

Human- Deer Conflict

Urban development and deer's preference for 'edge habitats' may be two reasons for increasing conflict situations between humans and deer. Edge habitats are areas of boundaries between forest and fields where abundant food is usually accessible. Deer are very adaptable and easily adjust to urban settings that provide the desired type of habitat where they can find food, water and safe bedding sites close together.

The two main conflict situations between humans and deer are backyard/garden complaints as well as deer-vehicle collisions. To mitigate garden situations, unattractive alternate plants (such as pepper and mint) can serve as repellents to deter them from our yards. Physical barriers such as woven wire fence or netting (at least 8 ft high), or scare-based devices can assist. Public education, enforced speed limits, fences, wildlife overpasses and light and reflector devices can all help decrease dangerous collisions.



Don't kidnap me! Ask an expert before you intervene

Lastly, another commonly seen misunderstood "non-emergency" situation is seeing baby deer (fawns) huddling down on the ground, alone, and assuming them to be orphans. Mother Deer (called Doe) tend to leave their young alone for up to 12h and only visit their fawns twice a day to nurse them; usually around dawn and dusk. This behavior is normal and babies do not need human help unless they are injured. Some humans tend to unknowingly kidnap fawns with the intention of helping them resulting in the death of the fawn due to stress. The best thing to do is to observe from afar to see if the fawn has obvious injuries (like open wounds or fly maggots). If no injuries are seen, one can return 12 hrs later to check if the fawn is still there.

When in doubt take a picture and give us a call at our hotline 615-5159. We are here to assist 24/7.



ONE HEALTH | UNA SALUD | TOJ ÓOL
KAWILAL | HUMPE'EL MUK'ANIL | ABAN ÁTUADI

CONNECTS US ALL!



Zoonosis- Giardiasis

Did you know? Every year, more than one million people are affected by Giardiasis in the US alone. This is a zoonotic intestinal parasitic disease that has a global distribution due to its high prevalence in many species. Giardiasis is also common in livestock and domestic animals.

How do we get it? The parasite spreads from humans to humans, as well as from animals to humans and vice versa. Giardia is found in the stool of animals and humans infected with it, and a very small amount could make you sick. The disease is acquired via contaminated water or raw foods. Giardiasis can cause diarrhea that lasts more than 2 weeks, accompanied by bloating, stomach or abdominal cramps, dehydration and fatigue. Children are at higher risk than adults, and people who live in places with poor sanitation suffer from giardiasis more often.

Children who have been infected with this disease have also been seen to fall victims to malnutrition because of malabsorption due to diarrhea caused by Giardiasis. So let's focus on prevention: Practicing good hygiene by washing your hands is an essential preventative measure as regular soap and water could wash off this parasite. Higher risk settings are at child care facilities, pools, and around water sources. Never swim, or change diapers around a water body since this can contaminate drinking or swimming water with feces for others. Drink only treated water, and always wash your fruits and vegetables properly and disinfect spaces or areas where persons or pets are sick.

This parasite is also found in deers and since the deer is a game species that can be hunted, once the meat is being prepared to be consumed, we must ensure it is properly washed and cooked before being eaten.



Wildlife Ambassador Program(WAP) UPDATES



The second and third billboards were erected on July 14th.

On July 20th the educators had a short meeting with the two representatives of the Spanish Lookout Community, who were given a short presentation on the BWRC and the Wildlife Ambassador Program's goals and objectives. The representatives were asked for their help with reaching out to other

members of their community who would like to become an ambassador. BWRC Educators also attended a "Diagnosis, Planning and Evaluation on Environmental Education" Workshop which was hosted by the Forest Department on July 28th.

We have also been keeping in contact with the Police department and



were able to set a date to have our second online workshop in early August and we started to plan in person workshops including the upcoming Police recruits to introduce them to the Wildlife Ambassador Program, Illegal Wildlife Traffic, Legislation, Human Wildlife Conflict and One Health.

We also have a glimpse at our vehicle which is being customized to be our very own wildlife ambulance for all wildlife emergencies.

We were also invited to join a number of meetings with BIOS Politica to go over their training material for their tri-national project via the GIZ Selva Maya Programme.

Join the program here: <https://forms.gle/9vJS6UxdAxWvLmQH7>



Fledgling learning to fly - many times no intervention is best

Maybe you have seen a baby bird which is fully feathered, hopping around on the ground and not flying and wondered if it needs help? This may in fact be a normal situation and a fledgling bird who just left the nest. Interesting fact: many birds leave the nest (or are kicked out by their parents) before they have learned to fly, and they learn to fly and be independent over the next days and weeks. The first step is recognizing that it is a young recently fledged bird which is not always easy. Fledgling birds are fully feathered but you can often see some down feathers, and the biggest difference is seen in their behavior. When finding a fledgling you should observe from a distance to determine if you can see any obvious physical injuries on the bird (drooping wing, broken bones or bleeding). If not injured, the best thing to do is to leave the bird where it is, since mom is around and will come to feed the baby until it learns to fly and forage on its own. Note that you should observe from a distance where you can see the fledgling, but not so close that mama sees you as a threat (in which case she would not go to her chick to not endanger it and you would be stopping mom from caring for her baby - so take a few steps back and quietly look out for a similar looking bird. You can observe if mama bird comes back to feed the baby (sometimes they don't feed babies for a couple of hours). Do ensure that the bird will not be in danger from pets like dogs and cats. If determined that the bird might be in danger, and dogs or cats can not be excluded, only then the

fledgling could be briefly picked up and relocated somewhere close, but safer (for example an elevated surface out of reach of dogs and cats) and where mama bird can still find them.

And if it is seen that the bird has obvious physical injuries, or you are not quite sure if what you are seeing is indeed a fledgling or an injured bird that does need help... don't worry, this IS difficult and our BWRC hotline is there to help you and the animal figure out the best response.

