

# RECENT ANIMAL STORIES



## HARVEST MICE

For some years Secret World has been keeping unrelated Harvest Mice in breeding tanks aiming to produce a number of young which can be released into our Millennium Wood.

In one of the tanks this year a tiny adult rodent (weighing only 6g) built her nest up against the glass wall of her tank, giving a rare glimpse of her minute pink babies.



## SWAN RESCUE

Recently a call was made to Secret World when a passer-by saw a Swan in difficulty near the Nature Reserve at Shapwick. Graeme Thompson, an experienced response driver, quickly got to the scene and realised he would need the help of the Burnham-On-Sea rescue boat (BARB) to catch the bird.

It was obvious that the bird had a large barbed fishing hook in its beak which had to be removed using bolt croppers on its arrival at the vet. The next morning the bird was strong enough for an x-ray and anaesthetic and a large amount of hook and line was removed from its throat. Soon after the swan was released back to Shapwick (pictured above)



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## DEER RELEASE

A number of orphaned deer fawns come into our centre annually. After a long process of rehabilitation, George, Red and "Spinal Tap" were finally ready for release.

Each year animals are released back to the wild in groups at special locations. The pictures opposite show the red deer and two roe getting their first taste of freedom.



## DEAD ANIMALS DUMPED

A story that you may well be aware of, due to mass press coverage,

was a callout that Secret World responded to back in August. On arrival at the scene near Burtle, Pauline and the team of rescuers found the bodies of over a hundred dead chickens and ducks in a river. There were also some live ferrets and a kitten in a cage with more birds and a dead cat and it appeared that the animals had been starved. While the RSPCA undertook an investigation to find out who was responsible for this terrible act the kitten was given a permanent home by one of Secret World's staff and the surviving ferrets now have a new home at Secret World.

## BADGER POISONING

This year two badgers came into us for treatment showing signs of poisoning. In one it was so bad that the poor animal's faeces were fluorescent green. One of the badgers died soon after it arrived at our centre, while the other had to be put on a drip but made a full recovery and has been released back to the wild.

