



WILDLIFE news

A WILDLIFE RESCUE & TEACHING CLINIC | NOVEMBER 2016 [ISSUE 1]



The **Belize Wildlife and Referral Clinic (BWRC)** is a Belizean non-profit organization founded in 2011 with the help of a host of wildlife partners and friends. BWRC partners with the **Wildlife Institute**, a study abroad company with a purpose to offer educational tourism services that support BWRC and other partner wildlife & conservation projects in Belize and the region. [READ MORE](#)

Certainly one of the most exciting patients of this year was Chiquibul! She came to BWRC as an orphaned jaguar cub rescued by Friends for Conservation and Development (FCD) and the Forest Department. After 12 days of veterinary treatment at BWRC, we transferred her with a clean bill of health into the care of the amazing Belize Zoo.

Help BWRC provide veterinary care for imperiled wildlife and join us for our **Fundraiser Gala Dinner** at the San Ignacio Hotel, or donate an auction item or service, or buy a ticket for one of our conservation partners.

Gala Details on PAGE 4

THIS MONTH

PATIENTS

- ▶ Scarlet Macaws
- ▶ Coatimundi
- ▶ Jaguar
- ▶ Crocodile
- ▶ Turtles
- ▶ Monkey

EVENTS

- ▶ Outreach
- ▶ BWRC Gala
- ▶ Wildlife Institute Courses

**CHIQUIBUL
THE JAGUAR**
Story on PAGE 8



VISION Wildlife Conservation and Sustainable Development through Collaboration.

www.belizewildlifeclinic.org

[fb.com/bzwildlifeclinic](https://www.facebook.com/bzwildlifeclinic)

MISSION To support wildlife conservation; animal health and welfare; and the veterinary profession in Belize through medical services, education, research, and collaboration.



The Belize Wildlife and Referral Clinic (BWRC) was founded by Dr. Isabelle Paquet-Durand (Wildlife Veterinarian) and Justin Ford MSc (Ecology Manager). Dr. Isabelle had for many years provided free medical care to wildlife centers in the field without a clinic facility and with only basic medical equipment. That was before a very special and severely injured monkey named Spartacus (hence our logo) provided the impetus to seek funding to establish BWRC. BWRC is now a modern, fully staffed, veterinary clinic with x-ray and gas anesthesia; for both wildlife and domestics.

Come to Belize!
Join the Wildlife Institute and BWRC
for life changing study abroad experiences!

SUMMER
VETERINARY EXPERIENCE

WILDLIFE MEDICINE & CONSERVATION

WILD
SPRING BREAK!

WILDLIFE INSTITUTE

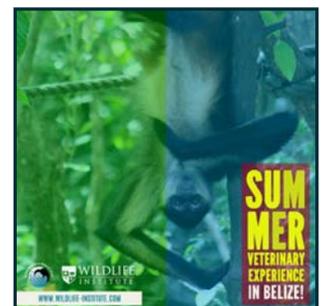


WILDLIFE
INSTITUTE

BWRC partners with the Wildlife Institute, a study abroad company based in San Ignacio, Belize that provides courses, internships and tourism products with regional conservation partners. The Wildlife Institute was founded in 2011 along-side BWRC. As the Wildlife Institute continues to develop educational and tourism products, it expands its reach and aims. Help us make a difference. Join us for a course, internship or an insider's tour that contributes to conservation. **Courses on PAGE 12**

FIND OUT MORE ABOUT THE WILDLIFE INSTITUTE

www.wildlife-institute.com / fb.com/wildlifeinstitute



O U T R E A C H



WILDLIFE EDUCATIONAL OUTREACH: At BWRC we realize the importance of telling our wildlife patients' stories to the public. We conducted 26 outreach wildlife educational events reaching approximately 3,000 people in the Cayo area, Ambergris Caye, Belize City and Hopkins Village. We have increased our outreach to small communities including Siete Miles, Billy White and Spanish Lookout satellites. Our main educational focus was human wildlife conflict and non-lethal wildlife conflict resolution. We also introduced BWRC's and its partners' wildlife missions and services. Our wildlife educational partners include the Forest Department, Wildtracks, the Belize Zoo, Tamandua Refuge and Belize Bird Rescue.

