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Our Followers

- Friends 508
- Twitter 158

Wildlife and Cattery YTD figures

YTD Wildlife/Exotic admitted	4692
YTD (Domestics in Wildlife)	297
YTD Wildlife Released	1530
YTD Wildlife In-house	497
TYD Cats Admitted	313
YTD Cats Rehomed	245
YTD Cats Reclaimed	19

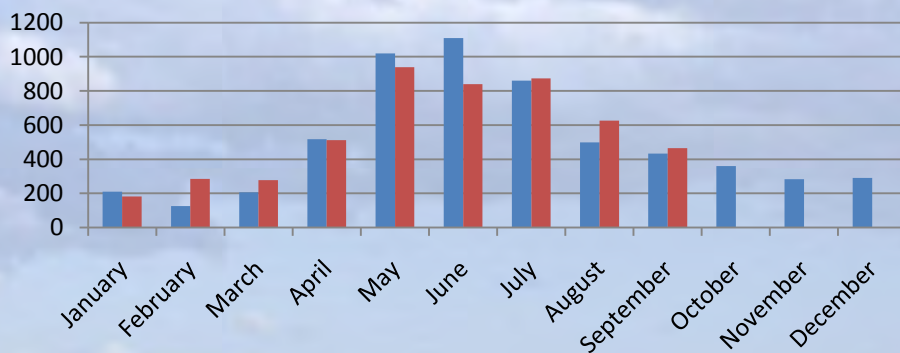
Artwork courtesy of S. Noden
 Anvil Consulting 01606 871122

Welcome – This year’s summer seems a distant memory now that the clocks have gone back and cold weather is upon us. It was once again an extremely busy summer at Stapeley, on par with 2010 admissions but I think we have come through it for another year now. Although we have 3 months to go in 2011 staff are already thinking forward to 2012 and how we can improve operationally. A review at the end of the year with staff shall hopefully move us forward into the new year.

I was lucky enough to find the time to pop over to Malawi to look at my old projects, hence the delay in getting this newsletter out!! It was great to see both the **Lilongwe Wildlife Centre** and the **Lilongwe SPCA (an RSPCA International funded project)** moving forward. Always very humbling seeing how staff out there work; watching over a major dog operation with no power and using a light from a laptop and a small torch summed it all up really. **(Lee Stewart)**



Wildlife admissions (July – Sept.) - At the end of September 2011 Stapeley had received 4989 wild, exotic and domestic admissions, just 8 more than we had received by the end of Sept 2010. This turn around (from a relatively quieter May and June compared to 2010 figures) was largely due to an extremely busy August, see below. Whilst wood pigeons, hedgehogs, house martins and blackbirds were up on last year’s figures during the same period, mallard ducks, house sparrows and pipistrelle bats were down. There was also a noticeable decline of orphaned polecats, with only 5 orphans being admitted compared to 20 last year.



Stapeley capital projects- After a busy year with 5 new fox pens, a revamped orphan care room, 4 case birds aviaries and the netting of Pool 1 we are now looking forward to 2012. One project remains a priority above everything else – a pre-release flight assessment aviary for raptors .

A new raptor aviary will allow staff to assess birds of prey prior to their release. A recent build at East Winch, an RSPCA Wildlife Centre in Norfolk, has proven hugely successful. It is even big enough to hold fundraising functions in!!



Abi Beeby

Harper Adams University College –

Over the past few years Stapeley has worked hard on developing partnerships with a number of local Universities, a partnership that firstly provides additional support to staff, particularly during the busy summer months and that offers students with a unique and exciting placement opportunity. Stapeley now offers 4x 44 week placements for students at Harper Adams on the Animal Behaviour and Welfare course. Current students Lucy and Katie had this to say:

“I have always wanted to work for the RSPCA but had never considered wildlife until I was inspired in taking the Wildlife Care module which involved working at Stapeley. I am really enjoying learning the skills needed to become a Wildlife rehabilitator”

Lucy Clark



Harper Adams
University College

“There is a wide variety of species coming in which means I am gaining experience with many species. I am enjoying my time here and learning the skills needed to care for British Wildlife” Katie Woolley

Wildlife Stories - Welsh Red Kite Trust

On the 27th August Stapeley received a stunning Red Kite, brought in by Insp. Dunbar. The Kite had been picked up as a suspected road traffic accident; it was found on the A 542 just 2 miles from Llangollen and taken to a local vets. The vet examined the bird and took x-rays but luckily the Kite had no fractures or other major injuries and was swiftly transferred to us for further rehabilitation.



