



HUMAN HEALTH



ANIMAL HEALTH



ENVIRONMENTAL HEALTH

ONE HEALTH

Belize Wildlife & Referral Clinic



# April 2022 One Health & Wildlife Ambassador Newsletter

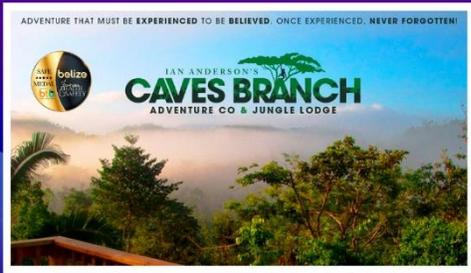
April Issue | 2022 | Belize Wildlife and Referral Clinic

## Announcement



**JOIN THE PROGRAM**  
<https://forms.gle/1witAwVWCtju9YMQ7>

**\*Get a Chance to WIN:**  
 + 2 Nights for 2 @ Caves Branch  
 + Meals  
 + 1 Signature Tour



Learn more at: [belizewildlifeclinic.org/wildlife-ambassador-program](http://belizewildlifeclinic.org/wildlife-ambassador-program) \*Certain conditions apply

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### Howler Monkeys in Belize

The Yucatan Black Howler Monkey (*Alouatta pigra*), or “baboon” is a new world primate found in Belize, Guatemala and Mexico, in the Selva Maya region. They live in tropical forests and can be seen resting, eating or moving in the middle to upper canopy. They have no specific breeding season, although there are studies that link reproduction with food availability. Females typically have one offspring that they care for individually for up to 12 months. Lone males are sometimes seen and are perceived as “lost”. This, however, is normal behaviour as they move out of their original troop to form their own or usurp a dominant male to take over his troop.

Howler Monkeys in Belize are protected by the Wildlife Protection Act. This means that these monkeys cannot be hunted, molested, stoned, harassed or kept as pets. Be wary of orphan monkeys being sold, as the most common way they enter the trade is by killing the mother and kidnapping the baby. As a result of poaching and hunting, deforestation and degradation, the howler monkey population is in decline and they are listed as “Endangered” by the IUCN Red list. In the Convention on International Trade of Endangered Species (CITES) the Yucatan Black Howler Monkey is listed under Appendix I, which prohibits the trade as pets or for parts of this species.



If you have any questions or concerns with any wildlife species, you are always free to call our 24/7 hotline at 6155159.



Howler Monkeys spend most of their time in the canopy of large trees. As human development continues, monkeys will be seen more. There are cases of monkeys moving out of their birth troops in order to find or create their own new troop. These moving monkeys are known as “transient” monkeys and sometimes they may end up in trouble or seem lost. While they do not pose threats to us humans, we humans can pose a threat to them. The best approach one can take when a transient monkey is moving across their yard is to just let it be. The monkey will move along once it has rested or has used the resources in that area. If there are dogs in the area and the monkey is close to the ground, keep the dogs away from the monkey so that it can move along safely.

If you should see or come across a monkey in human populated areas or if it looks injured, you can always call BWRC at 615-5159 for advice and our veterinarians are on call to care for injured wildlife. Last but not least: Did you know that Belize is fortunate to have its own successful primate rehabilitation program at Wildtracks (660-4820) and their team can also assist with monkey conflict and emergency response.

### One Health Focus - Zoonosis: Yellow Fever

Primates share several important zoonosis with us humans, such as giardiasis (see January 7th FB post), scabies and Yellow Fever, which happens to also be a vector borne disease. Yellow fever is caused by a virus found in tropical and subtropical areas. This virus spreads to people or monkeys through the bite of infected mosquitoes. The mosquitoes can get the virus from feeding on infected primates or humans. Did you know that Belize’s monkey populations were almost extinct in the 1950 due to a Yellow Fever outbreak transmitted from humans to monkeys? So not only could humans be at risk from close contact with monkeys, but humans have repeatedly transmitted this disease to monkeys, who have high mortality from Yellow fever.

