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**Phone call from member of the public about a wild animal**

**Wildlife casualty presented to veterinary practice**

**When advising a caller, consider if they need to intervene**
(eg. Baby birds, Leverets, Deer fawns. These may not be orphans)

RCVS Code of Professional Conduct for Veterinary Surgeons

3.9 - A veterinary surgeon on duty should not unreasonably refuse to facilitate the provision of first aid and pain relief for all other species until such time as a more appropriate emergency veterinary service accepts responsibility for the animal

**Important information to record:**
**- Date - Species - Sex - Age category - Exact location found - Contact details of person - Reason for intervention**

**Check the Wildlife and Countryside Act 1981 for any legislative requirements?**
(eg. Licence needed, Can it be released?)

**Wildlife and Countryside Act 1981**
- Schedule 4 Birds may need a licence to be kept in captivity
- Schedule 9 Animals may need a licence to be keep and may not be released legally (or only with a licence)

**Caller advised not to intervene. Contact to be made with another organisation for further advice or assistance**

**Carry out a risk assessment and implement Health and Safety measures**
(eg. PPE, handling equipment, assistance from another organisation)

**Caller advised to bring in the casualty**

**Full Clinical Examination**

**Does the casualty animal have ANY of the following?**
- Any behavioural abnormalities
- Damage to jaw or beak
- Loss of hearing
- Permanent blindness, loss of an eye or vision in an eye
- Loss or permanent loss of function of a limb or wing
- Suspected fracture of a limb or wing involving a joint
- Permanent feather damage or loss of waterproofing
- Suspected fracture of the pelvis
- Obvious loss of reproductive function

Is the animal suffering from imminently fatal injuries?

YES → **Immediate emergency euthanasia**

NO ↓

Is the animal suffering from disease or injuries that would lead to permanent or reduced chances of survival in the wild?

YES → Obtain specialist advice and/or consider euthanasia

NO ↓

**Provide first aid, to include analgesia and fluid therapy as appropriate**

**Does your veterinary practice have the knowledge and skills to care and treat this animal, beyond providing first aid?**
Consider: Short-term hospitalisation, dietary needs, facilities and equipment, treatment time, staff expertise, welfare implications

YES → **Treat animal appropriately**
**Minimise stress and time in captivity**
(Transferring the animal may still be necessary due to rehabilitation and release)

NO ↓

**Transfer to Wildlife Rescue Centre or Rehabilitator**

Records to be transferred:
- Contact details of finder - Exact location found - Any treatments, medication or food given

- **RSPCA Helpline**: 0300 1234 999
- **Bat Conservation Helpline**: 0345 1300 228
- **British Divers Marine Life Rescue**: 0182 5765 546
- Your Local Wildlife Rescue Centre or Rehabilitator:

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**Disclaimer:** This information is primarily for the benefit of veterinary professionals (veterinary surgeons and veterinary nurses registered with the Royal College of Veterinary Surgeons (RCVS)) and registered students in