Debbie Hunter

On admission the Kite was examined further by staff; it was a juvenile that had been given a wing tag. On contacting the BTO we found that the Kite was one of two juvenile birds tagged by a member of the Welsh Red Kite Trust, on the 2/7/2011 from a secure site near Bishops castle, in Shropshire.

The Kite was in good health but was a little under weight so needed rest and feeding up. After several days of care the Kite was released at a private site in Wales, where it could be monitored by the land owner. **(Rob Scrivens)**



Lynn Haywood – day of release

Hedgehog attacked by a Staffordshire Bull Terrier -

In September Stapeley admitted a hedgehog that had been badly bitten by a dog. There were serious multiple fresh wounds over the body but the main concern of staff were his hind limbs.

Staff, at the time, considered putting the hedgehog to sleep but it was agreed by all that we should give him a chance. All his wounds were cleaned and flushed through. He was then put on a course of medication. Over the following few days things were not looking so good; he was not eating well and was not responding to treatment as staff had hoped. Staff however continued to bathe the wounds and monitor closely. After two weeks all the hard work began to pay off as he became more active and more interested in food. At the time of writing staff were still monitoring his progress closely but at least the end result for this little fellow was looking more promising. **(Maxine Bland)**



During 2011, 440 wild animals have been brought into Stapeley; cause of injury, cat or dog. Owners should consider the potential threats their cats and dogs have on wildlife. Owners must think twice before letting their dogs off their leads or letting cats out at dawn and dusk when birds are more at risk.

Cormorant tangled in fishing line and hanging from a tree.

Back in August, a strange call was received by a member of public saying that a cormorant required rescuing from a tree. An Inspector arrived on the scene to find a cormorant dangling from a branch by fishing line. On initial examination following the rescue it appeared there were only superficial wounds to its wings and no major breaks. However,

further X-rays back at Stapeley showed that there were 3 fishing hooks in the proventriculus (part of the stomach). The vet proceeded to open the bird up to remove the hooks. Following a successful extraction the cormorant was moved to isolation to recover. The next day the cormorant was standing but was very quiet and clearly uncomfortable due to his wing injuries. He was started on a course of antibiotics and tube fed over the proceeding days (no whole fish were allowed for the first few days).

All seemed to be going well and then one morning staff discovered he had died overnight. Post mortem results showed a breakdown of the wound in his stomach and an aspergillus infection in his lungs. He was only with us 7 days but staff were already hopeful that he would make a full recovery. **(Maxine Bland)**



During 2011 Stapeley received over 50 waterfowl cases, primarily swans, brought in because of fishing related injuries i.e. fishing line or hooks. Anglers need to consider the consequences of leaving hooks and line in the environment for waterfowl to pick up.

Gannet Rescues - Two further gannet rescues, both involving fishing lines typifies the lengths RSPCA staff will go to save wildlife, domestic and farm animals.

Insp. Geoff Edmonds - On Wednesday 22nd June I received a report of a Gannet hanging by fishing line from its nest about 50 – 100 ft down a sheer 400ft cliff at the RSPB reserve at Bempton Cliffs, East Yorkshire.

On arrival I could see the bird hanging by its beak from fishing line/rope which had been used as part of the nesting material. The bird was still alive. Due to nature of the terrain it

@RSPCAStapeley



was obvious that the North Region Rope Rescue team were needed. So the call was made. The team led by Inspector Trevor Walker and assisted by Inspector Tony Jackman and ACO Dave Dawson arrived at about 1840 hours. Several hours later and on their second attempt the team hauled the frightened bird over the cliff top edge...result!!

The bird was taken to the vets the next morning and cleared for immediate release, the perfect outcome for all involved.

Amazingly a month later on the 19th July I received another call that a Gannet was suspended by line from a nest in a similar location at the RSPB Reserve at Bempton, within the main Gannet breeding areas where up to 3500 individuals hang out. This time I could see that the bird was hanging upside down by fishing line and overhanging into another Gannet nest.



