

Wildlife rehabilitation as a model for reintroductions.

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Wildlife Department

Introduction



- Rehabilitation of polecats
- Fits IUCN definitions:
 - Translocation: deliberate and mediated movement of wild animals or populations from one part of their range to another.
 - Reinforcement: addition of individuals to an existing populations of conspecifics.
- Why is rehabilitation considered separately?
- Concentrates on the individual



Rehabilitation vs Reintroduction:

- Differences in species: Tawny owls (*Griffiths et al, 2010*)
 - Accepted protocol that soft release should always be used
 - Study demonstrates that this is not the case
 - Survival of tawny owls released using hard release method is comparable with those released using soft release and wild owls.
- Common species: Hedgehogs (*Molony et al 2006*)
 - Direct translocation vs captive translocation vs rehabilitated
- Influence of stress (*Molony 2006*)
 - Measurement of stress using faecal glucocorticoid metabolites
 - Individual variance



The importance of the individual:

- **Badger example**

- Integration of cubs into social groups (Fell *et al* 2006)
- Cub driven

- **Other examples**

- Swift foxes – Bremner-Harrison *et al* (2004)
- Chukar – Swift *et al* 2009
- Bank voles - Mathews *et al* (2005)



Role of the individual

- Reintroductions have yet to embrace this concept:
 - Macdonald (2009)
 - Armstrong and Seddon (2007)
 - Teixeira et al (2007)
- Reintroduction success is measured through persistence.
- Yet persistence is only achieved through the survival of individuals.



In conclusion

- Both reintroduction and rehabilitation can learn from each other.

- Rehabilitation or reintroduction:

- Juvenile individual removed from the wild due to failure to thrive
- Hand reared and released

Bearded vulture (*Margalida et al, 2010*)



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