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Most humans will have little to no symptoms, which could include sudden fevers, chills, headache, and fatigue. However, the severe form of yellow fever includes very high fever, bleeding, and the Yellowing of the skin (jaundice) that gave the disease its name and is caused by liver failure. These more severe symptoms can be

deadly and the most important recommendation is to seek health care.

Since the disease is caused by a virus, testing is difficult and can only be done through laboratory testing. It is always easier to prevent and take full precaution when out on the field, on or around remote settings by dressing with proper clothing and using insect repellents.

The good news is that there have not been any reported Yellow Fever cases in Belize since the 1950ies but the bad news is that there have been recent outbreaks in Latin America. These outbreaks and diseases remind us of the



importance of One health and disease monitoring and why protecting ourselves, protects the health of animals and the wider environment.

### Wildlife Ambassador Updates

In the past four months, the Wildlife Ambassador team has recruited one new member as an educator to assist in carrying out the program's agenda. We have also recruited two Hotline Coordinators, one full-time and one part-time. The WAP has also made contact with the Belize Police Department to start off the workshops with police officers in the month of May. Work has been started on the recording and monitoring application, SMART, with WCS assisting the WAP team with setting up data collection attributes that will be used for wildlife and One Health disease monitoring.



Join the Wildlife Ambassador Program: Start with the initial survey and preregistration [HERE](#)



Furthermore, a first billboard was erected in Belmopan, monthly 1-hour LIVE events were held on Facebook and 3 weekly posts were made on Social media on Wildlife Conflict, Wildlife legislation and One Health topics. Check out our Facebook or Instagram pages to learn more.

### BWRC Patient First Quarter 2022 Summary

BWRC's team started the first quarter of 2022 with 10 patients in care and we received 38 new patients at the Wildlife hospital in the first 3 months. Our veterinarian also did health checks in the field for 110 Central American River Turtles for our partners at BFREE in Toledo and 3 patients were rescued by our response team in the field. BWRC released 5 patients (Boa, Bat Falcon, Squirrel, Coati and Agouti), 15 were transferred to our partners at Wildtracks, BFREE and BBR and 5 had to be relieved of their suffering due to severity of injuries.

With 5 patients as DOA (dead on arrival) and 8 patients dying in care we remain with currently 16 patients in rehabilitation, many of them with good hopes to return to the wild soon.

Highlight patients would be our orphaned Ocelot as well as our first neonate Mexican Hairy Porcupine orphan, both of which are growing up well and candidates for release in the future. Sad cases were the Amazon Parrot shot through the chest who could only be euthanized, as well as a Howler Monkey with multiple bullets in his body and one inside his skull. See part of his story with a surprising outcome on page 4.

### Current Patients at BWRC



On the 4<sup>th</sup> of April, a 1 week old porcupine was brought in by Mystic River Resort in Cayo after it was seen on the ground for 2 days. The kind observers were hoping the mother would come back to find it but eventually decided to bring it into the clinic. On intake, the porcupine weighed 202g, and thankfully she adapted to her human carers and has been growing since. Its rehabilitation continues and we will soon share more snippets and videos of this interesting and much misunderstood species.



Earlier this year, a baby deer was brought in by The Belize Zoo after it was taken to them, after being found on the ground. This may have been a case of accidental kidnapping, aka “fawn-napping” and reuniting with mom was no longer an option. So the baby was stabilized and tended to for a few days at

BWRC and later transferred to Wildtracks where it will continue its rehabilitation in order for it to be released back into the wild. **DID YOU KNOW?** Finding a baby deer alone, does NOT mean that it is an orphan! Mom leaves the baby for up to 12 hrs.