We would like to thank BWRC's Education Officer, Gissell Rodriguez, for her passion which helped launch BWRC's educational outreach. We also thank our partners at the Forest Department for organizing and inviting BWRC to numerous outreach events this year. We look forward to increasing BWRC's outreach and financial support for this important activity. In the long run, we hope we educate ourselves out of a job. :)



CLIENT APPROVAL

Dr. Mari Good is now offering veterinary services at BWRC!

Dr. Good is a 2003 graduate of University of Georgia College of Veterinary Medicine in the United States. She is licensed to practice in the State of Florida and here in Belize. Dr. Good recently moved to Belize with her family and we are very happy to share that she will be offering small animal veterinary services at BWRC on Tuesdays and Thursdays. For appointments call 615-5159.

This picture clearly shows "client approval" for the newest addition to the growing BWRC team!

JOIN YOUR FRIENDS AT THE BELIZE WILDLIFE & REFERRAL CLINIC FOR AN EVENING OF FUN AND FINE DINING TO SUPPORT A GREAT CAUSE!

SAT. NOV. 19 // 6 PM // \$85



HAPPY GARIFUNA SETTLEMENT DAY!

silent auction

GALA

a fundraiser event

Join us at the San Ignacio Hotel for a night to remember at BWRC's Gala as we raise funds to support our work at BWRC.

ON THE MENU

Lionfish & Garifuna Inspired Dishes

Register & pay at the San Ignacio Hotel Front Desk

Providing care for injured, neglected, and orphaned wildlife; a voice for humane treatment for animals; and environmental education for future generations

CONTACT
615.5159

The BWRC Gala has always proved to be a fun event and it's coming up on November 19!

HOW YOU CAN HELP!

- + Spread the word
- + Make a donation to the auction
- + Sponsor a conservation partner
- + Buy tickets and join us! (SIRH / BWRC)

WHAT YOUR CONTRIBUTION DOES?

BWRC's vision is Sustainable Development and Conservation through Cooperation and the only way to reach this vision in which we are no longer needed, is with your help. Your contribution helps BWRC provide veterinary care and rehabilitation to orphaned, injured and otherwise imperiled wildlife, field rescue and emergency response as well as support for conservation partners, training and educational outreach. So as always, thanks so much for your support!





We had several Scarlet Macaws who had to be evacuated due to Hurricane Earl. These birds were extracted as 29-39 day old chicks from nests at risk of poaching and outside the protected range in the Chiquibul Forest (and both nests were climbed by poachers after we had removed the chicks!). They were hand reared in-situ in the Chiquibul for the past 2 months by Friends for Conservation and Development (FCD) with assistance from BWRC and the Wildlife Institute, all under the guidance of the Forest Department.

The Scarlet Macaws are now reintroduced and flying free over the Chiquibul Forest!

After the hurricane passed and the road to return them to their flight cage in the Chiquibul remained blocked for another couple of days, the birds were so happy to be upgraded out of their hurricane shelter pet carriers into a cage to stretch their wings. We could not resist to video the moment; hope you enjoy watching! Hit the play button to watch video.



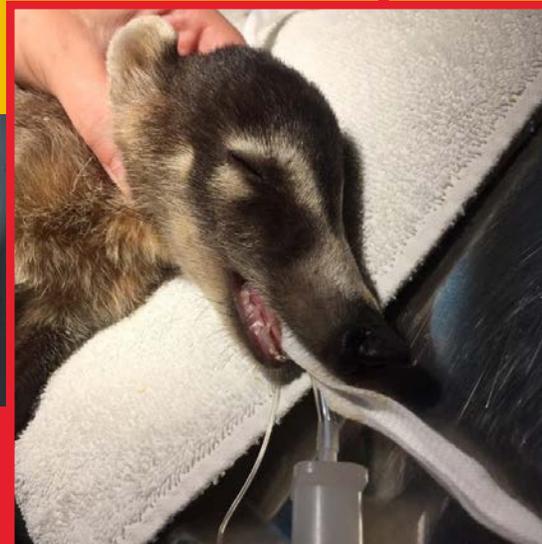
 **WATCH VIDEO**

An amazing “good news snippet” ... with a not so exciting nor cute picture.

BWRC’s digital x-ray processor has arrived and we have taken the first digital images!!

While we will continue to use our old chemical processor for a while, and keep it as a back up (especially for x-rays in the field for which we will need more digital cassettes), we are elated to introduce this awesome diagnostic upgrade (and to learn all about it since I, Dr. Isabelle, graduated before this technology was available. :D

Thanks to the support of so many who helped us to make this happen!



