



Position Statement on Bat Rehabilitation Protocols In Response to Viral Pandemics

April 3, 2020

In December 2019, a new zoonotic illness began spreading rapidly in the Wuhan Province of China. The source of the virus, dubbed COVID-19 or SARS-CoV2, was assumed to be from a bat, specifically the Chinese Horseshoe bat (*Rhinolophus affinis*), with one or more intermediate vector wildlife species also presumed to be involved in the spillover to humans. The virus mutated rapidly, and although some of the initial infections involved wildlife, the majority of infections are human-to-human. (Andersen, K.G., Rambaut, A., Lipkin, W. I., Holmes, E. C., Garry, R. F.; *The Proximal Origin of SARS-CoV-2*, Nature Medicine, 03/17/2020; <https://doi.org/10.1038/s41591-020-0820-9>)

While little is known about the likelihood of zoonothonosis exposure and infection, many state and federal agencies in the U.S. have taken steps to restrict wildlife rehabilitation activities, particularly involving bats, citing an “abundance of caution” regarding the perceived risk that humans who are infected with the COVID-19 virus may infect North American bat species, resulting in the bats becoming a new natural reservoir for the virus and leading to new outbreaks of disease in humans. *“Early suggestions regarding potential transmission of SARS-CoV2 from humans to bats have raised serious concerns among research colleagues, rehabilitators, and cavers. SARS-CoV2 is already present worldwide, and bats appear highly resistant to coronaviruses. We seem to be considering rather serious actions to ward off threats not yet proven to exist and that may have serious unintended consequences.”* - Merlin Tuttle. Alternatively, there is concern that bats could be infected and go on to develop lethal disease, further devastating bat populations that are already threatened by White-nose Syndrome and barotrauma from wind turbines. (Flores, R. O., *Coronavirus in Neotropical Bats of Mexico: Prevalence, Phylogeny, and Co-Evolution*, February, 2015; University of Mexico)

Some of these restrictions could have disastrous long-term implications for conservation. Some states have recommended that the public be directed to contact local Animal Care and Control agencies if a bat is found on the ground, regardless of the bat’s condition, so that the bat can be humanely euthanized by a veterinarian. In other cases, states have directed bat rehabilitators to stop taking in new admissions and to advise the public to leave the bat where they found it, again, regardless of its condition. However, the bat rehabilitation community sees many dangerous risks inherent in this approach which may not have been considered in developing these recommendations and guidelines.

Such risks include:

1. The COVID-19 pandemic has resulted in fewer resources available at municipal animal control facilities. Personnel are focused on dealing with domestic animal issues, and in many areas the number of pets being surrendered based on the (unfounded) notion that cats and dogs could contract the virus and infect humans. According to recent data collected in March of 2020, a minimum of 10,000 to 15,000 members of the public contact bat rehabilitators for help annually. Animal Control agencies simply do not have the time to respond to an influx of wildlife calls in addition to their regular work. Furthermore, few veterinarians will accept bats into their facilities, and most veterinary clinics charge for the service of humane euthanasia, leaving an animal control officer with little recourse. In addition, many animal control officers pass bat calls on to their local bat rehabilitators. Approximately 85% of the rescued bats that come to wildlife rehabilitators through Animal Control and the public are released back to the wild.