Call 6155159 and do not feed or give water until instructed to do so.





CLAY-COLORED THRUSH RESCUED AFTER CRASH LANDING IN POND AND REUNITED WITH PARENTS

In the evening of July 18th, 2022, a tiny fledgling emergency patient was received at the clinic. A young bird had been found in a pond, struggling and about to drown and the kind rescuer intervened and rushed the bird to care. Upon intake at the clinic the little bird was wet and cold from being in the water so he was placed in the incubator to warm up and start to stabilize. With the help of a bird expert the fledgling bird was identified as a Clay-Colored Thrush. By early morning the next day the fledgling was now much more lively, and after veterinary examination it was determined that it had no physical injuries. We suspected the bird had just accidentally landed in the pond as an inexperienced flyer. The tiny patient was then taken to where it had been found, with hopes to possibly reunite and release the healthy youngster. Sure enough upon arrival at the site the juvenile started to vocalize and the parents were seen! After release the young bird was reunited with its parents. This is a rare highlight since we often do not know where exactly an animal was rescued, or the time between rescue and possible reunion is too long.



Did YOU know that oftentimes baby wildlife can be reunited with its parents? The old saying that if a human touches a baby animal the parent will not take it back, is just a myth! The best is often not to intervene, but in this case immediate life saving action was certainly needed for the first time flyer! And parents and babies can be reunited sometimes even days later. Naturally parents are always the best at raising their babies (much better than us human wildlife rehabilitators trying to mimic nature in wildlife rehabilitation) yet often the parents for baby animals can't be found. But in this case the stars lined up! Thanks to the rescuer and the quick care this fledgling will have a second chance in his home after only a 20h interaction.

NESTLING FOUND ON GROUND AND SUCCESSFULLY PUT BACK IN NEST



On May 20th our Hotline got a call about a baby bird found on the ground. The rescuer was asked to first confirm that the bird is not in any immediate danger from dogs, cats or any predators or injuries. Once it was determined that the bird didn't have any obvious injury and was

not in immediate danger the caller looked around for a nest close by and similar looking birds, to see if mama bird could be seen. Fortunately a nest was found where another similar looking nestling bird was seen with mama bird inside! So the rescuer waited for the mom to leave for a moment and placed the second baby bird back into its nest. They then observed for a while and saw mama bird reunite with her baby. This is another rare happy ending, but with enough awareness and kind humans around we often can help with simple means and minimal intervention! Thank you to another caring rescuer for helping a wild animal have the opportunity to grow up in its natural habitat.

TOUCAN FOUND IN MACAL RIVER... IT'S RAINING FLEDGLINGS?

On July 13th the Hotline received a call about a Collared Aracari that had been rescued when found drowning in the Macal river. The BWRC team responded to this emergency and the bird was found in severe respiratory distress, wet, cold and not yet fully grown! So another fledgling crash landing in the water but this time in the river! However this patient required stabilization with supplemental oxygen and veterinary examination revealed a respiratory infection that required antibiotic treatment under close observation and with a guarded prognosis. Yet the patient responded very well to stabilization and treatment and was cleared for release in less than 14 days. From drowning rescue to a safe return to his natural habitat.



BWRC Veterinary Courses

- July 13th-July 24th 2022 – Small Animal Veterinary Experience (SAVE)
- July 13th – August 7th 2022- International Veterinary Experience (SAVE+WMC)
- July 27th-August 7th 2022- Wildlife Medicine and Conservation Course (WMC).



Learn more and sign up at: <https://belizewildlifeclinic.org/view-all-education-categories/>

BWRC Team Highlights

Another big thank you to the amazing Women at work as part of our team. As everyone at BWRC, Glendy has many different roles and her support to the organization does not fit in one paragraph. Glendy joined BWRC almost 4 years ago as an animal husbandry and admin assistant. She may be our shortest staff member but don't let that fool you: Glendy is a power house to our team! She became a wildlife ambassador, Animal Health Assistant and most importantly she naturally complemented the team and her kind compassionate yet patient, dedicated and driven character made her tackle countless challenges (from dealing with snakes to cars or logistics, and of course much more). Glendy was a rock in the storms weathered at BWRC in the past years and in her latest promotion and title she became Clinic manager! You may meet her in the office or on the phone.



UPCOMING EVENTS



04

WAP Workshops for Dangriga, Independence, and Corozal formations.

Wildlife Ambassador Program starts workshops with enforcement officers. Topic: Introduction to WAP program and common IWT cases seen.

18

WAP Workshops for Dangriga, Part II and 1st. Community Workshop

Wildlife Ambassador Program will give a second virtual workshop to Dangriga Police officers, among other branches and we will start with our 1st. online workshop for registered community participants.

Contact Us

Website
<https://belizewildlifeclinic.org>

Instagram
[@belizewildlifeclinic](https://www.instagram.com/belizewildlifeclinic)

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

Youtube.
[Belize Wildlife and Referral Clinic](https://www.youtube.com/BelizeWildlifeandReferralClinic)

Clinic Email
bzwildlifeclinic@gmail.com

Program Email
bzwildlifeambassador@gmail.com

24/7 Hotline for Wildlife Emergencies
 615-5159

Domestic appointments
 615-5175

THE WILDLIFE AMBASSADOR PROGRAM HAS BEEN MADE POSSIBLE THROUGH GRANTS FROM THE GEF SMALL GRANT PROGRAMME, BELIZE.

Supported by:

AND "FUNDED UNDER THE PROJECT "STRENGTHENING STRATEGIC AND OPERATIONAL COOPERATION FOR THE PROTECTION OF THE SELVA MAYA" OF THE SELVA MAYA PROGRAMME".

