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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.

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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.

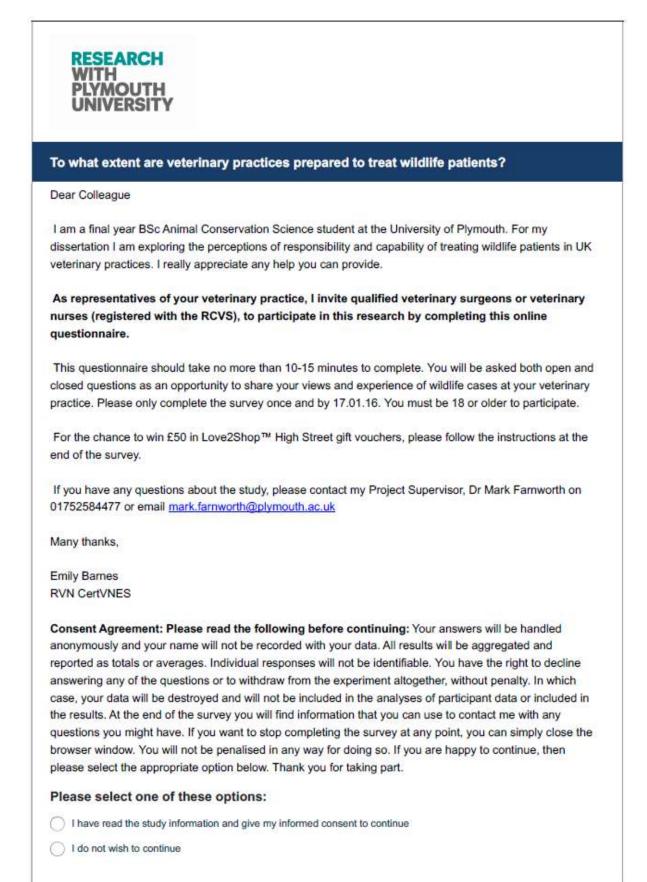
If you have any questions about the study, please contact my Project Supervisor, Dr Mark Farnworth on 01752584477 or email mark.farnworth@plymouth.ac.uk.

Many thanks,

Emily Barnes RVN CertVNES



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





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)



Which statement best describes the location of your practice?

0	Urban	

O 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?

O Private

Corporate



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 authories

Wildlife charities

Other (please specify)



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)	\$	\$
Birds of prey (e.g. hawks, eagles, falcons & owls)	\$	\$
Seabirds (e.g. gulls, gannets & petrels)	\$	\$
Game birds (e.g. pheasants & grouse)	\$	(
Waterfowl (e.g. ducks, swans, geese & waders)	\$	\$
Wild rabbits & hares	\$	\$
Bats	\$	\$
Red Squirrels	\$	\$
Grey Squirrels	\$	\$
Hedgehogs	((
Foxes	\$	
Badgers	\$	\$
Wild snakes (e.g. adders & grass snakes)	\$	\$
Deer	\$	(
Otters		(
Seals	\$	\$

Other, please describe & how many?



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)	0	0	0	0
Blunt trauma (e.g. falling from a tree)	0	\bigcirc	0	0
Collision accidents (e.g. road traffic accidents, window strikes, boat strikes)	\odot	0	\bigcirc	0
Shot injuries	\odot	0	0	\bigcirc
Orphaned	0	0	0	Ö
Accidental abduction	\odot	0	0	0
Ingestion of debris (e.g. fishing tackle or other)	\bigcirc	0	0	\bigcirc
Entanglements (e.g. wire and other ligature injuries)	0	0	0	0
Seasonal/environmental causes (e.g. food shortage, flooding, prolonged cold spell)	0	0	\bigcirc	0
Infectious disease (e.g. parasitic, bacterial, viral)	0	0	0	0
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?

0	Often

\sim	
0	Sometimes

- Rarely
- Never
- Don't know



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

O Yes

O No

20.00

O 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?

O No

Yes – only very few or very specific

Yes - most small animals

- Yes most large animals
- Yes –most large and small animals
- O Don't know



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	0	0	0	0	0	0
Reptiles & Amphibians	0	0	0	0	0	0
Mammals	\odot	\bigcirc	\bigcirc	0	\odot	0
Aquatic/Marine	0	0	0	0	0	0
RESEARCH WITH PLYMOUTH UNIVERSITY	,					

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)



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

6.	31
()	Yes

O No

Sometimes

O 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

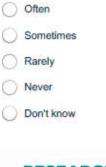
Species specific local wildlife charities

Species specific national wildlife charities

None of the above



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





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)



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))

0	Often
0	Sometimes
0	Rarely
0	Never
0	Don't know



How strongly do you agree or disagree with the following statements? (Please select one box in each row)

	Strongly Disagree	Disagree	Neither Agree or Disagree	Agree	Strongly Agree	Don't Know
a) All veterinary practices should have a role in wild animal welfare	0	0	0	0	0	0
 b) It is important to have knowledge about wildlife species local to the veterinary practice 	0	0	0	0	0	0
c) Our practice is aware of local wildlife officers and communicate with them regularly	0	0	0	0	0	0
d) The public expects veterinary practices to treat injured wildlife for free	0	0	0	0	0	\bigcirc
 e) There is reliable external support available (e.g. charities) to support the practice when it is presented with a wildlife case 	0	0	0	0	0	0
f) It is asking too much of the profession to invest time and/or funds in treating wildlife	0	0	0	0	0	0
g) Our practice is unsure what to do when a wildlife case is presented	0	0	0	\odot	0	\odot
 h) Vet practices play an important role in wildlife disease surveillance 	0	0	0	0	0	0
 We are unable to respond to wildlife casualties that are not brought in directly to the practice 	0	\odot	0	0	0	\bigcirc
 j) Not much information is available on the outcomes of wildlife rehabilitation cases 	0	0	0	0	0	0
 k) Vet practices should share their experience of wildlife patients within the veterinary community 	0	0	0	0	0	0
 Euthanasia is the most common treatment given to wildlife presented to our veterinary practice 	0	0	0	0	0	0



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

O Yes

() No

O 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?



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.