

Applying specialist veterinary expertise and experience to saving rare and endangered wildlife

Registered Charity No. 1109670

As part of our commitment to keeping costs down and to protecting endangered species and their habitats, this newsletter is printed in black and white on recycled paper.



TV vet spreads the word

Wildlife Vets International Patron, TV presenter and celebrity vet Steve Leonard, was on hand in April when WVI attended the world's largest companion animal veterinary conference. Kindly hosted by veterinary manufacturer Intervet UK, WVI were out in force to promote the charity to the veterinary profession and to launch a new fundraising scheme specifically aimed at veterinary practices.

The Veterinary Practice Supporter's Scheme is an easy way for vets in practice to help raise funds and

awareness about the veterinary care endangered animals urgently need.

Veterinary practices have been supplied with posters, leaflets, collections boxes and exclusive wildlife postcards to sell in

their waiting rooms. All the literature for the scheme was very generously designed and printed by Intervet UK.

Over 180 delegates expressed an interest in our charity – if you were one of them, thank you for your support.

If you have not received a supporter's kit and you would like one, please contact the WVI office and we'll get it straight out to you.

Tel: 01535 661298



Wildlife Vets International Patron Steve Leonard at BSAVA Congress 2006

Show your support

Previously only available to staff and celebrities (!), special Wildlife Vets International polo shirts are now available (as modelled by Steve Leonard above) allowing you to show your support. The navy polo shirts with embroidered WVI logo are available in S, M, L and XL and

are priced at £22 each, including UK postage and packing.

A new range of wildlife lapel badges are also available, for a recommended donation of £1 +40p P&P. Please specify your choice of parrot, leopard or frog.

Orders should be made through the WVI office.

Inside this issue:

Island bird conservation	2
Vietnam Primates	2
Wildlife Intervention	3
Online Fundraising for WVI	3
Ways to help WVI	4
Amur leopards in Russia	4

Health Screening of the Seychelles Paradise Flycatcher

The Seychelles Paradise Flycatcher *Terpsiphone corvine* is a critically endangered bird living on only one island in the Seychelles. Through the RCVS Trust, Wildlife Vets International has the funding to send veterinary surgeon, Andrew Greenwood, to the island. There, he will apply his experience of conserving endangered island bird populations, and will screen the birds for disease. This is the first stage of a much larger project hoping to translocate some of the birds onto restored island habitat, creating a second population.

Paradise Flycatcher numbers have declined, mainly due to habitat destruction making way for tourist and private development, and for coconut plantations. This



The Seychelles Paradise Flycatcher

species now faces an extremely high risk of extinction in the wild.

Our Health Screening Project will ensure that birds intended for translocation are healthy and do not pose a risk to other birds already living on Denis Island. It will also assess the health of birds occurring naturally on Denis Island, to detect any diseases that

may affect the introduced Flycatchers. The early involvement of a specialist veterinarian, with experience in conserving endemic island bird populations, is essential for the project's success. Without expert veterinary input and well-planned health screening, large numbers of this already rare bird could be lost through disease.

There are many other endangered animal projects that would benefit from expert veterinary assistance early on in their design. By making a donation or raising funds for WVI, you can help us send the right vet for the job, before it's too late.



“early involvement of a specialist veterinarian ... is essential for the project's success”

Safer anaesthesia for primates in Vietnam

Veterinary director, John Lewis made his first conservation visit of 2006 to the Endangered Primate Rescue Centre in Cuc Phuong National Park, Vietnam. Wildlife Vets International was approached by the Centre requesting a specially developed gas anaesthesia machine modified for use in field conditions without the need for compressed medical oxygen. This equipment, developed by WVI Veterinary Director John Lewis, represents a huge advance in the safety of anaesthesia for endangered wildlife. As Dr. Lewis explains “the ability to use

gas anaesthesia in the field, rather than injectable drugs, provides a much safer, more controllable method of examining, treating or transporting wildlife”.

The primates cared for by the Centre include some of the world's rarest monkeys such as Golden Headed and Delacour's langurs. Five of the world's most endangered primates live in Vietnam. Anaesthesia of leaf-eating monkeys is risky – in order to digest leaves, langurs have fermentative chambers in their digestive tracts, which can cause them to bloat when anaesthe-

tised. A rapid recovery is extremely important, both to prevent this life-threatening condition, and to ensure that the animals can be returned back to family groups quickly without undue delay.

Wildlife Vets International was able to donate an Iso-Air field kit and other anaesthesia equipment to the Centre, and Dr. Lewis spent a week there training field staff in its use. The support of Twycross Zoo, Mike Roberts, Smiths Medical and Kruse UK made Dr. Lewis' trip possible.

Wildlife Intervention Guidance, Indonesia

“Despite dealing with some of the world’s most endangered wildlife, guidelines are almost entirely absent”

Human intervention with wildlife is a frequent necessity for a number of reasons on the Indonesian Island of Sumatra. Wildlife may need to be handled or moved to resolve conflict, either due to the animals such as tigers or elephants interfering with people, their crops or animals, or to rescue wildlife illegally taken for the pet trade. Some animal handling is also necessary to learn more about ways in which we can protect the animals and their habitats for the future, in some cases by radiocollaring or disease profiling.

