural
- ☐ Semi-rural

To what extent are veterinary practices prepared to treat wildlife patients?

How many vets & nurses work in your practice? (Please enter figures)

Vets

Nurses

To what extent are veterinary practices prepared to treat wildlife patients?

Is your practice privately or corporately owned?

- ☐ Private
- ☐ Corporate

To what extent are veterinary practices prepared to treat wildlife patients?

Approximately how long has your practice been established?

- ☐ Over 21 years
- ☐ Between 10-20 years
- ☐ Between 4-9 years
- ☐ Between 1-4 years
- ☐ Under 1 year

To what extent are veterinary practices prepared to treat wildlife patients?

Who presents wildlife casualties to your practice? (Please select all that apply)

- ☐ The general public
- ☐ Local authorities
- ☐ Wildlife charities
- ☐ Other (please specify)

To what extent are veterinary practices prepared to treat wildlife patients?

Approximately how many wildlife cases have been brought to your attention at your practice within the last year? If zero (0) leave blank

	Enquiries	Treated
Garden birds (including pigeons)	<input type="text"/>	<input type="text"/>
Birds of prey (e.g. hawks, eagles, falcons & owls)	<input type="text"/>	<input type="text"/>
Seabirds (e.g. gulls, gannets & petrels)	<input type="text"/>	<input type="text"/>
Game birds (e.g. pheasants & grouse)	<input type="text"/>	<input type="text"/>
Waterfowl (e.g. ducks, swans, geese & waders)	<input type="text"/>	<input type="text"/>
Wild rabbits & hares	<input type="text"/>	<input type="text"/>
Bats	<input type="text"/>	<input type="text"/>
Red Squirrels	<input type="text"/>	<input type="text"/>
Grey Squirrels	<input type="text"/>	<input type="text"/>
Hedgehogs	<input type="text"/>	<input type="text"/>
Foxes	<input type="text"/>	<input type="text"/>
Badgers	<input type="text"/>	<input type="text"/>
Wild snakes (e.g. adders & grass snakes)	<input type="text"/>	<input type="text"/>
Deer	<input type="text"/>	<input type="text"/>
Otters	<input type="text"/>	<input type="text"/>
Seals	<input type="text"/>	<input type="text"/>

Other, please describe & how many?

To what extent are veterinary practices prepared to treat wildlife patients?

Please provide an indication of your general wildlife caseload by selecting which statement applies (please select one box in each row)

	Often	Sometimes	Rarely	Never
Injuries from predators (e.g. cat/dog attacks)	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>
Blunt trauma (e.g. falling from a tree)	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>
Collision accidents (e.g. road traffic accidents, window strikes, boat strikes)	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>
Shot injuries	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>
Orphaned	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>
Accidental abduction	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>
Ingestion of debris (e.g. fishing tackle or other)	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>
Entanglements (e.g. wire and other ligature injuries)	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>
Seasonal/environmental causes (e.g. food shortage, flooding, prolonged cold spell)	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>
Infectious disease (e.g. parasitic, bacterial, viral)	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>

Other (please specify)

To what extent are veterinary practices prepared to treat wildlife patients?

Do members of the public make enquiries to your practice about wildlife casualties before calling wildlife charities?

- ☐ Often
- ☐ Sometimes
- ☐ Rarely
- ☐ Never
- ☐ Don't know

To what extent are veterinary practices prepared to treat wildlife patients?

Does your practice have an allocated budget to allow medical treatment of wildlife patients?

- ☐ Yes
- ☐ No
- ☐ Don't know

To what extent are veterinary practices prepared to treat wildlife patients?

Does your practice have the facilities to hold wild animals temporarily?

- ☐ No
- ☐ Yes – only very few or very specific
- ☐ Yes - most small animals
- ☐ Yes – most large animals
- ☐ Yes –most large and small animals
- ☐ Don't know

To what extent are veterinary practices prepared to treat wildlife patients?

How would you rate knowledge within the practice about British wildlife within the following categories:

	Very limited	Limited	Average	Good	Excellent	Don't know
Birds	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>
Reptiles & Amphibians	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>
Mammals	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>
Aquatic/Marine	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>

To what extent are veterinary practices prepared to treat wildlife patients?

What are the main restrictions when treating wildlife at your practice? (Please select all that apply)

- ☐ No enquiries/cases
- ☐ Money/expense
- ☐ Time
- ☐ Facilities/equipment
- ☐ The need for permission from the practice owner
- ☐ Knowledge/skills
- ☐ Comfort level with restraint (either you, your team members, or both)
- ☐ Interest
- ☐ Uncertainty about British wildlife law/policies
- ☐ Other (please specify)

To what extent are veterinary practices prepared to treat wildlife patients?

Has your practice formulated any standard operating procedures (SOPs) that it uses, with regards to admitting and/or treating wildlife?

- ☐ Yes
- ☐ No
- ☐ Sometimes
- ☐ Don't know

To what extent are veterinary practices prepared to treat wildlife patients?

Is your practice aware of the names and contact details for the following; (Please select all that apply)

- ☐ Local wildlife rehabilitators (e.g. individuals)
- ☐ Local wildlife centres/hospitals (multi-species)
- ☐ National wildlife charities
- ☐ Species specific local wildlife charities
- ☐ Species specific national wildlife charities
- ☐ None of the above

To what extent are veterinary practices prepared to treat wildlife patients?

When euthanasia is not clearly indicated, is your practice willing to perform treatment beyond first aid and stabilisation before transferring to a wildlife organisation?

- ☐ Often
- ☐ Sometimes
- ☐ Rarely
- ☐ Never
- ☐ Don't know

To what extent are veterinary practices prepared to treat wildlife patients?

With reference to the previous question, what would this include? (Please select all that apply)

- ☐ Rehabilitation under 72hrs
- ☐ Rehabilitation over 72hrs
- ☐ Prescription medication
- ☐ Further diagnostics
- ☐ Surgical intervention
- ☐ Release
- ☐ Other (please specify)

To what extent are veterinary practices prepared to treat wildlife patients?

Does your practice report wildlife cases (other than notifiable ones) to wildlife education, research and/or information organisations? (e.g. Department for Environment Food & Rural Affairs (DEFRA), Veterinary Association for Wildlife Management (VAWM), The Veterinary Record, Game and Wildlife Conservation Trust (GWCT))

- ☐ Often
- ☐ Sometimes
- ☐ Rarely
- ☐ Never
- ☐ Don't know

To what extent are veterinary practices prepared to treat wildlife patients?

Overall, do you think your practice benefits from treating wildlife?

- ☐ Yes
- ☐ No
- ☐ Don't know

To what extent are veterinary practices prepared to treat wildlife patients?

In what way(s) does it benefit from treating wildlife?

To what extent are veterinary practices prepared to treat wildlife patients?

What are the disadvantages (if any) of treating wildlife at your practice?

To what extent are veterinary practices prepared to treat wildlife patients?

If you have any other comments about the issues/comments mentioned above, please use the space below

To what extent are veterinary practices prepared to treat wildlife patients?

Thank you for your time and participation in this research

This study will be logged as a final year project at Plymouth University's Library.

If you have any questions about the study, please contact my Project Supervisor, Dr Mark Farnworth on 01752584477 or email mark.farnworth@plymouth.ac.uk

This survey is completed anonymously. If however you would like to enter the prize draw to receive £50 in Love2shop™ high street vouchers and/or receive a copy of the research findings, please email

with your name and contact information.