

# BWRC ANNUAL REPORT 2018

## BWRC DIRECTORS NOTE



As the BWRC Director and Wildlife Veterinarian, I am working to build a self-sustaining institution that will continue beyond my tenure. Over the past 7 years, BWRC has focused on its mission to support wildlife conservation; animal health and welfare; and the veterinary profession in Belize through medical services, education, research, and collaboration. Finding sustainable mechanisms to support our effort has been the biggest challenge. The most humbling experience is the support received from thousands of individuals and dozens of organizations. The most rewarding experience is getting closer to the root of our wildlife patients' problems by educating more people and building partnerships. I am particularly encouraged by the reception of BWRC's Wildlife Ambassador program. My

hope is that by engaging law enforcement, Wildlife Ambassadors and our wildlife partners, we will measurably reduce the incidence of wildlife poaching, trafficking, and human-wildlife conflict. I believe, to be successful in wildlife conservation, we must focus on collaboration, strengthen inter-institutional partnerships, and focus on public education. While as a veterinarian my job is to repair "broken animals", 70% of BWRC's hospitalized patients come to me because of human-inflicted damage. As a compassionate human and conservationist, my hope is to address the cause of injury and ultimately decrease the incidence of conflict. All of this takes tremendous work, resources, time and money and we need more help. Thankfully, BWRC has a determined team who balance their primary work in wildlife medicine and conservation which advancing our long-term goals and vision. Despite the daily challenges, BWRC's staff continue to shine during our Race for Conservation events, our annual BWRC Gala, and BWRC's many educational programs and workshops. There's never a dull moment and I remain astounded by how much the BWRC staff accomplishes through sheer "stick-to-it-iveness" and compassion.

I am hopeful that in 2019, with the return of small animal services, more financial resources will be generated to help us achieve our wildlife conservation and institutional sustainability goals. While we can maintain base operations on a shoestring, BWRC needs grants and serious financial support for growth and further outreach. At the forefront of our 2019 goals is to establish a permanent home for BWRC. We seek a 20-acre home for BWRC to site a permanent wildlife clinic, rehabilitation facilities and education center. Additionally, in 2019 we aim to hire a full-time educational outreach coordinator, purchase key medical equipment and improve our rehabilitation infrastructure. I want to take this opportunity to thank all of BWRC's supporters, donors, students and friends. We wouldn't be here without your tireless support. We face the coming year with energy, ambition and hope that 2019 will be another successful year with the help of your support.

Yours truly,

Dr. Isabelle DVM, PhD.  
Director & Wildlife Veterinarian  
Belize Wildlife & Referral Clinic

# BWRC ANNUAL REPORT 2018

## RESCUING WILDLIFE



In 2018, the Belize Wildlife & Referral Clinic (BWRC) veterinarians and staff provided veterinary services to a total of 526 wildlife patients. Patients included mammals, birds and thanks to our partners at BFREE and the Green Iguana Project, an increasing number of reptiles. BWRC's veterinary staff is dedicated to receiving wildlife patients, providing free veterinary care, and rehabilitation as needed. Aside from wildlife health checks in the field and supporting wildlife conservation breeding programs, BWRC aims to return its' wildlife patients back to the wild. In many cases, this requires extensive and time consuming rehabilitation. BWRC provides rehabilitation services to release patients as fully functional individuals, with all the skills necessary for survival. Wildlife rehabilitation is both a science and an art, and should only be undertaken by trained individuals with permission of the Belize Forest Department. BWRC has a certified NWSA wildlife rehabilitator on staff and we stand by to offer assistance. BWRC is equipped and its staff capable of receiving, stabilizing and rehabilitating a wide range of species. BWRC cooperates with several wildlife rescue and rehabilitation centers that operate under the authority of the forest department. The Belize Forest Department exercises authority over Belize's wildlife, and BWRC made it one of its objectives to assist the Department in its mandate as it relates to wildlife conservation. To learn more about BWRC's veterinary, wildlife and other services, visit BWRC's website [www.belizewildlifeclinic.org](http://www.belizewildlifeclinic.org) where you'll find resources and more information.

## 2018 CHARITABLE VETERINARY SERVICES

In 2018, BWRC provided a total value of \$56,327BZ in charitable veterinary services to government and wildlife partners.

GOB (Forest Department)	\$29,155.77
BFREE	\$10,581.20
Green Iguana Project	\$5,458.39
Friends for Conservation & Development	\$5,390.71
Wildtracks	\$1,917.31
Crocodile Research Coalition	\$1,711.62
Belize Raptor Center	\$1,566.43
Tamandua Refuge	\$320.76
ACES	\$225.00
<b>Total</b>	<b>\$56,326.65</b>



