



"Songsasen, Nucharin"
<SongsasenN@si.edu>
12/02/2009 09:07 AM

To "Jeremy_Coleman@fws.gov" <Jeremy_Coleman@fws.gov>
cc "barbara_Douglas@fws.gov" <barbara_Douglas@fws.gov>,
"craigstihler@wvdnr.gov" <craigstihler@wvdnr.gov>,
"Deb_Carter@fws.gov" <Deb_Carter@fws.gov>,
bcc

Subject RE: Update on VBEB captive rearing project

Hi Jeremy,

I have contacted the team and we are available for a conference call at 2 PM today. How do you want to do this?

Most of us are out in Front Royal; however there are a couple of us that will call in from DC.

Cheers,

Nucharin

From: Jeremy_Coleman@fws.gov [mailto:Jeremy_Coleman@fws.gov]
Sent: Tuesday, December 01, 2009 5:59 PM
To: Songsasen, Nucharin
Cc: barbara_Douglas@fws.gov; craigstihler@wvdnr.gov; Deb_Carter@fws.gov; Keith_Hastie@fws.gov; Paul_Phifer@fws.gov; Martin_Miller@fws.gov; barbara_Douglas@fws.gov; Susi_vonOettingen@fws.gov; Robyn_Niver@fws.gov
Subject: Update on VBEB captive rearing project

Hello Nucharin,

I understand that some of the captive bats have died recently. Mortality is not unexpected, but the number of bats and the synchrony of the deaths is a bit alarming.

Are you available tomorrow or Thursday for a quick phone conference to brief us, the Service, on the project? I know that Barb Douglas and Craig Stihler have both been out of town, so I am not sure if they are up to speed on the project, and I would like to hear about the status of the bats, living and deceased. Please let me know if you, or a colleague, are available tomorrow (Wednesday 12/2) @ 2:00 eastern or Thursday @ 1:00 eastern for a quick call. I will send the call number when we set a time.

Please let me know if you have any questions.

Thanks,
Jeremy

Jeremy T. H. Coleman, Ph.D.
White-nose Syndrome Coordinator
U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service
New York Field Office
3817 Luker Road

Cortland, NY 13045 USA
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jeremy_coleman@fws.gov



I have contacted the team and we are available for a conference call in 2-3 days. How do you want to do that?
Most of us are out in East & west however there are a couple of us that will call in from DC

Thank you
I have contacted the team and we are available for a conference call in 2-3 days. How do you want to do that?
Most of us are out in East & west however there are a couple of us that will call in from DC

I understand that some of the objectives have been identified recently. Monitoring is not understood, but the number of bats and the seasonality of the deaths is a big question.
Are you available tomorrow or Thursday for a quick phone conference to brief us the Service on the project? I know that Bob Douglas and Craig Rubin have both been out of town so I am not sure if they are up to speed on the project and I would like to hear about the status of the bats being and discussed. Please let me know if you or a colleague are available tomorrow (Wednesday 1/27) at 1:00 eastern or Thursday @ 1:00 eastern for a quick call. I will send the call number when we set a date.

Please let me know if you have any questions.
Thank you
Jeremy
Jeremy H. Coleman, Ph.D.
White House Symposium Coordinator
U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service
New York Field Office
3811 Lakes Road



"Songsasen, Nucharin"
<SongsasenN@si.edu>
01/06/2010 08:50 AM

To "barbara_Douglas@fws.gov" <barbara_Douglas@fws.gov>,
"craigstihler@wvdr.gov" <craigstihler@wvdr.gov>
cc
bcc
Subject FW: Bat status Jan 5

Update from yesterday.

Both animals ate well after surgery and seemed strong and active. I will let you know how both bats are doing today.

From: Padilla, Luis

Sent: Tuesday, January 05, 2010 5:49 PM

To: Songsasen, Nucharin; Monfort, Steven; Moore, Don; Derrickson, Scott R.; Wildt, David

Cc: Williamson, Linwood; Lynch, Warren; Maslanka, Michael

Subject: RE: Bat status Jan 5

Update –

We amputated digit # 1 on two bats today. One bat underwent a bilateral amputation due to exposed, non-viable bone. The second bat underwent a unilateral amputation due to exposed, non-viable bone. The procedures went well, but the prognosis for long-term recovery is very guarded.