MR. KIM? YES MR. KIM!

JUVENILE COATI: This guy’s first surgery was to correct a massive abdominal wall tear and hernia. His prognosis at first look was dire. His intestines were herniated into his leg for over 24 hours and he had internal bleeding. We prepared our team for the worst; that despite our best efforts, we were likely to lose this patient. BUT, he is a true fighter and recovered miraculously well! Now this may be weird for you but as is typical for veterinarians, we got so excited when he pooped the day after surgery as it meant that his gut had not been severely affected by the herniation.

That was not all for this little guy. He also had another injury; this one relatively minor. He had a distal femur fracture without dislocation (not pictured). This can be treated with a conservative approach (cast) and because he already had one major surgery we opted for the conservative approach and to not pin at that time.

Unfortunately, at the 7-day check-up, we saw what is pictured above. The fracture was now complete and very dislocated. In addition to that, because he is a youngster, the bones were already fused (not visible in x-ray since it was just callus without ossification yet). So no rest for him or us and we had to go in and repair the leg surgically after all. Thanks to our wonderful team, we separated the misaligned fusion and placed an IM pin (and Robert Jones Bandage). We’re keeping our fingers crossed for a full recovery for Mr. Kim. It’s a boy, but we like to name our patients after the rescuer. :)

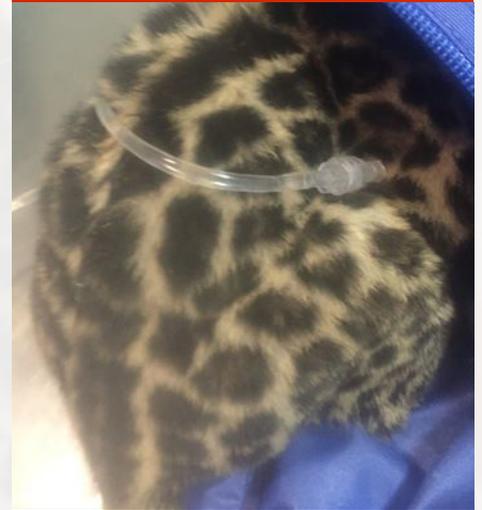
Chiquibul!

BWRC received an orphaned jaguar cub of about 6 weeks of age on May 30, 2016. The Forest Department brought her in to BWRC after she was rescued from drowning in the Chalillo Lake (Chiquibul Forest) by some of our favorite heroes on this planet—FCD Ranger Team. She was already named after the gem of nature—Chiquibul.

Chiquibul was skinny, dehydrated, with loose stools and some congestion in her chest. We started treatment immediately and in less than 2 weeks, she was doing a lot better. She responded well to treatment, recovered and was transferred to the best little zoo in the world, The Belize Zoo, after 12 days of care at BWRC.

While BWRC is a non-public facility providing medical care and rehabilitation for wildlife, which generally prescribes complete exclusion of unnecessary human interaction, The Belize Zoo is the prime institution in Belize to see and learn about native wildlife.

We received word this month that Chiquibul is soon to be introduced to the public with her new enclosure. Go see her at The Belize Zoo!





BWRC TEAM!

It takes a team to get our job done and these are most of the people that make this happen at BWRC in 2016 (missing only Co-Director Justin Ford and volunteers). We are very fortunate to have this awesome team working passionately to support wildlife conservation and animal welfare through education, emergency response, rescue, medical care, rehabilitation, field support and so much more. Taking many dirty jobs, sad cases, and challenges and constraints "galore" in strides, your compassion for people and animals continues to make a difference on a daily basis! Thanks Team!

CROCKING!

There is rarely time for boredom at BWRC but some things just take time...

Here were Elianne and Godwin "crocking" aka trying to catch a very small croc that had gotten washed up in a tiny, temporary, waterhole under the Western Highway.

We built an extra-small croc trap and with the quick assistance by our Domestic Vet, Dr. Kasia, we finally caught the little guy who had learned very quickly that humans are to be avoided. After brief examination, observation and measurements, he was released on October 24.



200LBS OF SUPPLIES THANK YOU MERCY COLLEGE.

