

Brayvet
Old Connaught Ave
Bray
Co Wicklow
Ireland

20th June 2016

To Whom It May Concern

I am writing this letter to express my wholehearted support for the Wildlife Teaching Hospital project that has been proposed by Wildlife Rehabilitation Ireland.

As a vet in general practice in Ireland, I often have to deal with wildlife brought to me by members of the public. I am able to successfully manage some of these cases (e.g. those with relatively minor issues just needing simple, rapid treatment, and those that are so severely injured that euthanasia is the only answer). However for those many cases where complex treatments, or ongoing hospitalised care is needed, I am at a loss to help these animals. My veterinary hospital is not designed to deal with wildlife, and the facilities are not available anywhere else in the country. In one instance, I had to fly an injured swan to the Swan Sanctuary in London, as there was no other option in this country.

The proposed Wildlife Teaching Hospital would provide facilities that would allow me to offer wild animals the proper standard of care when they are injured or sick and in need of ongoing treatment.

This is important at three levels.

First, for the welfare of the individual animal

Second, for the preservation of the species when dealing with rarer animals (such as red squirrels)

Third, for public education and awareness, and to meet public expectations. The fact that the facility will also be a teaching centre makes this a particularly significant aspect.

I have no doubt that the project will be supported widely by the veterinary community in Ireland, as there are many, many other vets like myself who want to do their best for wildlife, but who are restricted by the current lack of facilities.

Please support the project in any way that you can.

Signed



Dr Pete Wedderburn BVM&S VertVR MRCVS
Veterinary Surgeon