

AVIAN REARING RESOURCE WEBSITE

For generations people have been hand-rearing birds, over the years protocols have been refined and improved however this information is not always easily accessible. Limited work has been done to measure the success rate of protocols or the long term affects of said protocols to health and breeding success of species; and at a time when it is vitally important to work together towards achieving sustainability of captive populations it is more important than ever to ensure that if the decision is made to intervene and hand-rear it is done with the knowledge that the resulting individuals will be healthy & valuable additions to the captive populations.

A new website has been created to compile protocols, measure success rates, highlight problems and potentially research into improving protocols, look into long term survival/breeding success of hand reared species.

The Avian Rearing Resource can be found at www.avianrearingresource.co.uk. The site is accessible to all and is simple to navigate. Over time it is hoped that by sharing information we can work towards minimizing mortality rates and improving quality of hand-reared individuals.

Aims of the site:

- To compile all current hand rearing protocols for all avian species.
- Highlight any problems with rearing individual species.

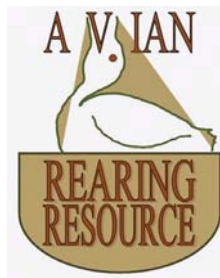
Using a rating system the success rate of each protocol is measured; stars are awarded for;

- Success rate
- If the protocol has been used successfully by two or more institutions/individuals.
- Points on minimizing imprinting.
- If the birds go on to produce fertile eggs.
- If the birds go on to successfully parent rear.

Each species can have as many as 4-5 protocols, giving people a better idea as to which may be the best option for them. A protocol template can be found on the home page along with a contact e-mail for any feedback. (All are encouraged to submit protocols). A hand-rearing decision tree is included on the homepage to encourage aviculturists to take the decision to hand-rear responsibly.

Addition information is also included, such as general species information, hand-rearing articles & husbandry guidelines.

The site is still in its infancy and will continue to evolve with your help and input, please feel free to e-mail any protocols, information or comments to me at avianrearing@googlemail.com



REVIEW: CITY & GUILDS CERTIFICATE IN VETERINARY NURSING OF EXOTIC SPECIES

Sarah Gough; Dubai Falcon hospital, PO Box 23919, Dubai

The course is provided by Edinburgh's Telford College on an open learning basis. The species covered are extensive and I was amazed at the level of information on each species.

Avian – Parrots, raptors, owls, perching birds, pigeons, ducks, swans, toucans.

Reptile & Amphibians – snakes, lizards, tortoises, terrapins, turtles, even the crocodile species and amphibians.

Small mammals – rabbits, rats, mice, hamsters, gerbils, guinea pigs, chinchillas, chipmunks, ferrets. Wildlife - Red foxes, badgers, hedgehogs, bats, deer, wild mustelids, otters, squirrels, hares, seals and wild birds.

Each species group are each split into 5 categories:

1. Biology / Husbandry / Reproduction.
2. Nutrition.
3. Handling / Anaesthesia.
4. Fluid therapy
5. Common diseases and their treatments.

The course material is very well laid out, and the majority of the information that is needed is within the packs, so no extra books are required. Self assessment questions ensure you are grasping the studies. At the end of each pack there is an assignment of short answer and multiple choice questions which require completing and posting or emailing to your UK tutor.

You have 18 months to complete the course. At the end if you so wish you can sit the City and Guilds examination to obtain the certificate component, currently held in September annually in Edinburgh, UK.

To be able to undertake the course you must be a qualified veterinary nurse and provide written evidence you deal with at least 10-15% exotic species.

Follow this link to find out more information about the course enrollment: <http://www.ed-coll.ac.uk/content.asp?ArticleCode=30&ID=592>



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