WOW - We do not have good enough words to express how wonderful some people are! BWRC received a donation of about 200 lbs of supplies, from gloves to gauze, leashes, collars, drapes, fluids, to feeding tubes, endotracheal tubes (definitely more than enough to share through the Veterinary Association as well) thanks to the efforts of former students and visiting faculty from Mercy College. While we seek the support of large funders to achieve our long term goals, it is the support of caring individuals (and Mercy has truly taken this support to a next level!) that makes most of the difference at the end of the day. Thank You!



FIELD DAY / BFREE, TOLEDO

After a first occurrence of shell rot during a recent health check, BWRC took our portable x-ray machine to Toledo to conduct x-rays on Central American River Turtles. We traveled by car on the highway, lowland mud roads, then canoe and quad to the site of the Hickatee Breeding Program at BFREE.

We made a makeshift dark-room for field x-rays: since we had to take about 15 x-rays with our 3 plates we had to improvise a dark-room to change film in. A ladder with 2 tarps did the job! It also doubled as a sauna!



One of the exciting side findings of our x-rays? Several of the examined turtles of this critically endangered species are shelling eggs to be laid soon; fabulous news for the breeding program at BFREE. Who can count the eggs in this one?



This was such a shocking and sad case. When this girl came to us in September, we expected a quick monkey check over but instead saw what is pictured in this x-ray. This ex-pet monkey had “skin issues” and “lumps” were felt under the skin. When we examined her, she had 6 rifle pellets and 2 broken bones by gun shot (aside very low body conditions, depression and infection of one of the gunshot wounds).

Please **DO NOT** accept monkeys for pets because this is how these amazing, endangered and protected animals are entered into the illegal pet trade: either the mom is killed or mom and baby are shot to obtain the animal and if they survive they are often presented as a “rescue” or sold as “orphans.”

Fortunately for this monkey, she was rescued, we removed the pellets, treated the wounds, and casted the broken bones. We then placed her in the amazing hands of Wildtracks.

We checked up on her this month and removed the cast. All her bullet wounds are healed, the fractures about fused and she has adapted well in the caring hands of Wildtracks. One day, hopefully in the not so distant future, she will return to the wild where she belongs.



M E E T I V Y





WILDLIFE INSTITUTE



WILDLIFE EDUCATION SUPPORTING CONSERVATION

VETERINARY STUDY ABROAD COURSES / BELIZE

The Wildlife Institute is a study abroad company based in San Ignacio, Belize, Central America that provides courses, internships and tourism products with regional conservation partners. The Wildlife Institute's aim is to support wildlife conservation through education and travel. The Wildlife Institute was founded in 2011 along-side its partner, the Belize Wildlife & Referral Clinic (BWRC) by Justin Ford MSc. (Program Coordinator) and Dr. Isabelle Paquet-Durand (Wildlife Veterinarian). Its purpose is to offer educational tourism services that support BWRC and other partner wildlife & conservation projects in Belize and the region.

This exciting program includes two 2-week courses: Small Animal Veterinary Experience and Wildlife Medicine & Conservation. Summer Veterinary Experience is ideal for final year vet students seeking externship or clinical rotations, and first and second year students seeking hands-on experiences.

This course combines field visits, hands-on labs and experiential learning approaches with traditional lectures from our own wildlife veterinarian and expert guest speakers.

SUMMER VETERINARY EXPERIENCE

WILDLIFE MEDICINE & CONSERVATION

Sign up for the 2-week version of Wildlife Medicine & Conservation and enjoy a Wild Spring Break with us!

WILD SPRING BREAK!

Conservation Biology includes both Marine and Terrestrial components with field excursions to marine and tropical forest protected areas, research stations and conservation organizations.

CONSERVATION BIOLOGY

TO APPLY

Justin Ford // Educational Program Manager
JFORD@WILDLIFE-INSTITUTE.COM

+ Courses are open to Vet and Pre-Vet Students

BELIZE

• 2 • 0 • 1 • 7 •

COURSE DATES WWW.WILDLIFE-INSTITUTE.COM



12 STUDENTS... 12 DAYS

This December, Dr. Marcy Souza and 12 veterinary students from the University of Tennessee Vet School will join the Belize Wildlife & Referral Clinic and the Wildlife Institute for a 12-day custom course. Wildlife Institute and University of Tennessee teamed up to offer this program, which is a wonderful educational opportunity for students and provides much-needed support for wildlife conservation.

COME STUDY IN BELIZE WITH US

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