

## Blyth Wildlife Rescue

### Campaign for Nationwide change to FREE Veterinary Consultations for Wild Animals

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#### **Reasons for change?**

- Wild animals are NOT owned by anyone – Nobody has ownership of a wild animal, therefore they cannot accept any responsibility for the animals welfare; i.e. a veterinary bill for a consultation or treatment of an animal

#### **Further action**

- PM e-Petition – via the PM’s website ([petitions.pm.gov.uk](https://petitions.pm.gov.uk))
- People (supporters of the campaign) can add their name to the petition online via the PM’s e-Petition website. Links to the Online Petition will be posted on most popular wildlife rescue websites, including Blyth Wildlife Rescue - [www.blythwildliferescue.co.uk](http://www.blythwildliferescue.co.uk), British Hedgehog Preservation Society - [www.britishhedgehogs.org.uk](http://www.britishhedgehogs.org.uk) and a collection of many other websites
- Action through the House of Commons, via Local MP
- Supporters of the Campaign and Blyth Wildlife Rescue will be informed how to contact their local MP, and will also be provided with resources such as letter templates and any notes about the Campaign. Supporters can then lobby their local MP’s for action with this campaign.
- Petition to the RCVS (Royal College of Veterinary Surgeons)
- Supporters of the campaign can sign a petition to be sent to the RCVS, detailing the situation and the suggested course of action regarding FREE consultations for wild animals.

#### **The current situation**

The current situation at present regarding the treatment of wild animals is:

- Veterinary Surgeons are permitted, as outlined by the RCVS (Royal College of Veterinary Surgeons) to charge for consultations for wild animals
- Veterinary Surgeons MUST treat a wild animal (No wild animals can be denied treatment) although this has been known to occur in the past, in which a Vet has requested a large sum of money before examining a wild animal
- Not all Veterinary Surgeons charge fees for the treatment of wild animals, even though this is not required of them – The matter of treating a wild animal for FREE is purely left to the discretion of the Veterinary Surgeon at all times
- With fees for consultations, many people (members of the public) who have found a wild animal in need of treatment have been known to reconsider helping the animal, just because they cannot afford to pay for the animal to be seen by a Vet
- It can also be difficult for established wildlife carers to seek FREE treatment of wild animals by a Vet, as many Vets wish to take advantage of the registered wildlife carer/charity by requesting consultation fees BEFORE any treatment is undertaken, purely on the basis of a carer/charity being registered

#### **Supporters of the Campaign at present**

- Many supporters of the campaign on ‘The Hedgehog Forums’ – Online Wildlife Rescue Forum
- Support of Les Stocker MBE – Founder of St. Tiggywinkles Wildlife Hospital and Chairman of the EWRA (European Wildlife Rehabilitation Association)

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