

CASE STUDY

“PROVIDING ASSISTANCE TO WILD ANIMALS/WILDLIFE AND FIRST AID”

**Estonian University of Life Sciences &
Nigula Wildlife Rehabilitation Center, Tallinn Zoological Gardens**

Information about the project

Duration: Aug 2009 – Jul 2010, the follow-up project in Oct 2010- Aug 2011
 Project performer: Estonian University of Life Sciences, Open University
 Project financier: Environmental Investment Centre
 Project partner: Nigula Wildlife Rehabilitation Center, Tallinn Zoological Gardens

Note: This CS is good example of cooperation between the university and different regions which have the same need and interest. It is also about how media interests may influence the work of projects.

<p>Aim of the project</p>	<p>The aim of the project was to carry out a training course that was designed for the environment specialists and veterinarians consisting of 40-academic hours on the topics of providing assistance to wild animals/wildlife and first aid.</p>
<p>The project outline</p>	<p>At the moment in Estonia this kind of training is not being offered and we also lack knowledge of this area. However, environmental specialists have to provide assistance to wildlife (wild animals) as part of their job responsibility. Also many animal parks, shelters and clinics are engaged with the life of wild animals, but the workers do not have the possibility to acquire knowledge of the handling of wild animals as there are no such programmes available.</p> <p>In order to make the situation better and offer the necessary training to the specialists we brought the know-how from the University of Veterinary Medicine of Vienna.</p> <p>A training programme consisting of 5 days and 1 practical training day was carried out in cooperation with the Tallinn Zoological Gardens and Nigula Wildlife Rehabilitation Centre. Animals and birds were brought from the Tallinn Zoological Gardens for the practical day of training in order to provide each participant the experience of trying to handle wild animals.</p> <p>As a result of this training the participants acquired knowledge of: which cases to help and provide assistance to wild animals or birds and in which cases not; how to handle wild animals; the requirements of safety in handling wild animals and birds; how to identify the problem and how to adequately assess the situation and provide first aid; how to arrange transportation to the clinic, animal shelters or to the zoos if necessary.</p>

	<p>The first pilot project in this area took place in 2010. The same training will be carried out in 2011 as the request for acquiring such knowledge was really at high level. The training will now be carried out in different separate groups for y the veterinarians, environment specialists and workers of the animal shelters as the knowledge of veterinary science and direct contact with animals differs widely from one target group to another.</p>
<p>Assessment and evaluation of the outcomes of the project</p>	<p>Very high interest in participation in this training. The expected outcome of the project was 20 participants, it was successfully achieved. A 5-day training course was held consisting of 40 academic hours contact training and additionally individual work where the amount was at least 12 academic hours. The practical work was held in the riding ground of the Livestock and Veterinary Medicine Institute where the smaller wild animals and reptiles, examples of transport crates, hypnotic shotguns etc. were brought.</p> <p>Learning took place in the format of lectures and practical training. During the three days of the classroom training several foreign lecturers performed in front of the audience.</p> <p>Specimens of animals were brought from the Tallinn Zoological Gardens in order to conduct the practical training.</p> <p>Target group: 20 participants. Environment and animal protection specialists, the workers of animal shelters and veterinarians.</p> <p>The following topics were addressed:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - The legislation on handling the wild animals. - Estonian wild animals - determination of species in the Estonian nature. - Handling wild animals: catching, fixation (physical restraint) and transporting. - The mechanical and biological dangers in handling wild animals. - Safety facilities used in working with wild animals. - Anaesthesiology of wild animals. - The medicine and first aid of wild animals. - An overview of different health histories of wild animals. - Medical treatment and care of wild animals. - Projects on (wildlife conservation) protection of wild animals. - Practical training. <p>The unexpected interest of media on this topic: 01.05.2010 The Estonian Television broadcast: "On Hindsight". http://etv.err.ee/arhiiv.php?id=105470 05.04.2010 "Inhabitants of the zoo heading, to the training in Tartu"</p>

	<p>Tartu Postimees http://www.tartupostimees.ee/?id=245601</p> <p>06.04. 2010 News at 21.00, ETV http://uudised.err.ee/index.php?06199682</p> <p>http://www.monitooring.ee/clients/maaulikool/article&sf1=06.04.2010&id=1229787966&button=Submit&sc=&body</p> <p>06.04.2010 "The Woodsmen are given the assistance in The Estonian University of Life Sciences", Tartu Postimees http://www.tartupostimees.ee/?id=246490</p> <p>08.04.2010 "Vikerboa taught the first aid", Tartu Postimees Tartu Postimees http://www.tartupostimees.ee/?id=247039</p>
<p>The essential results and positive outcomes</p>	<p>Interest in the topic was very high. The target group of the training programme consisted of environment specialists, the workers of the animal shelters, veterinarians etc. Also the workers of animal clinics, veterinary pharmacies showed high interest in this training course. Many of the people who wanted to participate did not fit into the group of participants.</p>
<p>Problems and failures</p>	<p>All the activities were carried out as planned. There were no failures or misinterpretations between the project associates.</p> <p>The high media interest was totally unexpected and it became even annoying at times as it started to interrupt the work and learning activities that were going on.</p>
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