

ISLE OF WIGHT BAT HOSPITAL

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Isle of Wight Bat Hospital Report 2007

Yet another year flies by and means the Bat Hospital has been in operation for eleven years and is rapidly racing toward one thousand bats being rescued and cared for. The way in which 2008 has already started we should reach this number during April.

The refit that the Bat Hospital undertook in 2006 was a real blessing as 2007 saw us rescue more bats than any other year. We rescued in total 187 bats of which 144 were successfully released back to the wild, 8 remained in captivity, 24 were either dead on arrival or died a short time after being rescued and 11 bats have wintered over in the hospital and are still pending release. Putting these figures into percentages 77% were successfully released, 4% remained in captivity, 13% died or were dead on arrival and 6% are pending release.

We rescued 12 different species in 2007, comprising of 107 males, 80 females of which 86 were Babies/juveniles that were rescued and cared for. The Bat Hospital also rescued a single female European Savi-Pipistrelle from Cowes. The reason for the increase in the number of bats rescued and the dramatic rise in the number of baby/juveniles was due to the very poor weather conditions especially during June when we had so much rain. This is the most important time of the year for bats when babies are being born. This problem was not only experienced on the Isle of Wight but was a nationwide problem. We even had to assist a few people in France and Spain who had rescued bats and needed help and guidance. So all in all we had a very busy year.

Species	Amount
Pipistrelle's (common & Soprano)	148
Brown Long-eared	3
Grey Long-eared	6
Whiskered	2
Serotine	10
Natterer's	4
Bechsteins	2
Barbastelle	2
Daubentons	5
Nathusius Pipistrelle	4
Savi Pipistrelle	1

The Bat hospital continues to promote bats and educate people about bats and the law that protects bats by carrying out bat talks and by attending shows and fairs. In all, 60 talks and walks were carried out and 16 shows/fairs attended.

Due to European legislation England was forced to amend the laws that protect bats and where they roost. One dramatic change in these laws that affected the bat hospital was that anybody wishing to keep British bats in long term captivity for educational purposes has to obtain a special license to possess European protected species of bats. This meant that any one caring for a sick or injured bat, must at the end of a six month time period either release it back to the wild or pass it to a person who has a license to keep long term captive bats. The bat hospital applied for one of these licenses and thanks to two glowing reports from MP Andrew Turner and Dr. Colin Pope we were successfully granted a license to keep up to fifty long term bats. This license does not affect the amount of bats we are able to rescue but only applies to bats we are unable to release back to the wild. We feel it is so important to be able to show people live bats when we carry out bat talks and attend shows and fairs.

The busier the Bat Hospital becomes the more help we need and our sincere thanks go out to our hard working and dedicated voluntary long term helpers, Laura and Kerrie Joyce, Catherine Appleby, Laura Harvey, Jill and Dave Green and new helper Amber Fox. Special thanks go out to helpers Louise Forder and Alex Smith who also manage and update our website. We would also like to thank all helpers that have helped out at various times throughout the year. Without their continued support and help the Bat Hospital would not be in the position to help as many bats as we do.

The Isle of Wight Bat Hospital are still very lucky to have the continued help and support of vet Dr Ian Green of Green and Forster. Dr Green is always there to lend support and carry out the most delicate of operations to try and help these fascinating creatures. We are also thankful that Dr Green is passing on his expertise to other vets at the practise which means we have even a greater support. Our thanks also go out to the nurses and staff who are always understanding and sympathetic to special needs especially when most of our cases are emergencies and are at very short notice.

We would like to finally thank all of those people who have supported the bat hospital with donations and all of those people who have taken the time to rescue a bat. Bats are still classed as an endangered species and need our help constantly, for more information on how you can help bats and what to do if you find a bat please go to our website www.iowbathospital.org.uk