From: Songsasen, Nucharin

Sent: Tuesday, January 05, 2010 2:46 PM

To: Monfort, Steven; Moore, Don; Derrickson, Scott R.; Wildt, David

Cc: Williamson, Linwood; Lynch, Warren; Maslanka, Michael; Padilla, Luis

Subject: Bat status Jan 5

The medical situation is dire, while feeding and weight are the same. Time are more spend on treating bats than feeding them.

Four additional bats (true self feeders) have carpal/toe lesion and receive medical treatment today. Therefore, there are only four bats (3 SF and 1 IM group) that do not have any medical issue. Luis plan to do surgery two bats (true self feeders) to remove necrotic digits (only bone left) today. These bats have been self fed for 3 weeks and were found to have carpal/toe lesion 5 days ago. We unsure how the bats will move around after the necrotic digits are removed. If they become debilitated and have poor life quality, we may need to euthanize them.

Warren finished cover a free standing roost with smaller mesh net. He place two bats from IM group (Left teal female and Right purple male) in it. Discussion on whether we should put true self feeders with mild carpal lesion and those that have not developed any lesion in it to prevent them to get worsen. Warren will discuss with Luis and get his opinion (Luis was not in the meeting because he was still working with bats at 1 PM).

We have enough mesh to cover another roosting structure. Warren will start on it tomorrow. Order for smaller mesh net was placed; we hope that we will get the net and start covering more areas with it early next week.

Discussion on the possibility of crickets biting bats and causing digit lesion. Warren noticed that there are many crickets gathering on the top of the net where the bats roost, and there is an area that look like crickets are eating on the mesh. So far, there is no evidence of bats feeding on cricket. Warren will not put out more cricket tonight and see whether bat weight drops. If not, it may well be that cricket are not necessary and we can eliminate them from bat diet.

Nuch had telephone conference with Barb Douglas and Craig Stihler to update on what has happened in the colony for the past two weeks. She made very clear to them that carpal/toe lesion is the highest concern at this point and we are addressing this issue. Barb also said that there is no need to have a telephone conference with FWS (including Jeremy Coleman) because she will be in touch with them.

Nuch contact auditory laboratory at the University of Maryland (Cindy Moss) and inquire about their bat facility, but she did not get any useful information. The response was that they do not have experience with VBEB and we should contact Susan Bernard. Nuch will get Susan Bernard's contact info. Barb Douglas sent Diana Barber's (Chair of AZA bat TAG) contact info to Nuch. She will call her this afternoon to see whether she can offer any advices on how to deal with carpal/toe issue.

Next meeting tomorrow at 1 PM. There will be no conference line. Nuch will call Dave and Mike.



"Songsasen, Nucharin"
<SongsasenN@si.edu>
01/18/2010 02:00 PM

To ""barbara_Douglas@fws.gov"" <barbara_Douglas@fws.gov>, 'Craig Stihler' <craigstihler@wvdnr.gov>
cc
bcc

Subject FW: Bat status Jan 17

Barb and Craig,

We lost two bats yesterday (see below).

Two true self feeding females has steadily gained weight during the past week; one weight >17 g and another 16 g this morning.

We are not sure whether these girls are pregnant; we are our eyes on them.

From: Songsasen, Nucharin

Sent: Sunday, January 17, 2010 8:15 PM

To: Wildt, David; Monfort, Steven; Moore, Don; Derrickson, Scott R.

Cc: Williamson, Linwood; Lynch, Warren; Maslanka, Michael; Padilla, Luis

Subject: Bat status Jan 17

Two bats died today:

1. Bat # 114520 (Female left teal) – chronic “poor” doer since 12/13 when she got extremely wet. Had been polyuric/polydypsic and seen wet/soaked in her own urine daily, had several rounds of wing skin infections, ear infections, progressing to weight loss and total anorexia yesterday. She died in the incubator

2. Bat # 114512 (Female right black) – this animal was a “self-feeder: with one of the more dramatic bilateral traumatic lesions to the carpus and digit #1 (thumb). Since 12/11, she was under treatment for the digits and carpal lesions that we now believe to be associated with the inappropriate mesh size. In this bat, the right thumb had developed a constrictive scar that effectively cut off the blood supply, causing necrosis of the digit distally. In addition, this bat showed one episode of prolonged bleeding. After a portion of the digit sloughed off on 1/10/10, this bat needed additional debridement of the remaining wound over the carpus on 1/15/10. Over the next two days, the surgical site continued to swell (in part due to the anatomical location of this problem), and today this needed to be surgically corrected to avoid further blood loss, in addition to needing an amputation of the opposite (left) thumb. The bat died while under anesthesia as the procedure was being completed.

The bat in SF group that was in crate last night gained weight, so it was let out of the crate today.