Insp. Geoff Edmonds

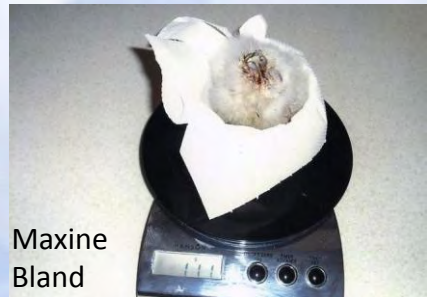
Unfortunately this bird had also dragged its chick out of the nest; it had already become entangled by line and had died. This rescue was conducted by the same Rope Rescue Team and the local Coastguard Cliff Rescue team. The bird was becoming increasingly

distressed as we all watched on; it was being attacked by the Gannet in the nest below to make matters worse. Blood could clearly be seen on the bird. After several hours the bird was brought to the surface of the cliff; he was remarkably bright and lively but with many puncture wounds to its wing. It was kept overnight and then taken to a local vet for examination before being transferred to Stapeley Grange for a good clean up, course of antibiotics and some rest. A month later, I collected the bird myself and released it back at Bempton where it glided successfully off the cliff.

Totally awesome to watch such releases, especially when so much has gone into their return. The two rescues were remarkable, dangerous and with a high risk factor but proved that specialist teams can produce the right end result for the animals concerned. Both cases are fantastic examples of how the Inspectorate, local vets and wildlife centres work together for the welfare of a single animal. **(Insp. Geoff Edmonds)**

Centre receives high number of Tawny owl chicks this year

- In the wild Tawny Owl chicks stay with their parents for 3 months after fledging and generally will not disperse until the end of summer. Our young owls are moved from the hospital to aviaries as soon as they are feeding by themselves to avoid imprinting. They will then spend 2 to 3 months in our aviaries until they are old enough for release. As rehabilitators we need to make sure they are old enough to fend for themselves before releasing. Past radio tracking studies have proven that the birds will survive with a hard release, if done at the right age.



Maxine Bland

We had a total of 28 tawny owls for release this year and we found suitable sites for them all. Each bird was BTO ringed before release. We only take a small number of owls to each site to avoid too much competition for food. All Owls in the wild find their first winter very hard and many will not make the following spring.

We have done all we can for 2011 owls, let's Hope this winter isn't as harsh as The last one! **(Maxine Bland)**



Maxine Bland

Education @ Stapeley

The future of UK wildlife and environmental conservation shall ultimately depend upon the passion, enthusiasm and knowledge of our younger generations. It will be these generations that will control the future of this Nation's Wildlife. The Centre can therefore ill afford to miss the opportunity of moulding future generations of wildlife enthusiasts and environmental activists in the immediate area.

Stapeley Grange is in a unique position of being able to provide an educational resource to local schools, church and scout/guide groups and the general Public. It is important that the local community appreciate the work of the RSPCA wildlife programme and the activities of the inspectorate and the centre with regards its rescuing, rehabilitating and releasing back to the wild, of the regions wildlife. Due to financial constraints over the past 10 years the education facilities at Stapeley, our discovery room and small education garden, have remained unused.

The Centre is excited to announce that CJ Wildlife <http://birdfood.co.uk> have agreed to kick start a new education programme in 2012. CJ Wildlife offer a wide variety of high-quality products to help people attract, feed, identify and care for wild birds, along with a broad selection of other garden wildlife. The ornithologists and wildlife advisors at CJs carry out research projects along with leading wildlife experts to ensure they are continually producing not only high-quality products, but products designed specifically for the wildlife they are intended for.

Any education programme at Stapeley will not effect the animals in our care; our injured and orphaned animals will always come first. This is not to say however that the Centre will not be able to create a unique experience for our visitors, it will. How? By creating innovative and exciting visitor programmes using modern technology, including CCTV cameras that will link into the hospital and by providing passionate and well trained educators.



We are hoping to have the new programme up and running by September 2012 in line with the new school new year. The long term survival of the programme shall depend ultimately upon the support of the local communities as the small fees charged for visiting Stapeley will be used to run the programme independently from the running of the wildlife hospital and cattery.

Interested parties can receive ½ day visits that cover a number of topics including animal rehabilitation, animal welfare, domestic animal care, farm animal welfare and environmental issues. Tailor made visits can also be arranged.

