

# From NVQ Students to St. Tiggywinkles Nurses...

As you know St. Tiggywinkles is committed to the care of sick, injured and orphaned British wildlife, however we also place a great importance on teaching others this very new science. Les writes books on the subject, we present and publish papers and spend many hours answering queries from vets and other rehabbers. However, with the introduction of a National Vocational Qualification in Animal Care, placements were needed for students to learn basic husbandry and medical skills on a range of species. Everyone agrees St. Tiggywinkles fits this criteria perfectly and so in 1997 we took on a number of students from the local college. They were to be with us for four days a week with one day spent in the classroom.

The students developed at their own pace, but from the start two stood out from the rest. These were Sharon (who has written for this newsletter in the past) and Francesca. Both excelled in



different areas: Sharon is a bird fanatic and gradually took the responsibility for our Bird Nursery, while Francesca has natural leadership qualities and despite being the youngest of the group was soon made a team leader, supervising our volunteers two days a week.

During their second year the students are encouraged to learn more about the medical treatment of patients and Sharon and Francesca soon became valuable assistants to our nursing team. So much so, that when vacancies arose within the team both girls applied for the positions and were taken on, they are now both full time members of staff.

We were very proud when both Sharon and Francesca passed their NVQ exams last summer but this has now been surpassed. Both girls were invited, along with their families, to attend a recent awards ceremony at the college where they had studied. They had no idea why they were invited (although the fact that a number of St. Tiggywinkles staff were there to cheer them on should have given the game away), but were both rather nervous. They soon learned the truth as the winners of the 'Commitment to Training Awards 2000' were announced.

We are pleased and incredibly proud to say that Sharon went home with 1st



prize with Francesca following in second place.

I am sure you will all join everyone at St. Tiggywinkles in congratulating them both.

## Wanted

Picture Frames

Used Hedgehog Christmas Cards

Chest Freezers any size

Stamps

Cotton Buds

(Lots of, for baby mammals)

Bottle Sterilising Tablets

Calgon Tablets

Gas Cooker

Foreign and Old Coins

Stationery

Fridge Freezer

Toner Cartridge HP51649A

Bric-a-Brac

Readicut Sweater

(see article "Sweaters")

Feather Dusters

(not nylon)

Baby Bottles & Teats

(Premature baby size)

Thank you all once again for the tremendous response to our wanted columns.

## Computer Programmes For Sale

We have a number of new computer programmes for sale at BARGAIN prices.

The programmes are:

**Any Time Deluxe Microsoft Office 97, Individual Training**

**Quick & Easy 4 Pack** (Four programmes in one).

They would normally retail in the region of £20.00, but we are selling them for £5.00 each, with all proceeds contributing towards the care of our patients. Please make cheques payable to Wildlife Hospital Trading and send your details together with which programmes you would like to our normal address.

## Special Help Needed

Creating a comfortable and peaceful environment for our patients is an integral part of their rehabilitation, particularly while they are in the intensive care wards. Each species has its own needs, but all seem to like something soft to cuddle up in or hide under. The cheapest and most hygienic way for us to provide this vital comforter is by using donated towels, which are also by far the safest bedding for these poorly creatures. Hedgehogs in particular are much calmer when able to snuggle up under their nice clean towels. However, this presents us with another problem; each of these

towels has to be washed and disinfected before it can be re-used.

When we first moved to our Haddenham site we bought two commercial washing machines to cope with our patients needs, these have served us well, but eventually we have worn them out. One has now broken beyond repair while the other is fading fast.

To replace these machines we have been quoted a price of £3,700, so we would be very happy and grateful to hear from anyone who knows where we could acquire industrial sized washing machines at a cheaper price.

Anyone who has visited our Visitor Centre will know that one of the highlights is seeing the different species of deer running around in our large paddock. Some visitors spend most of their visit watching the interaction between these animals and



all have said what a rare treat it was.

To increase the pleasure of this experience we would very much like to provide a telescope viewer through which people could watch the deer close up. These are of course very expensive so we would appreciate it if all our members could keep watch for any that are being replaced, so that perhaps we could acquire one second hand.

If you or anyone you know can help us with either of these special requests, please get in touch, we would love to hear from you.



Cut out and keep this coupon for your FREE Visitor Centre Entry.

**FREE**

*Visitor Centre Entry for St. Tiggywinkles Member*

Name : \_\_\_\_\_

Membership No: \_\_\_\_\_

**Opening Times - Until Easter:- Monday to Friday 10am till 4pm  
After Easter:- Every Day 10am till 4pm**