2. When rehabilitators are not available, the public has been known to take matters into their own hands, resulting in an increase in the number of people requiring rabies post-exposure treatment. Additionally, when trying to save a bat on their own, the public will be much less likely to have or to use appropriate PPE to prevent exposing the bat to COVID-19. Bats held captive by the public will not receive appropriate care and suffer malnutrition, lack of medical care, and will ultimately die without ever being reported. A memorandum from Thomas French, PhD, Assistant Director of Department of Fish and Wildlife (13 April 1993), stated that Rabies Vector Species (RVS) wildlife rehabilitation programs are proven to be extremely effective. The greatest advantage of the program is that it protects public health by allowing private citizens to transfer RVS species to wildlife rehabilitators rather than keeping the animal themselves and putting them at risk of exposure to rabies. Trained, vaccinated wildlife rehabilitators play a significant role in reducing public safety risks by providing a viable option for the public when orphaned or injured bats are found. They ensure that potential exposures to bats are reported to health departments and they provide education to the public that can prevent future rabies exposures. When a rabies epizootic appeared in Connecticut in 1991, the State responded by prohibiting the rehabilitation of RVS. However, it soon became apparent that people were taking orphaned RVS into their homes rather than letting the young animals die or be euthanized. After two years of a prohibitive policy, the Connecticut Rabies Advisory Committee unanimously agreed that it was far better to create a program in which trained, vaccinated rehabilitators could take in rabies-vector species rather than risk having the untrained and unvaccinated public trying to rear the animals (Laura Simon, pers comm.).
3. In some areas, bats have been targeted as the source of the COVID-19 virus, despite the lack of scientific evidence, resulting in large numbers of bats being slaughtered as a means of disease prevention. *“Public overreaction to hypothetical threats of disease from bat droppings, or even bat breath, could prove disastrous, leading to intolerance and widespread killing of bats.”* - Merlin Tuttle. Articles aimed at alarming the U.S. public have already begun to appear. (O'Neill, Natalie, *“Bat studies in US may pose another outbreak risk, officials warn”*. New York Post, 04/17/2020)
4. Bats that may have been exposed to COVID-19 by a member of the public might be released. Bat World Sanctuary receives several posts weekly through our social media pages from people across the U.S who have found bats inside their homes or businesses and released them outside. Recently, an individual in quarantine found a bat in his yard. After calling local rehabilitators and finding no help due to the recent restrictions on bat rehabilitation in PA, this individual then put the bat into a tree. If, in fact, bats are able to contract the virus, restrictions on bat rehabilitation actually creates the very problem that we want to avoid, namely, exposing large numbers of bats to yet another potentially lethal disease.
5. Additionally, ACOs, local public health department staff, and others are not always knowledgeable regarding quarantine and euthanasia methods when it pertains to bats. Bat rehabilitators are much more knowledgeable and experienced regarding infection control and interviewing finders to determine possible human and animal health risks. They play a critical role in the reporting of wildlife diseases affecting conservation. For example, on 11 March 2016, a moribund little brown bat (*Myotis lucifugus*) was found in King County, Washington and submitted to a local wildlife rehabilitation center. The animal presented with dried and contracted areas of crusted skin on the wings and died 2 days later. Swab samples of the wings were submitted by the bat rehabilitator and were found to be positive for *P. destructans* (Lorch JM, et.al., 2016. First detection of bat white-nose syndrome in western North America. mSphere 1(4):e00148-16. doi:10.1128/mSphere.00148-16.)
6. Free-ranging domestic cats have a significant impact on bats and other small mammals throughout North America. Both in human-modified and natural landscapes, cats injure and kill approximately 6.3–22.3 billion mammals annually. (Loss, S., Will, T. & Marra, P., *The impact of free-ranging domestic cats on wildlife of the United States*. Nat Commun 4, 1396 (2013). [<https://doi.org/10.1038/ncomms2380>] | <https://doi.org/10.1038/ncomms2380>].

Cats have proven capable of contracting SARS-CoV2, and cat to cat infection of the virus has been demonstrated. If North American bats prove to be susceptible to SARS-CoV2, there is little doubt that free-ranging cats will ultimately spread the virus to bat colonies throughout North America. Bat rehabilitators receive hundreds of calls from public citizens annually involving cat-attacked bats and are therefore on the front line of defense in protecting bats from exposure to SARS-CoV2, and in holding potentially exposed bats in quarantine to protect wild colonies.