Groups wishing to visit should contact Stapeley via e-mail: lstewart@rspca.org.uk or by calling us: 0300 123 0722.



Any education programme at Stapeley would be further enhanced with funding that could help develop a currently idle paddock, adjacent to the Cattery. Currently this site is used once a year to hold a dog show. The overall experience at Stapeley, as an educational and recreational facility, would be greatly improved by the reforestation of this area, using native woodland tree species. In essence we would like to create an adventure that would immerse visitors into a truly wild experience.

Interested in volunteering with the education team contact gwildman@rspca.org.uk

Fundraising News - Under the current economic climate the Society is having to rely more and more on the efforts of individuals and groups and all the various fundraising efforts. The Stapeley team would like to thank everyone who has committed to supporting our work in this way.

Freedom Run - Insp. Emma Timmis set out on 9th October on one hell of a fundraising challenge; to be the first woman to run the freedom trail in South Africa. 1500 miles, on average 25 miles per day, over mountains, across deserts, through forests and lots of dust from Pietermaritzburg to Cape Town!! Emma can be followed via facebook <http://www.facebook.com/freedomrunning>

Day 3: Had a late start today as we had to fix a puncture on Leigh's bike. Ran through a gorgeous shady forest during the morning. By lunch, the temperature was 45 degrees!

Day 9: Had the most extreme week, hot/cold, exhausted/energetic, happy/frustrated, uphill/downhill.. This is by far the hardest thing I have ever done!

Day 14: Hopefully the hardest day of the run complete. Ran over the highest pass in South Africa - 2500m high (and then added another 100m after) and still managed to get 42km run. Absolutely exhausting but at the same time exhilarating!

Day 23: Bit of an eventful day. Firstly got my ankle squashed in a gin trap (didn't get hurt, thankfully) then ended up running a kilometre looking like a caveman with a 3ft stick in one hand and a rock in the other because a baboon decided he wanted to fight me!

Emma has currently raised close to £3000 for Stapeley but needs support to raise the £15 000.

<http://www.justgiving.com/emma-hoskins>

Or simply text EMMA50 followed by the amount eg £10 to 70070. 'Emma's amazing goals make my single London Marathon next year seem pretty pathetic in comparison!!' Lee Stewart

Vintage Cars - A further £222 was raised by the **South Cheshire Vintage Japanese Motorcycle Club** in September and presented to the Cattery by Will Barber, a keen supporter of our Cattery.



Wildlife Art Adventure – Following the success of the exhibition in Nantwich, Stapeley has decided to send the Art Adventure on tour. Although sales were not fantastic the main aim of the exhibition was exposure for Stapeley Grange and the other UK and Overseas projects involved. With over 6000 visitors I think we at least achieved that.

The exhibition has now moved to **Weaver Hall Museum, Northwich, CW9 8AB. 18th October 2011 - 22nd January 2012.**
Opening Hours: Tuesday - Friday 10am-5pm; Saturday-Sunday 2-5pm; Mondays in School holiday + Bank Holidays 10am - 5pm

Note: A % of the sales of every painting will be given to Stapeley Grange and the artist's chosen charity.

Flickr: <http://bit.ly/uDpapu>

The Wright Walleys Walk – It must have been the company as it never felt like 7 ½ miles. Or maybe it was the half way pub stop!! A great day for all involved and at the end Sue and Ann had managed to raise an amazing £1160..**THANK YOU**

Hankelow Fair– Their summer fete was unfortunately hampered by extremely windy and wet weather. None-the-less Mrs. Val Morrey and the Amenities Group managed to **raise £250 for Stapeley Grange. THANK YOU to all those involved on the day who helped to raise the amount they did.**

Fundraising raffle

Prizes on offer:

UK Hot Tub weekend away for 4

2012 Wimbledon Tickets (x2)

Derren Brown Tickets (x2)

1 month gym memberships (x2)

Trentham Monkey Forest Tickets (x5)

Paint Balling Tickets (x10 sets)

Wine and Champagne hamper

£50 Jewellery Voucher

Binoculars

Gulliver's Theme Park (family pass)

Family Photo Session, Body Massage

'A Breed Apart' Dog Ornament

'Hot Dogs' Hottie Pillow, Radio Presenter

Spa day voucher (Rookery Hall – x2)

Tickets cost £2 each or 3 for £5

Interested in selling books or purchasing

Contact lstewart@rspca.org.uk

Raffle will be drawn 20th January 2012

With Thanks too:

Nantwich Travel info@nantwichtravel.com

Rookery Hall Hotel

Gulliver's Theme Parks

Magnaloux Optics, Cat Radio,

Gemmelese Photography

Hollins and Hollinshead Jewellers



TRENTHAM

Some important things to remember this Autumn

Fireworks – all animals can suffer from the noise created by fireworks. Join a local event rather than organising your own.