Despite having to deal with some of the world’s most endangered wildlife, informed guidelines on animal intervention are almost entirely absent.

Due to previous experience gained working in Sumatra

over the last 8 years, WVI Veterinary director, Dr. John Lewis, was asked to attend a 5-day workshop in Sumatra jointly organised



Dr. John Lewis (right) and captured tiger for radiocollaring, Sumatra 2005

by the Indonesian government and the Zoological Society of London (ZSL). He was tasked with providing specialist veterinary advice, and acting as consultant to the production of the guidelines.

WVI was able to send Dr. Lewis to the workshop

thanks to funding provided by Twycross Zoo’s Conservation Welfare Fund.

As a result of this workshop, guidelines are currently being drafted by ZSL and WVI, initially for large carnivores such as tigers and bears. It is hoped that the project will be extended to include other wildlife such as orangutans and elephants in the future.

Guidelines such as these should help to ensure the safety of both people, and endangered animals, is protected where animal handling is called for.

Future involvement with tiger conservation in Sumatra is planned for 2007. It costs WVI approximately £15,000 to provide the necessary expertise for just one trip. Please make a donation if you can.

Online fundraising tool for WVI



Veterinary surgeon Nic Masters—one of our Great North Run entrants for 2006

Supporters of Wildlife Vets International can now raise money taking part in sponsored events with our online fundraising page at www.justgiving.com/wvi. We had two runners taking part in this year’s Great North Run, and they have already raised a fantastic sum of over £3000 sponsorship. If you fancy running a marathon, climbing a mountain, or even shaving off all your hair, please consider raising money for endangered animals at the same time. You can create your own fundraising webpage in a few easy steps, or contact the WVI office

for assistance.

Thanks to our runners, Nic Masters and Tom Mills for all their training and fundraising efforts, and many congratulations on completing the race in admirable time!

You can still sponsor Nic or Tom through the website, or the old-fashioned way by post to the office address until the end of December 2007.

www.justgiving.com/nicmasters

justgiving
fundraising made easy



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Registered Charity No: 1109670

A registered charity, Wildlife Vets International was set up to provide often overlooked and under-funded specialist veterinary assistance to animal conservation projects, anywhere in the world. Endangered species project budgets, frequently raised from charitable funds, are often overstretched and rarely include veterinary support or training, yet expert veterinary care is crucial for the success of conservation programmes. Even those projects with the foresight to plan for veterinary involvement can struggle to find the specialist vets they really need.

By maintaining a list of very experienced specialist veterinary surgeons from a range of fields, Wildlife Vets International is quickly able to match projects to the veterinary expertise required.

We rely solely on charitable donations—please make a donation if you can.

Ways to Donate to Wildlife Vets International

As well as sending cheques/postal orders by post, you can also make a one-off or regular payment online via our website or directly at www.justgiving.com/wvi, or you can set up a standing order to pay money directly into our bank account. Please contact our office for further details.

Please help us to care for endangered species by making a donation today.



WVI vet John Lewis giving practical training, Utios, Khabarovski Krai.

Amur Leopard Wildlife Health Project, Russian Far East

Two of the world's most endangered big cats, the Amur leopard and tiger, live in small fragmented habitats in the Russian Far East. Many conservation agencies including ZSL and WCS Russia are working together to try to save these species from extinction.

takes years of planning. In the Russian Far East, the veterinary facilities for wildlife are almost non-existent. Until the health of prey species and domestic animals in the area can be assessed, precious leopards cannot be released.

Less than 40 Amur leopards remain in the wild—there are more in captivity. Long-term, it is hoped that a second population of Amur leopards can be established by releasing these captive bred animals back into the wild.

Successfully reintroducing any animal into the wild

A priority for the project is therefore to establish a Wildlife Health Monitoring Unit—this will provide the laboratory and teaching space required to train local workers in wildlife conservation.

WVI vet John Lewis is heavily involved with this project, as veterinary



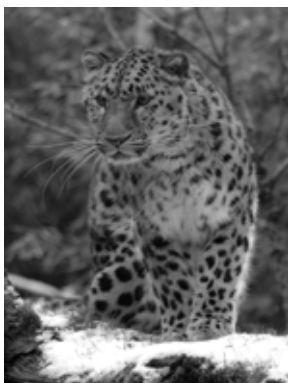
advisor. He has already begun practical training of staff in the area, and WVI has already donated laboratory equipment, but there is much more work to do.

WVI needs to raise funds to continue John's involvement with this exciting, groundbreaking project.

It costs WVI over £500 to train one vet or field worker in health sampling techniques.

Please make a donation today, to help give these beautiful cats a chance for the future.

Thank you.



Amur Leopard © AMUR