7. State restrictions on bat rehabilitation have included the statement that grounded bat pups are likely not truly orphaned and the mother will come back. However, this is not the case. For example, in a 9,000 square mile area in North Central Texas, Bat World Sanctuary rescues, on average, 100 or more red bat (*L. borealis*) orphans every summer that are found grounded by the public. Red bats roost in trees and are found in neighborhoods throughout the U.S. Orphans commonly become grounded after the mother is mortally wounded by blue jay and crow attacks. Pups that are left behind become prey for neighborhood cats, birds and fire ants. Crevice-dwelling bat species often roost in human structures and purposefully leave their colonies when orphaned. As stated previously, when rehabilitators are not available, the public will likely take matters into their own hands, especially where young wildlife is concerned.

In response to several state wildlife agencies issuing directives restricting the rehabilitation of bats, a large and growing group of bat rehabilitators, wildlife organizations, veterinarians and animal care professionals have produced this position statement urging a rational, scientific, and humane approach to the management and handling of grounded bats and bats in rehabilitation during the COVID-19 pandemic.

We feel the expertise of wildlife rehabilitators is needed even more during this crisis to protect human and animal health. Rather than impeding our efforts, we recommend that state wildlife agencies should instead utilize the expertise and skills of authorized wildlife rehabilitators in helping to control any potential spread of Covid-19 to North American bats. Authorized wildlife rehabilitators should be allowed to accept and rehabilitate bats following appropriate PPE and safety measures to prevent human to bat respiratory virus exposures, as follows:

1. Sanitization of all cages, linens, dishes, and enrichment items
2. Use of appropriate personal protective equipment such as nitrile gloves, masks, and isolation gowns
3. Enforcement of quarantine protocols, including separate housing, cages, dishes, etc., which are used only for bats in quarantine
4. Monitoring, recording, and reporting any occurrence of respiratory disease in bats that may be linked to COVID-19 exposure
5. Limiting the number of people who have access to areas where bats are housed and prohibiting any individual with upper respiratory issues from entering bat enclosures
6. When practicable, provide nondestructive samples (fecal pellets, swabs, etc.) in coordination with state wildlife agency guidance
7. Bats who have not had contact with persons suspected of having COVID-19 and bats under the care of rehabilitators who have tested negative for Covid-19 should be released in order to avoid unnecessary stress that leads to capture myopathies. A quarantine period for bats in care where the above criteria is unknown should be limited to between 14 to 21 days

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310. Steven Phifer, Medical Laboratory Scientist, Georgia
311. Heidelise Als, Psychologist, Massachusetts
312. Wilma Teague, Volunteer/educator State Park Bat facility, Texas
313. Rebecca Anderson, Wildlife Caretaker, California
314. Kaye Short, Wildlife Rehabilitator, Texas
315. Amy Hayden, Wildlife Volunteer, OH
316. James McCann, Nature educator, Texas
317. Dezarae Cramer, Veterinary Technician, Arizona
318. Julanna Longorio, Wildlife volunteer, Chemist, Texas
319. Nicole Harmon, Wildlife Rehabilitator, Indiana
320. Sara Sexton, Animal Service Officer, TX
321. Valerie Wolfrey, Wildlife Rehabilitator, Florida
322. Brian Ledbetter, Wildlife Rehabilitator and Educator, Indiana
323. Haley Cox, Wildlife rehabilitator, South Carolina
324. Kelly McCoy, Wildlife Rehabilitator, Director, Texas
325. Julie McKenzie, Carolina Wildlife Care, South Carolina
326. Nikki Miller, Wildlife Rehabber, Kentucky
327. Andrea Halfhill, Biologist, Pennsylvania
328. Jacqueline Sutherland, Wildlife rehabilitation, ACO, Texas
329. Ryan Law, Wildlife Rehabilitator, Palouse Wildlife Rescue and Rehabilitation, Idaho
330. Rebecca Sanchez, Biologist, California
331. Shannon Morgan, Public Health Microbiologist, Phd, Alaska
332. Monica Veras, Wildlife Volunteer, Pennsylvania
333. Elisa Caywood, Animal Curator, Texas
334. Carol Debeaussaert, Wildlife Volunteer, Michigan
335. Cathy McCartney, Wildlife Volunteer, NJ
336. Teresa Ramsey, wildlife rehabilitator, Texas
337. Philip Hadley, Wildlife Rescue & Rehabilitation, Texas
338. Sally Beauford, Nurse, Wildlife Volunteer, Oklahoma
339. Karen Wilson, Wildlife Rehabilitator, Texas
340. Maryanne Thomas, Wildlife Educator, California