The 2<sup>nd</sup> Howler Monkey we received this year was a sad and surprising case. A transient (migrating) howler monkey was reported in Santa Elena town. After monitoring for the day, with highway crossings and dog attacks in between, the



monkey was captured by BWRC staff and brought in to the clinic. After examination,

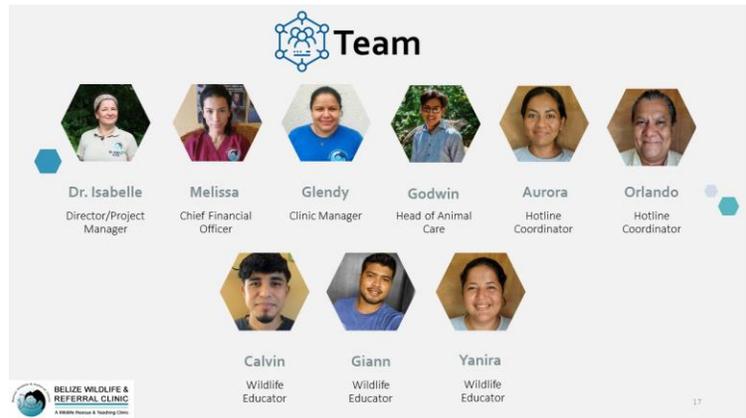
it was found that the monkey had 5 lead pellets in its legs, tail, back and even head (punctured his left eye). After the pellets were removed, minus the bullet behind his eye, he was monitored for use of his eye, signs of lead toxicity and



infections. Thankfully he stabilized and adapted well and after consultation with primate experts to see if he could survive in the wild with one eye, he was transferred to the Primate Rehabilitation Program. Now he is continuing rehabilitation at Wildtracks and we hope he can return to the wild in the future.

## BWRC Team Introduction

In addition to the long term staff members, Melissa, Godwin, Glendy, and our educators Calvin and Giann, BWRC has recruited three new staff members. Under the GIZ and GEF/SGP funding of the Wildlife Ambassador Program, Yanira Portillo, Aurora McNab, and Orlando Jimenez joined the team. Yanira joined Giann and Calvin as educators, while Aurora is the hotline coordinator along with Orlando, who is on a part-time basis.



## Upcoming Events

May 25<sup>th</sup> 2022- Wildlife Ambassador Program FB Live event on Garbage management to prevent Human-Wildlife Conflict and zoonosis transmission.

June 2022- Wildlife Ambassador Program starts workshops with enforcement officers and community ambassadors

June 6<sup>th</sup>–17<sup>th</sup> 2022/ June 20<sup>th</sup>–July 1<sup>st</sup>/ July 27<sup>th</sup>-August 7<sup>th</sup> 2022- Wildlife Medicine and Conservation Course (WMC). **SIGN UP!!**

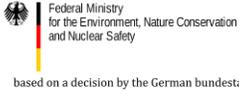
July 13<sup>th</sup>-July 24<sup>th</sup> 2022– Small Animal Veterinary Experience(SAVE)

July 13<sup>th</sup> – August 7<sup>th</sup> 2022- International Veterinary Experience (SAVE+WMC)

## Our sponsors

The Wildlife Ambassador Program has been made possible through grants from the GEF Small Grant Programme, Belize.

Supported by:



"Funded under the project "Strengthening Strategic and Operational Cooperation for the Protection of the Selva Maya" of the Selva Maya Programme".



And also through:



<https://belizewildlifeclinic.org/>



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Belize Wildlife and Referral Clinic

## How you can help Wildlife and BWRC



Donate on Paypal

### BWRC Wish list

BWRC is a non-profit organization that is able to operate on kind contributions from our supporters and funders. If you would like to assist us in getting much need equipment, please follow the link below to our wish list.

<https://belizewildlifeclinic.org/support-us/bwrc-wishlist/>

BWRC also takes donations in forms of old towels, bed sheets, pillow cases, old pet bowls and even empty toilet paper rolls which help in our daily care of our wildlife.

Become a volunteer: email us your letter of interest and a short CV to [bwwildlifeclinic@gmail.com](mailto:bwwildlifeclinic@gmail.com)

Join the Wildlife Ambassador Program: Start with the initial survey and preregistration for [HERE](#)



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615-5159 for Wildlife Emergencies



632-3257 for Domestic Appointments

