

Osteopathy and Birds – A Global Approach

Tony Nevin, BSc (Hons) Ost., D.O.



Zoo Ost Ltd

*All aspects of osteopathic care
for people, animals & birds*

Zoo Ost Ltd
29 Alstone Croft
Cheltenham
Glos.
GL51 8HB
United Kingdom

Background

- Based on more than 20 years experience in avian osteopathy
- Focus on the global treatment of raptor casualties rehabilitated back into the wild
- Data was categorised
- Treatment performed by the author – using a baseline of osteopathic principles¹
- All cases were post release monitored

Objectives

- To measure whether osteopathic intervention could be used as an aid to wildlife care/ rehabilitation
- To create a baseline protocol for the osteopathic treatment of wild raptors
- To measure whether treated raptors fared differently to untreated ones post release

Methods

- Retrospective study
- Data from 48 injured raptors in the UK
- Screened by veterinary surgeons prior to osteopathic intervention
- All cases were deemed unlikely to survive in wild unaided²
- All cases were at 2 UK wildlife hospitals³

Results

- 48 cases referred by vet
- 42 were released back into wild
- All were monitored post release for 3 weeks minimum
- 2 were re-admitted and allowed extra time to get fit in flight aviaries
- Patient rehab was reduced by an average of 18 days when compared to other recorded data⁴

Species	Quantity	Neck	Wing	Leg
Common Buzzard	10	1	9	0
Marsh Harrier	3	0	3	0
Peregrine Falcon	3	0	3	0
Sparrow hawk	4	1	1	2
Kestrel	4	1	3	0
Hobby	2	0	2	0
Barn Owl	8	5	2	1
Tawny Owl	7	6	1	0
Little Owl	4	1	1	2
Long Eared Owl	2	1	1	0
Short eared Owl	1	0	1	0
Total	48	16	27	5

Species	No. of Tx	Released	PTS	Died
Common Buzzard	3	8	1	1
Marsh Harrier	2	3	0	0
Peregrine Falcon	2	3	0	0
Sparrow Hawk	2	3	0	1
Kestrel	2	3	1	0
Hobby	1	2	0	0
Barn Owl	3	7	1	0
Tawny Owl	2	6	0	1
Little Owl	2	4	0	0
Long Eared Owl	2	2	0	0
Short Eared Owl	1	1	0	0
Total	22	42	3	3

Common Buzzard

Buteo buteo



Marsh Harrier

Circus aeruginosus



Active muscle/joint exercising



Successful release



Sparrow hawk
Accipiter nisus



Kestrel

Falco tinnunculus



Examination



Active muscle testing



Barn Owl

Tyto alba





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Pre release flight



Conclusions

- Wild birds accept osteopathic treatment
- With good inter professional communication osteopathy can be integrated into wildlife rehabilitation³
- Osteopathic intervention can dramatically reduce patient rehabilitation times⁴
- More evidence based research is needed

References

- ¹Nevin A. (1998) Osteopathy on Wild Birds. British Wildlife Rehabilitation Council, Autumn 1998 Symposium Proceedings. Available from <http://www.bwrc.org.uk>
- ²RSPCA Guidelines on Euthanasia. Available from <http://www.rspca.org.uk>
- ³Lower Moss Wood Wildlife Hospital, School Lane, Ollerton, Cheshire, UK; Weirfield Wildlife Hospital, Rookery Lane, Lincoln, UK.
- ⁴British Wildlife Rehabilitation Council data base from UK wildlife hospitals. Available from <http://www.bwrc.org.uk>