



Allpets Veterinary Hospital
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01/10/2025

Submission in support of WRI planning application 2560928

To Whom It May Concern,

I am writing to you as a veterinary surgeon who has lived and worked in the Drogheda area for the past 25 years to appeal to you to look favourably on the current WRI hospital planning permission submission for Mornington, Co Meath. I am Clinical Director at Allpets Veterinary Hospital and see first-hand daily how we as a nation are failing wildlife everyday with no agency solely responsible for wildlife and years behind the UK in our care and resources for our wildlife. Daily, members of the public and voluntary rescuers bring injured wildlife to practices where overstretched and under resourced veterinary staff voluntarily provide whatever first aid, they can. Allpets is part of large corporate group IVC with approx. 70 practices nationwide and the wildlife crisis is regularly part of our discussion groups as a national issue that we as a group passionately feel we need to generate awareness and appeal for national assistance.

Wildlife in Ireland has been seriously neglected through lack of state initiative, resources, and funding. Nationally, our sick and injured wildlife is dependent on the goodwill and generosity of time of both the public and private vets. Vets and gardai are the only people who answer phones to the public having found a sick or injured wildlife given vets have a duty of care to provide 24/7 care for their registered clients and gardai are also a 24/7 service. These services are already heavily stretched for resources and private vets out of a moral and ethical duty help where they can the wildlife presented to them often at very unsociable hours/at weekends. In recent years more and more vets have had to decline to see wildlife due to staff shortages, fears of staff acquiring zoonotic diseases such as Avian flu, lack of education of vets in the wildlife area and corporatisation. This has led to wildlife going untreated or travelling long distances to get a vet who will donate their time even though it is a basic welfare guideline not to enforce any unnecessary distance of travel on a sick/injured wildlife.

This invariably puts a huge added pressure on the practices still willing to see wildlife on a goodwill basis, which is currently reaching crisis point in a profession where burn out is at the highest level ever seen in the profession and many leaving their beloved profession as the life is unsustainable. A centralised wildlife training hospital would be a lifeline to not only the wildlife in Ireland but to the rehabbers, volunteers and vets trying to deal with the mammoth task of Wildlife care in Ireland. We need a hospital where those patients who go beyond first aid/euthanasia can be sent for surgery, advanced procedures or where prolonged medical attention is required especially for the cases with our endangered species.



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Vets in all areas of the country could go to the Wildlife hospital, have specialised training in this highly specialised area of veterinary medicine and bring their knowledge back to their communities and be the point of contact in the community of wildlife in the area and triage cases as appropriate to be sent to the centralised hospital. The wildlife nationally would then be getting the best care possible locally and when required transferred for prolonged care/advanced procedures to the expert veterinarians in wildlife at the Mornington facility.

I would like to point out that as a nation we are very vulnerable to incoming diseases in our wildlife species (many like leptospirosis, avian flu, TB etc are zoonotic) as we do not have a centralised data base of the sick and injured birds coming into veterinary practices around the country. There is no monitoring of what cases presented so trends in disease prevalence can be detected. It is only those reaching PM in state labs which are few and far between get accurate diagnosis and trends seen here are only a fraction of what is going on in the broader wildlife community. A centralised training hospital would be a hub of knowledge collection and sharing and invaluable in early detection of wildlife disease prevalence in Ireland.

No wildlife should be asked to be housed in a veterinary clinic of barking dogs and anxious cats. Wildlife is a separate entity and need specialised care, quiet facilities, and an environment which as best possible mimics their natural habitat.

I appeal to you not only on behalf of the wildlife and rehabbers/volunteers of the country but also on behalf of the vets who are crying out for assistance /training /resources who feel the state has neglected its responsibility to wildlife for years and goodwill amongst those vets who regularly see wildlife free of charge, on their own time, without appropriate training and facilities to deal with them.

I fully support this application and commend the vision and determination behind it.

Yours sincerely,

Ann Marie Horgan MVB GP Cert SAM SAS.
Allpets Veterinary Hospital, Drogheda, Co Louth A92 KF67

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'Ann Marie Horgan', followed by the date '2/10/25'. The signature is written over a horizontal line.