



**RAPTOR  
RESCUE**

Registered Charity No. 283733

# News Update

Issue 10



**Sponsors the Raptor  
Rescue National  
Helpline**

Exotic Direct have sponsored the national helpline for a second year running, in addition they are now donating 10% to Raptor Rescue if you insure your bird or pet with them quoting Ref: 2985

**EXOTICDIRECT**, are specialist insurers of exotic animals, they understand animals and know how loved and important they become to their owners. Their experienced and knowledgeable staff are on hand to assist the caring pet owner and to deal with any claim quickly and sympathetically. You can arrange immediate cover over the telephone during office hours or apply for cover here on our web site.

If you need any help or assistance in completing your proposal please call them on: 0800 626012 or e-mail [www.exoticdirect.co.uk](http://www.exoticdirect.co.uk)  
REMEMBER to quote ref 2985

**Wrist Bands** – Raptor Rescue now has its own wristband.



If you would like to support the Charity, they can be purchased for £1 plus P&P – total £1.50 from Gentleshaw Birds of Prey and Wildlife Centre, Fletcher's Country Garden Centre, Stone Road, Eccleshall, Staffordshire ST21 6JY

## **Gentleshaw Birds of Prey and Wildlife Centre, New Hospital Unit Grand Opening, Sunday 26<sup>th</sup> June 2011**



Following a donation of £5,000 to Raptor Rescue from Pets at Home under their adoption/re-homing scheme, the Board of Trustees were left with a bit of a dilemma how to spend the money. It was decided to split the money between Gentleshaw for the purchase of a new hospital unit and the rest to build some holding aviaries to be used by the Re-homing Coordinator.

The new hospital unit (left) is a refurbished portacabin from Midland Portable Buildings, who have laid it out to Jenny's specification.

The cabin was delivered in March and placed at the rear of Gentleshaw Wildlife Centre, Lesley and Jenny have since been fundraising

to kit it out. Their old unit had to be closed after the floor collapsed and the Trustees felt that replacing it was a good use of the money, especially as Gentleshaw are integral to the re-homing process.

The grand opening will take place on Sunday 26<sup>th</sup> June at Gentleshaw Birds of Prey and Wildlife Centre, Fletcher's Country Garden Centre, Stone Road, Eccleshall, Staffordshire, ST21 6JY at approximately 12.00 noon. It is hoped to have someone of notoriety to perform the opening ceremony. Trustees will be there along with a representative from Pets at Home. If any member would like to attend, they will get free access to the centre on production of their membership card.



## defra Change in Procedure for Wild Disabled Birds

DEFRA has had concerns for some time over the number of wild Schedule 4 birds that are being registered for rehabilitation and then subsequently end up permanently kept in captivity. Consequently, they will be taking a stricter view to ensure that wherever possible, any wild Schedule 4 bird taken into captivity is rehabilitated and released back to the wild as soon as possible. To this end they will be inspecting keepers of wild Schedule 4 birds to check that rehabilitation is occurring and that the keeper has sufficient knowledge to successfully release the bird back to the wild.

DEFRA will also require keepers to take these birds to an avian vet and have it assessed (regardless of whether the bird is injured or not), as to the estimated time it will take to rehabilitate and release; or alternatively give an expert explanation as to why the bird cannot be released. Forms are available on the DEFRA forms page for vets to download and fill in the details.

With regards to applications for Article 10's for wild disabled birds; whether they are on Schedule 4 or not DEFRA will be taking a stricter view of Article 8.3 of EC Regulation 338/97 when considering applications to use any wild birds commercially for breeding and or educational display purposes for the conservation of the species. DEFRA will only be granting them where there are genuine exceptional conservation benefits to the species.

### Raptor Rescue Events

Further to the list of events published in the last newsletter, Raptor Rescue are not able to attend the Falconry Fair on 1<sup>st</sup> & 2<sup>nd</sup> May, as the Trustees who normally attend are not able to do so this year, coupled with a shortage of helpers. Likewise, we may not be attending the Chatsworth Show in September for the same reasons.

If you can offer to help at shows or other fund raising events please contact Steve Davidson.

### Hawk Board Guidelines

The Hawk Board have issued (April 2011) a set of guidelines for keeping birds of prey in captivity, which includes rehabilitation. It is understood that they started these in response to the Animal Welfare Act 2006 and the possible need for code of practice, such as those that exist for cats, dogs, horses and primates available on the Defra website. Our Trustees have yet to discuss the contents with the Hawk Board

The Hawk Board guidelines are now available on their website at [http://www.hawkboard-cff.org.uk/nm/publish/news\\_64.html](http://www.hawkboard-cff.org.uk/nm/publish/news_64.html)

### Rehabilitating

Below - Jean Thorpe of RyedaleRehab sent this picture on the 5<sup>th</sup> March of the first baby owl of 2011.



Left - Gentleshaw's first owl of the year arrived on 20<sup>th</sup> April, he was found in a truck depot with his feet black with oil and grime.

He is aged around 6 weeks and is very feisty.

He is feeding himself fine and accepts that a tube provides his dinner!

The UK's leading specialist bird of prey and owl rehabilitation organisation  
National Help & Advice Line: 0870 241 0609  
[www.raptorrescue.org.uk](http://www.raptorrescue.org.uk)

Update design and production Steve Davidson