



Injured and orphaned badgers

Badger cubs

Every year, dozens of orphaned badger cubs come into the care of local Badger Groups across the country. These cubs are usually found because their mothers have been killed, typically as a result of road traffic accidents. Cubs may also be orphaned when they become lost or get separated from their mothers for other reasons. They can also come into care when they are injured in road traffic accidents.

Adult badgers

Adult badgers also come into the care of local Badger Groups because of injuries from road traffic accidents, and wounds from snares or fights with other badgers. If the badgers recover successfully, they are released close to where they were found, so they can return to their families.

Badger Trust action

Coordination

Orphaned badger cubs need to be reared with others of their own kind. Badger Trust, Secret World Wildlife Rescue and the RSPCA work together to co-ordinate the rearing and release to the wild of up to 50 or more badger cubs every year. Very young badger cubs are first bottle-fed and then put into groups soon after weaning. Once the cubs are fit and able to fend for themselves, they are TB tested and then released at carefully selected sites.

Information and advice

Sick, injured and orphaned badgers need specialist care if they are to survive and return to the wild. Badger Trust therefore provides advice on the rehabilitation and release of badgers. In conjunction with Secret World Wildlife Rescue and the RSPCA we have compiled a comprehensive set of guidelines for the rescue, care and release of injured and orphaned badgers. This is known as the Badger Rehabilitation Protocol which can be downloaded from http://www.badger.org.uk/Attachments/Resources/39_S4.pdf.



Photograph by Steve Jackson 2007.