341. Carrie Ward, Wildlife Volunteer, Michigan
342. oel Hailey, Wildlife Volunteer, Texas
343. Robin Schwartz, Wildlife Volunteer, Photographer, New Jersey
344. Ann Merfeld, Wildlife Volunteer, New Mexico
345. Laura Fournier, Assistant Curator at the Elmwood Park Zoo, Pennsylvania
346. Jennifer Thren, Animal Hospital Manager, Maryland
347. Shannon Gonzales, Wildlife rehabilitator, Texas
348. Tara Clarke, Primatologist/Conservationist, North Carolina
349. Alison Pascoe, Licensed Veterinary technician, New York
350. Ashley Vaught, Wildlife Volunteer, Ohio
351. Tiffany Hallam, Wildlife Rehabilitator, Indiana
352. Danielle Ellison, Wildlife Behaviorist, Indiana
353. Ellen Barr, Wildlife Volunteer, Minnesota
354. Amber Gravunder, CVT, Wisconsin
355. Kimble Jarrold, Wildlife Volunteer, Philanthropist, California
356. Ann Wookey, Wildlife Rehabilitator and Zookeeper, Ohio
357. Lila J Lanehart, Texas Master Naturalist, Texas
358. Jay Baum, Wildlife Rehabilitator, California
359. Julia Powell, Wildlife Volunteer, Texas
360. Teresa Hill, Wildlife rehabilitator, Florida
361. Catherine Palmer, Biologist, Oregon
362. Shelby Esparza, Above the Gate Sanctuary Supervisor, Wildlife Rescue and Rehabilitation, Texas
363. Natalie Blacker, Wildlife Volunteer, California
364. Sarah Deerman, Wildlife Biologist and Rehabilitator, Texas
365. Ellen Naegeli, Biologist, Texas
366. Gregory Ridgway, Wildlife Volunteer, Alaska
367. Alexa Petzold, Wildlife Volunteer, New York
368. Dawn Maclear, TNR Volunteer, Wildlife Volunteer, Virginia
369. Carol Munsey, Animal Control Officer (retired), Washington
370. Donna Fife wildlife rehabilitator, Georgia
371. Cynthia Williams, Animal Control Officer, Texas
372. Amy Kravitz, Biologist, Arizona
373. Ariel Alvarez, Wildlife Volunteer, Nevada
374. Kristin Fketcher, Wildlife Rehabilitator, Rhode Island
375. Kylie Winkelman, Wildlife Rescue Specialist/ Hotline Specialist, Texas
376. Lynn Cuny, Founder/President Wildlife Rescue & Rehabilitation, Texas
377. Erika Noel, Biologist, Kern Bat Working Group, California
378. Sarah van Tol, Microbiologist and Immunologist, Texas
379. John Brent Kaster, Wildlife Volunteer, Texas
380. Alenna Sebben, Wildlife Volunteer, Washington
381. Susan Honeycutt Wildlife Rehabilitation (retired), Colorado
382. Melinda Alvarado, Wildlife Rehabilitator, California
383. Brandie Ortiz, Wildlife Volunteer, Texas
384. Samantha Vulliet, Wildlife Volunteer, Pennsylvania
385. Jenny Smillie, Wildlife Volunteer, California
386. JoEllen Arnold, Wildlife Rehabilitator, California
387. Susan Thomas, Wildlife Rehab, Biological technician, California
388. Deanna Morse, Environmentalist, Colorado