One bat in IM group that has no health issue, but does not eat on her own was placed in a closed crate with meal worms this evening in attempt to transition her to self feeding.

One bat in IM group (Right Purple, aka Bruce/Joey) who has been in the roost (with small size mesh) eat on his own. He was weighed, got check by Luis, and let to feed on his own in the roost.

Other bats in IM and SF group remain the same.



"Songsasen, Nucharin"
<SongsasenN@si.edu>

01/13/2010 05:02 PM

To "barbara_douglas@fws.gov" <barbara_douglas@fws.gov>,
'Craig Stihler' <craigstihler@wvdnr.gov>

cc

bcc

Subject: FW: Bat status jan 13

There are confirmed 18 true self feeding bats.

Two bats locked in crate last night gained weight and were let out of the crate this morning.

Two self feeders were held in the front enclosure this morning for Luis to look at their #1 digit in the evening. They will be released in the SF enclosure this evening.

There are four candidates for amputation of #1 digit.

The status of IM bats remain the same.



"Lynch, Warren"
<LynchW@si.edu>
02/08/2010 06:10 PM

To ""barbara_douglas@fws.gov"" <barbara_douglas@fws.gov>,
""craigstihler@wvdnr.gov"" <craigstihler@wvdnr.gov>
cc
bcc

Subject VBEB update 2/8

Male peach bat died while under anesthesia for partial wing amputation. L orange female underwent surgery for R first digit amputation. The remaining three intensively managed bats remain the same. The self feeding bats all showed normal weight fluctuations.



"Lynch, Warren"
<LynchW@si.edu>
02/10/2010 09:38 PM

To ""barbara_Douglas@fws.gov" <barbara_Douglas@fws.gov>,
"craigstihler@wvdnr.gov" <craigstihler@wvdnr.gov>

cc

bcc

Subject FW: VBEB update 2/10

Both of the bats that underwent surgery in the past 2 days are doing well (maintaining weight and surgery site clean and healing well).

Female peach bat lost a negligible amount of weight and remains out in the enclosure for continued testing for self feeding.

Frankie began work on the new enclosure at SAF. He was not able to spend much time there because his services were required elsewhere due to weather conditions. He believes it won't take long to complete.

From: Lynch, Warren

Sent: Tuesday, February 09, 2010 9:06 PM

To: Monfort, Steven; Derrickson, Scott R.; Moore, Don; Wildt, David

Cc: Songsasen, Nucharin; Padilla, Luis; Maslanka, Michael; Williamson, Linwood; Marrow, Judilee

Subject: RE: VBEB update 2/9

Male R red underwent surgery for L first digit amputation. Surgery went well and the bat fed and drank afterwards and was released to the enclosure. Female peach bat is being tested for self feeding again. The dry skin noted in some bats last week seems to have improved. The remaining bats are essentially unchanged.

Frankie made an assessment of work for pen modification at SAF and will begin work as soon as possible.



"Songsasen, Nucharin"
<SongsasenN@si.edu>
03/01/2010 09:54 AM

To 'Craig Stihler' <craigstihler@wvdnr.gov>,
"barbara_Douglas@fws.gov" <barbara_Douglas@fws.gov>
cc
bcc
Subject euthanasia

Hi Craig and Barb,

We would like to euthanize the last poor doer male. Below is the reason why we need to euthanize them.

“Bat is unable to fly due to poor wing condition and has developed thickened carpi at point of contact. In last 48 hrs, right digit #1 has become necrotic with exposed bone. Although amputation is an option and a short-term solution to the necrotic digit, overall quality of life and long term prognosis are so poor that it is deemed inhumane to take this extreme surgical intervention and expect the bat to recover and continue to ambulate on the site of surgical amputation.”

Also, it seems that something very serious is going on in the colony. In the past 48 h, we have lost two healthy bats. We do not know what the underlying cause, but we are brainstorming to right now to figure this out.

Nuch



"Songsasen, Nucharin"
<SongsasenN@si.edu>

02/27/2010 04:24 PM

To "barbara_douglas@fws.gov" <barbara_douglas@fws.gov>,
Craig Stihler <craigstihler@wvdnr.gov>

cc

bcc

Subject: update

Hi Barb and Craig,

more bad news, our best bat just found dead this morning. She appeared to be normal yesterday (very active, good weight, no sign of sickness, she is one of a few bats that have not been under any medical treatment). This is very frustrating for us, and definitely for you as well. I will let you know if they find anything during necropsy..

Nuch