Bonfires – make sure there are no animals like hedgehogs hiding in your newly erected bonfire. Organise your pile of wood on the night to avoid any problems.

Hibernating bats – in autumn bats seek out places to hibernate which include roof spaces in houses. Remember it is against the law to disturb or harm bats so learn to live with them.

Deer on the road – there are more accidents involving deer during the breeding season. Drive carefully at all times and look out for 'deer crossing' warning signs.

Hedgehog juveniles - If you find a hedgehog out in the day give the RSPCA a call. National Call Centre 0300 123 4999



RSPCA Stapeley Grange
Wildlife Centre, Nantwich

GET INVOLVED!

FUNDRAISING EVENTS WITH 

If you are interested in raising funds for the RSPCA, we have spaces available on the following events:

2012 Liverpool ½ Marathon
18th March (2 places)

2012 Liverpool Marathon
14th October (2 places)

2012 MBNA Chester Marathon
7th October (2 places)

For more information please contact:

Lee Stewart

lstewart@rspca.org.uk

Tel: 0300 123 0722



Volunteers @ the Cattery – ‘We just could not do what we do without our volunteers, they are incredible’
Joyce Mellor (Deputy Manager)

Lee and Laura are two of our regular Sunday volunteers. They also repair the scratch posts used in the Cattery and make fantastic new ones for us to sell in the Cattery shop. The posts are beautifully crafted, one-off designs. Cats love them just as much as their owners do. Lee and Laura don't charge us for their work and we're really grateful for everything they do.

Our fabulous Cattery Volunteers have given us over 8,000 hours of work in the Cattery since January, not to mention fostering and Home Visiting. We certainly couldn't run the Cattery without their support.

We've had 11 new volunteers joining us this year, including admin support and can always do with more, particularly to help with socialising the cats.



We received a lovely card from Helen who was with us during August. ‘‘You all made me feel so welcome and it's been great working in your Team. It's made me realise just how much I want to go forward with my Veterinary nursing. The cats are lovely, you all do such a fantastic job. It's been a fortnight of my life I'll never forget. We're delighted that Helen has now joined us as a regular Volunteer.

And then there is our Elaine who has been a volunteer for over 12 years. During that time she's developed quite a reputation for sourcing cat bedding and is our leading supplier of ping pong balls (and cakes for us all!). Elaine is also our Cat Manicurist par excellence!

Incoming vets: Veterinary Surgeon, Ian, joined Stapeley in July 2011. He obtained his qualifications at Liverpool University and has a particular interest in exotic and wild animal medicine. Having already worked in America, South Africa and Australia, he is passionate about conservation work and hopes to do more in the future, protecting endangered species. Ian told us: ‘I enjoy working here –the RSPCA is respected worldwide and there's a great team spirit here at Stapeley. The work is so varied too'. Off duty, Ian plays football, squash and rugby and will shortly be appearing with the Tarporley Amateur Dramatic Society in ‘When we are married’ –looks like a good night out for us all.



Vicki Baldrey joined Stapeley in May 2011. She qualified from Liverpool Vet School in 2005 and completed her RCVS Certificate in Zoological Medicine in 2009. Vicki enjoys all aspects of exotic animal medicine but has a particular interest in avian medicine which she

was able to develop further during an internship at the Dubai Falcon Hospital last year. In her spare time Vicki enjoys kick boxing and running and has just signed up for the 4K Chester Santa Dash this December in aid of the Countess of Chester Hospital. Vicki told us: ‘I'm really enjoying the challenge of working with wildlife, especially in such an experienced and friendly team. It's great to be able to make a difference, however small'.



Interested in volunteering @ Stapeley
contact gwildman@rspca.org.uk