389. Monique Smith Lee, Bat Rehabilitator, California
390. Anna Mercatoris, LPC, Pennsylvania
391. Lori Alexander, Wildlife Volunteer, Texas
392. Gwen Creutz, Wildlife Conservation, Massachusetts
393. Lara Carter, Veterinary Asst, North Carolina
394. Keri Neuling, Clinical Research Coordinator-Human Trials, Texas
395. Krista Whitcomb, Medical lab technician, North Dakota
396. Sheryl Porter, Wildlife Volunteer, Georgia
397. Heather DeLancett, Wildlife Volunteer, Florida
398. Janet Rogers, Wildlife Volunteer, North Carolina
399. Shawn Blohm, Biologist, California
400. Gwen Creutz, Wildlife Conservationist, Massachusetts
401. Allison Barr, Zookeeper, Washington
402. Michelle Triplett-Wilkerson, Wildlife Rehabilitator, Texas
403. Michelle Anthony, Wildlife Rehabilitator, Colorado
404. Hope D'Avino Jennings, Wildlife Volunteer, New Jersey
405. Kate Scott, Director/CVT, Madrean Archipelago Wildlife Center, Arizona
406. Mark Neuling, General Manager Pest Prevention, Texas
407. Sharon Finnei, Wildlife rehabilitation, Texas
408. Kimberly Cornett, Behavioral Health Specialist; LCDC-I, Texas
409. Carol Waters, Wildlife Rehabilitator, Texas
410. Zina Tibbetts, Volunteer/ Rehabilitator, California
411. Lori Martell, Southern Cat Connection, Georgia
412. Christia Brown, Wildlife Administrator, Maryland
413. Jordan Bangert, Wildlife Volunteer, Texas
414. Karen Flesher, Wildlife Rehab, New Hampshire
415. Leana Albuquerque, Wildlife transporter, Florida
416. Terry Moore, Wildlife volunteer, Delaware
417. Nancy Hawn, Wildlife Volunteer, Michigan
418. Sandra Gardner, Anthropologist, Wildlife volunteer, Florida
419. Mary Lowry, Wildlife transporter, California
420. Frances Zitano, Flying Mammal Rescue, California
421. Michelle O'Brien, Senior Zookeeper, Massachusetts
422. Deborah Rickenbach, Registered Nurse, Wildlife volunteer, North Carolina
423. Wendy Gardner, Zoo Keeper, Washington
424. Tina Rhea, Wildlife rehabilitator, Maryland
425. David Harwell, Wildlife rehabilitator, Certified ACO, Texas
426. Rerry Hartz, Wildlife volunteer, Wyoming
427. Susan Pratt, Wildlife volunteer, Virginia
428. Kathleen Estes-Morgan, Wildlife rehabilitator, Colorado
429. Beatrice Welles, Biologist, Arizona
430. Bonnie Jay, Wildlife Rehabilitator, Oregon
431. Phil McWilliams, Retired Professor, California
432. Deborah Crough, Biologist, Educator, Oregon
433. Laura Murphy, Wildlife Rehabilitator, CA
434. Linda Elkjer, Equine Expressions Studio, Oregon
435. Mary Quimby, Wildlife Volunteer, California

