



The Hogsprickle is a not for profit small scale Wildlife rescue and rehabilitation unit in Co Clare. As a Registered Veterinary Nurse for 30yrs, both in my native Scotland and here in Ireland, since 2001, I have dealt with wildlife casualties for all of that time, and before, as a Scottish Countryside Ranger. The Hogsprickle was officially founded by myself in 2012 as a reaction to the lack of rehabilitation and Veterinary involvement in accepting and treating wild animals and birds as casualties and longer term patients. Although I specialise in hedgehogs I am finding year on year the variety of species being brought to me is growing.

Members of the public as much more aware of wildlife casualties as social media is helping connect them with qualified wildlife rehabbers and therefore are becoming much more proactive in rescuing and phoning for help. I think a Wildlife teaching hospital here in Ireland would be an enormous benefit not just for the rescue and rehabilitation of the casualties but also;

- Educating Vets, Vet Nurses in the emergency care and treatment of our wild animals and birds. Veterinary knowledge, and involvement, is severely lacking in Ireland.
- Veterinary staff would also be made aware of suitably qualified wildlife rehabbers to whom they can refer to. They would also be aware of conditions of care and protocols that wildlife rescues must adhere to.
- NPWS would also benefit from courses and workshops.
- A central Wildlife Rehab Hospital would greatly benefit The Hogsprickle as I can refer casualties to a specialist treatment center and I could benefit greatly from the research and knowledge base.
- It would also support the other wildlife rehabilitators throughout Ireland as at the moment there is no cohesion for various groups to work together, share knowledge and refer to specialist carers.
- Members of the public, school groups and other groups would greatly benefit from a visitor and education center. Workshops and talks would help educate people about our native wildlife as well as the invasive and non native species they may encounter in their environment. Simple steps to helping wildlife in their own back garden and creative workshops to help young people respect and support our ecology.

I know I speak for the majority of wildlife rescue and rehabbers in Ireland when I say that this project has been a long term goal, and a personal dream of mine, to raise the standard of wildlife education and general awareness which in turn also increases wildlife welfare. I specialise in the care and rehabilitation of hedgehogs and fear for the future of this spiky little animal. As far as I am concerned this Hospital cannot come quickly enough, and hopefully near enough as my CV will be the first in the line to be able to be part of this amazing project. Perhaps in the future the Irish Wildlife Hospital and Rehab center will rival even the best of the wildlife centers in the UK.

Please support this proposition, it is possibly the most important project to support Irelands initiative for biodiversity and wildlife education. I feel that what we learn in this center has much farther, wider reaching consequences. Not just for wildlife but a greater understanding of the impact on our environment as well.