



RSPCA payment policy for emergency wildlife treatments by private vets

Concerns about wildlife count for a huge proportion of calls made to the RSPCA every year. Our inspectors and officers regularly respond to calls regarding injured or sick wild animals and birds.

Every effort is made to ensure that these animals are taken to one of our own specialist wildlife centres, a vet or one of the independent organisations that we work with so that they are rehabilitated and released where possible.

To ensure treatment is available for all sick or injured wild animals, we have an agreement with the British Veterinary Association (BVA).

This **Memorandum of Understanding** clarifies the arrangements between vets in private practices and the RSPCA regarding Initial Emergency Treatments (IETs).

It states that:

- During practice hours small wild mammals and wild birds should be treated free of charge if they are brought to a veterinary surgery. Vets are obliged by their professional code to provide any necessary pain relief or euthanasia.
- Out of practice hours, or if a larger wild animal is involved e.g. a deer, the RSPCA will contribute to the cost of the IET or euthanasia.
- The RSPCA's contribution will only be approved if a vet, not a member of the public, rings the RSPCA **before** the treatment is undertaken. The vet needs to obtain an incident number and treatment will be agreed on a case by case basis.