# BWRC ANNUAL REPORT 2018

## 2018 EVENTS

- In 2018, BWRC staff taught over 100 international students contributing over 30% of the BWRC's 2018 income.
- In January 2018, Dr. Isabelle presented on Wildlife Medicine, Trafficking and Conservation at the University of Tennessee Knoxville College of Veterinary Medicine Exotics Symposium.
- In February, for the 4<sup>th</sup> year in a row BWRC hosted and provided free veterinary continuing education training for Belizean Veterinarians and Technicians in partnership with the Belize Veterinary Association. Thanks to Dr. Corey Blake for assisting with this training.
- In March, BWRC organized and co-hosted the 2<sup>nd</sup> annual Chiquibul Challenge Marathon held and 2 smaller Cayo Race for Conservation running events.
- In April, Dr. Isabelle presented to University of Minnesota Animal Science and College of Veterinary Medicine students in St. Paul Minnesota, and visited the Minnesota Raptor Center and Wildlife Rescue Center.
- In July, BWRC co-hosted the 3<sup>rd</sup> annual Animal Health Fair promoting cooperation and education among veterinarians, government agencies, veterinary suppliers and wildlife conservation entities.
- In October, BWRC organized and hosted the 2-day Wildlife Ambassador workshop with great response and around 90 Belizean law enforcement and community ambassadors in attendance. Goals of workshop were to increase awareness and improving response to wildlife crime and conflict.
- In November, BWRC hosted its annual Gala fundraiser at the San Ignacio Hotel. We are honored and humbled by the support the San Ignacio Resort Hotel has provided to the BWRC events.
- In 2018, BWRC completed its second external audit; a voluntary effort to ensure BWRC's financial best practices as a non-profit organization.



## EDUCATIONAL OUTREACH & TRAINING

- In 2018 BWRC educational outreach staff reached nearly 1,000 persons and attended 20+ outreach events.
- BWRC's educational outreach team's goal is to promote a strong, coherent conservation ethic and compassion for animals.
- BWRC's outreach efforts provide information about the Wildlife Laws of Belize, human wildlife conflict, non-lethal conflict resolution and wildlife conflict prevention.



# BWRC ANNUAL REPORT 2018

- Throughout the fall BWRC hosted BFREE staff for partners cross training for a total of 10 days.

## BWRC'S 2019 GOALS

- Continue to provide free veterinary care and rehabilitation to imperiled wildlife.
- To find a permanent home; on 20-acres to house clinic, education and rehabilitation facilities; with ample space and privacy for animals in rehabilitation.
- To expand the Wildlife Ambassador program to more communities and enforcement entities.
- To resume small animal and referral services with the return of Dr. Bob Klepper and Dr. Harry from Trinidad & Tobago.
- To establish state of the art ultrasound services; thanks to a kind donation from the US with the help of Dr. Schenkel.
- To expand educational outreach with a new outreach coordinator.



## THANKS TO BWRC'S FRIENDS & SUPPORTERS

- The Directors of BWRC would like to give special thanks to the WWF and PACT for sponsoring the start of the Wildlife Ambassador Program with a 2-day workshop.
- We are eternally thankful for the support from the San Ignacio Resort Hotel with the hosting of the Ambassador workshop as well as the 2018 BWRC Gala.
- We would like to thank all supporters of the Chiquibul Challenge, BWRC gala and other events.
- Thank you to Baby Warm, family and friends for your support in 2018.
- And last but not least we want to thank our volunteers, and not to forget the wonderful team of staff! BWRC could not succeed without YOUR help.



## HOW CAN YOU HELP?

BWRC needs continued financial support to continue to provide free veterinary care to Belize's wildlife. All donations are welcome. Email [bwildlifeclinic@gmail.com](mailto:bwildlifeclinic@gmail.com) or contact us at 615-5159.

- Highest on our list for 2019 is land for a permanent location: 20 Acres, in Cayo in reach of highway.
- Consider becoming a sponsor for one of our many annual events including Chiquibul Challenge Marathon (Different categories).

## BWRC ANNUAL REPORT 2018

- Make a donation: Support veterinary care for imperiled wildlife (average cost per animal seen is ~\$50US).
- Sponsor printing of pocket guides for wildlife identification, conflict resolution and emergency response (\$20US/set; goal 500 packets).
- Sponsor a training session for law enforcement or community ambassadors (\$250US/event – goal: 20 events)
- Sponsor BWRC's outreach and education efforts (\$750US per month)
- Sponsor cloth bags instead of plastic campaign (\$750US)
- Sponsor a holding pen for crocodiles (\$750US)
- Help our assistant Melissa to travel to the US for the next National Rehabilitation Conference to pursue her certification as a rehabilitator (\$2,000US).
- BWRC gladly accepts donations of veterinary medical supplies, equipment, and materials.
- Our patients always need: bandage materials, gauze, cast padding, vet wrap, catheters, fluids, iodine, chlorhexidine, wound covers, telfa pads, alginate gel, ectoparasite treatments, pet carriers and critical care diets.
- Donations of used newspaper, towels and sheet or cleaning supplies are always welcome as well as toilet paper rolls (for enrichment for our rodents ☺).
- If you live in Cayo, love animals and are passionate about conservation, and have some free time: Consider volunteering a day a week.

Contact us with any questions or ideas you may have [bwildlifeclinic@gmail.com](mailto:bwildlifeclinic@gmail.com) THANK YOU FOR YOUR INTEREST AND SUPPORT!