RECOVERY AND REHABILITATION OF THE COMMON SCOTER (MELANITTA NIGRA)

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History and figures of the oil spill
- 3-11 February 2008, Island of Föhr, Germany
- 397 birds capture, common scoters (Melanitta nigra)
- 90 euthanatized, 307 transported to 2 rehabilitation centers
  - 62 to Weidefeld GE, 239 Fûgelpits NL, 6 lost
- In Föhr only stabilization with tube-feeding and 3 days of pellets.

Situation on Föhr GE
- Tierhaus Föhr Janine Bahr
  - Intake: triage and first cleaning and temporary ring band
  - Stabilization: > 2 electrolyte tube feedings
  - Body condition, weight, blood and behavior
  - Transport to other 2 centers
  - Housing in net bottom pens (4-6, 40°C)
  - Feeding tube-fed 5-6 times, ad lib pellet/fish

Stabilization intensive!!

Common scoter (Melanitta nigra)
Rehabilitation Centre Weidefeld GE

- Young rehabilitation experience
- 62 scoters < Föhr GE (6th February)
- 6 scoters < Syt GE
- Total washed 48
- Mortality 16 (10 before/6 after washing)
- Euthanized 17 (9 before/8 after washing)
- Released 35 scoters (= 51%)

Fûgelpits, Moddergat NL

- Very experiences (founded 1978)
- 239 scoters < Föhr
  - (4 transports, 5th 66, 8th 85, 10th 46, 12th 42)
- Cleaned 205
- Mortality 44 (33/11)
- Euthanized 0
- Released 194 (= 81%)
Methods Weideveld GE

• Net-bottom-cages 3-7 (first on papers)
• Manual washing after 7-11 days
• Drying with warmth (> no preening)
• Tube feeding till washing
• After washing pellets and fish
• Blood-sampling at arrival, before washing and before release (PCV, TP and glucose)

Methods Fûgelpits NL

• Open space on wood shavings (>20 birds)
• Washing machine after 7-14 days
• No warmth for drying (much preening)
• No tube feeding
• First fish and pellets (3d), than only pellets
• Blood sampling before release (51 birds; PCV, TP and gluc)
Basic principles

- **Weidefeld**
  hands-on, intensive care approach

- **Fügelpits**
  hands-off approach without much interference, to try to reduce stress

You are responsible for your patient!
From intake ....
for stabilization, washing, feeding and treatment .... till release

Post-mortem exam
Melina Divers 2008 Black Scooters Fohr
Necropsy 32 birds from Fûgelpits

- Hemorrhagic diathesis 14x >> hypoglycaemia
- Aspergillus infection 11x
  - Only trachea 7x
  - Air sacs and lungs 4x
- Food lesions 25x (3x serious)
- Parasites 18x
  - Tapeworms 17x, Stomachworm 4x

Anorexia >> hem diathesis!!

Blood collection? Y/N?
Ready for washing or release?

Body weight and blood values

- Weideveld 34 birds released
  - weight 906 grams (742-1070)
  - Ht (PCV) 39% (32-48)
- Fûgelpits 51 birds
  - weight 933 grams (820-1160)
  - Ht (PCV) 43% (33-51)

Questions? Discussion?