

## **Raptors presented to Veterinary Teaching Hospital (VTH), University of Peradeniya**

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Forty three raptors, (19 eagles and 24 owls) belong to seven species were presented to the Veterinary Teaching Hospital, University of Peradeniya over a two and a half-year period (January 2014 to June 2016). Three species of eagles namely, Crested serpent eagle (*Spilornis cheela*) (13), Changeable hawk-eagle (*Nisaetus cirrhatus*) (5) and Brahminy kite (*Haliastur indus*) (1); and four species of owls namely, Oriental Scops owls (*Otus sunia leggei*) (10), Brown wood owl (*Strix leptogrammica*) (11), Brown fish owl (*Bubo zeylonensis*) (2) and Spot-bellied eagle-owl (*Bubo nipalensis*) (1) were the raptors presented.

General clinical examination after careful handling and restraint was performed upon arrival at the VTH and appropriate samples were collected. Specific treatment and management protocols were designed and executed for each raptor depending on the diagnoses. A primary clinical diagnosis was made in 38 (88.6%) and no diagnosis was made in 5 (11.6%) raptors admitted. Twelve birds (27.9%) were orphaned juveniles and all these were owls (Oriental Scops owls- 9, brown wood owls – 2, Spot-bellied eagle-owl -1). Traumatic injuries were recorded in 19 animals including an orphan owl. The types of injuries were fractures (11), ocular trauma (2) and other injuries (5). Most of the fractures were open, infected and infested with fly larvae at the time of presentation. The remaining animals were diagnosed as having infections (2), poor nutrition (5), and corneal opacity (1). Causes for traumatic injuries were unknown for majority of cases (73.6%) while there were two cases of animal attacks, two cases of electrocution and one case of vehicular accident. An external parasite, brown chicken louse (*Goniodes dissimilis*) was found in 8 owls and the presence of haemoparasite, *Haemoproteu spp.* was detected in 6 owls.

Overall, 18 (41.9%) died, 13 (30.2%) ended up in permanent captivity while 12 (27.9%) were released back to the wild. A satisfactory survival rate (75%) was recorded among orphaned baby raptors. This preliminary investigation on raptors as wild animal patients highlighted some of the clinical problems and outcomes of treatment and management of these animals.

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