436. Mara Silver, Biologist, swallowconservation.org, MA
437. LeeAnn Tapscoty, Wildlife Rehabilitator, Missouri
438. Ted Dewald, Wildlife Volunteer, Colorado
439. Barbara Cornell, Volunteer, (retired RN) at a low-cost spay/neuter clinic, Oregon
440. Keri Neuling, Clinical Research Coordinator-Human Trials, Texas
441. Bonnie Bouwer, Wildlife Volunteer, Wisconsin
442. Judith Smith, Scientist, President, Equine Rescue, Arizona
443. Norris Shane, Subpermitter, Orchard Bat Rescue, Texas
444. Cassie Tremant, Bat rehabilitator, Texas
445. Laurie Zuaro, Wildlife Volunteer, New Jersey
446. Randell Hendricks, Wildlife Volunteer, Texas
447. Jennifer Mattioli, Veterinary Hospital Administrator, District of Columbia
448. Therese Guglielmo, Wildlife Volunteer, Human Services Counselor, Illinois
449. Jt Thacker, Certified Veterinary Technician, North Carolina
450. Cindy Dicke, Asst Director of Animal Care, Rehabilitator, California
451. Lesley Tierney, Wildlife Rehabilitator, Texas
452. Loretta Jones, Hawk Creek Wildlife Center, Inc., Exe. Director, New York
453. Regina Kijak, Wildlife Rehabilitator, Minnesota
454. Michelle Tinkham, Wildlife Rehabilitator & Humane Educator, Texas
455. Lillian Mahaney, Wildlife Rehabilitator, Michigan
456. Linda Schroeder, NJ Coordinator MOMS Rescue/animal trainer, New Jersey
457. Jennifer Knerr, Wildlife rehabilitator (RVS species), Rhode island
458. Kristine Olmstead, Wildlife Rehabilitator, California
459. DeeDee Edwards, Wildlife Rehabilitator, Texas
460. Amanda Ashby, Registered Veterinary Technician, hospital manager, California
461. Miranda Washington, NWRA, Minnesota
462. Taunna Davis, Wildlife Rehabilitator, Nebraska
463. Ursula Bowser, Wildlife Volunteer, Florida
464. Jennifer Whittington, Wildlife rehabilitator, Texas
465. Amy Dyer, Texas Metro Wildlife Rehabbers, Texas
466. Erica Dunn, Certified Texas Master Naturalist, Texas
467. Michelle Neef, Animal Control Officer, Delaware
468. Jennifer Anderson, Wildlife Rehabilitator, Texas
469. Marsha Price, Wildlife Rehabilitator, Texas
470. Rachel Handy, Wildlife Rehabilitator, Ohio
471. Susan Brant, Former Zoo Caregiver, New York
472. Prudence Koeninger, President, DFW Wildlife Coalition, inc., Texas
473. Lisa Hodge, Wildlife Rehabilitator, Virginia
474. Brooke Durham, Wildlife Rehabilitator, California
475. Steven Deheeger, Wildlife Rehabilitator, New York
476. Diane Travis, Wildlife Rehabilitator, Vermont
477. Marcell Astle, Biologist, Wyoming
478. Ellen DeMucci, Volunteer, Save Lucy Campaign, Virginia
479. Maureen Heidtmann, Wildlife Rehabilitator, Connecticut
480. Kevin Wall, Field Coordinator, Oregon
481. Bri Klennert, CVT, Clinic Manger at Wildwoods Rehabilitation Center, MN
482. Michael Kyllo-Kittleson, NWRA Staff, Minnesota

483. Susan Craig, Retired Vet Tech/Domestic & wildlife rescuer, Indiana
484. Jt Thacker, Certified Veterinary Technician, North Carolina
485. Connie Devine, Wildlife Rehabilitation, California
486. Lisa Pollino, Animal Care and Rescue, California
487. Andrea Pruss, Wildlife Volunteer, Oregon
488. Levanah Darlene Ruthschild, Wildlife Rehabilitator, Maryland
489. Erica Dunn, Certified Texas Master Naturalist, Texas
490. Elizabeth Heine, Wildlife Rehabilitation, Florida
491. Sally Beckwith, Wildlife Rehabilitator, permitted for bats, Vermont
492. Cyndi Mosch, Ecologist, Colorado
493. Deb Craven, RN Bat Licensed Rehabilitator, Colorado
494. Eve Dolan, Wildlife Volunteer, New Jersey
495. Brandy Stier, Licensed Veterinary Technician, Washington
496. Sarah Vines, Licensed Wildlife Rehabilitator, Washington
497. Stephanie Merzel, Wildlife Volunteer, Utah
498. Allison Waters, Wildlife Volunteer, Educator-Teacher, Texas
499. Helena Howell, Veterinary Assistant, Idaho
500. Gloria Hill, Animal Rescue Admin, Utah
501. Erika Fleury, Program Director, North American Primate Sanctuary Alliance, California
502. Jerri Lewis, Sims Tree Health Specialists, Inc., Biologist, California
503. Ginger Zappone, Veterinary Technician, Texas
504. Juliette Chervenak, Humane Society North Texas Wildlife Rehab, Texas
505. Jennifer Knerr, Wildlife rehabilitator (RVSpecies), Rhode island

