



## ISLE OF WIGHT BAT HOSPITAL

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### Isle of Wight Bat Hospital Report 2008

Well another year running the Bat Hospital has come and gone which means we have been in operation for twelve years and has seen us pass one thousand bat rescues; in fact our grand total is now over eleven hundred bats rescued and cared for in this time.

We rescued in total 138 bats in 2008 of which 97 were successfully released back to the wild, 11 remained in captivity, 20 died a short time after being rescued and 10 bats have wintered over in the hospital and are still pending release. Putting these figures into percentages 70% were successfully released, 8% remained in captivity, 15% died and 7% are pending release. We also attended another 9 bat calls which unfortunately all were dead on arrival and are not recorded within the 138 bats rescued.

We rescued 12 different species in 2008, comprising of 82 males, 56 females of which 22 were Babies/juveniles that were rescued and cared for. Within these rescues was our second European Kuhls Pipistrelle from Carisbrooke and our very first Greater Horseshoe bat. The Greater Horseshoe bat was found hanging to a pipe on the outside of a hotel wall in Freshwater bay. This bat was rescued early in the year and was possibly just out of hibernation and very weak; she had previously been netted and ringed in a Greater Horseshoe survey in Purbeck, Dorset three years earlier. We have again assisted people in France and Spain who had rescued bats that needed help and guidance and also taken in and cared for bats from the mainland.

Species	Amount
Pipistrelle's (common& Soprano)	102
Brown Long-eared	13
Grey Long-eared	2
Whiskered	11
Serotine	3
Natterer's	1
Barbastelle	1
Daubentons	2
Nathusius Pipistrelle	1
Kuhls Pipistrelle	1
Greater Horseshoe	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 12 shows/fairs attended.

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, Tracy Hawkins and Jill Green. Louise Forder and Alex Smith still manage and update our website and help at shows despite living on the mainland. We would also like to thank anyone else that has helped or supported the Bat Hospital throughout the year. With out their continued help and support, the Bat Hospital would not be in the position to successfully care for as many bats as we do now.

Unfortunately on a sad note the Bat Hospital has lost one of its longest reigning friend and supporter, when Jill Green's husband Dave suddenly passed away in October 2008. Dave was always on hand to rescue bats, help with walks and shows etc; he will be sadly missed by us and especially the bats.

We at the Isle of Wight Bat Hospital are still very lucky to have the continued help and support of 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 the other vet nary surgeons at the practise which means we have an even a greater support. Our thanks also go out to the nurses and staff who are always understanding and sympathetic to our needs especially when most of our cases are emergencies and are at very short notice.

A grateful thanks goes out to Andrew Brozowski of West Island Printers for his support in the printing of our Bat Hospital brochures.

We would also like to thank anyone who have kindly supported the bat hospital with donations and the people who have taken the time to call us when a bat needs rescuing.

Bats are classified as an endangered species and constantly need our help, 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](http://www.iowbathospital.org.uk)