INTERNATIONAL

1. Vyara Krushkova, Founder & President, Bat World Bulgaria
2. Dr. Stella Kasambalides, DVM, Greece
3. Charlotte Tarran, Bat Carer for Surrey Bat Rescue, United Kingdom
4. Wieneke Huls, Bat Rehabilitator, The Netherlands
5. Charlotte Tarran, Bat Carer for Surrey Bat Rescue, United Kingdom
6. Linda Barrett, Microbat Coordinator North Queensland Wildlife Care, Australia
7. Charlotte Tarran, Bat Carer for Surrey Bat Rescue, United Kingdom
8. Berit Maddison, Biology student, Wildlife rehabilitator, Canada
9. Charlotte Tarran, Bat Carer for Surrey Bat Rescue, United Kingdom
10. Fioma Parker, Wildlife rehabilitator, England
11. Chris Gut, Volunteer in Animal welfare, Switzerland
12. Katarzyna Thor, Wildlife Rechabilitator, Poland
13. Janina Price, Flying Fox & Microbats Wildlife Rehabilitator, Australia
14. Silvia Strasser, University Technician in Biodiversity Management and Conservation, Argentina
15. Cassandra Einstein, Wildlife Volunterr, France
16. Irene Davy, Wildlife Rehabilitator, British Columbia, Canada
17. Gabriele Schaden, Biologist and bat rehabilitator, Austria
18. Anthea Gurr rescuer/carer BatsQld & BCRQ , Queensland Australia
19. Sofia Mendez Aguilera, veterinary medical student and bat rehabilitation apprentice, Mexico City
20. André Malouf, wildlife rehabilitator, Hamilton, Ontario, Canada
21. Sabrina Dziarski, Ontario Bat Rescue, Canada
22. Melanie Whalen, CWR, Director of Wildlife Rehab, Alberta, Canada
23. Sue Meech, Founder/Director Sandy Pines Wildlife Centre Napanee, ON, Canada

24. Leah Birmingham RVT, Medical Director Sandy Pines Wildlife Centre Napanee, ON, Canada
25. Donita Newbery, Custodiann Foster Forest Wildlife Orphanage, ON, Canada
26. Janine Davies, Manager, Shoalhaven Bat Clinic & Sanctuary, NSW, Australia
27. Bridget Parslow, Licenced bat worker & rehabilitator, United Kingdom
28. Mary Roberts, Wildlife Rehabilitator, Republic of Ireland
29. Wendy Brown, Authorized Wildlife Custodian, Ontario, Canada
30. Melissa Donnelly, Bat Conservationist, Proyecto CUBABT, Canada
31. Laurette Albert, Wildlife Rehabilitator, Canada
32. Milkana Dilova, Wildlife Volunteer, Bulgaria
33. Korinne Bengert, Volunteer for Wildlife rehabilitation, Canada
34. Nilesh Shah, Antaraatmaa Charitable Trust, Gujarat India
35. Margaret Howard, Wildlife Rescue and Rehab, flying foxes and microbats, NSW Australia
36. Breanne Marois, Wildlife Rehabilitator, Canada
37. Chen Angel, Bat Carer, Israel
38. Bidisha Mukherjee, Wildlife Volunteer, Canada
39. Zuleyma Campos, Biologist student, El Salvador
40. Bhargavi Srinivasulu, Bat biologist, India
41. Wim De Backer, Costa Rican Wildlife Manager and Bat-Biologist, Costa Rica
42. Katarzyna Janik-Superson, Microbiologist, chiropterologist, geneticist, University of Lodz, Polish Society for The Bat Protection OTON, Poland