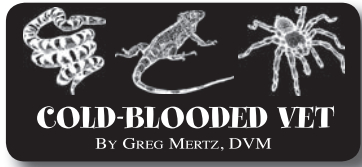


# What Is the New England Wildlife Center?



By Dr. Greg Mertz, DVM

The Center is a vibrant, multi-faceted organization that undertakes to educate interested individuals about the biology of life on Earth through the activity of medically caring for exotic pets and the wildlife species of New England. The Center is a small non-profit that does not easily fit traditional service agency definitions. We teach environmental education but we are not a nature center; we host multiple young disabilities groups but we are not a social service agency; we provide veterinary care to thousands of domestic and wild animals but we are not a small animal hospital; we train a hundred undergraduate students a year but we are not a college; we conduct a hundred concerts and open mics a year but we are not a lounge nor a conservatory; we teach hundreds of elementary and high school kids every year but we are not a school.

So what are we? We are real people doing real things and letting students of all ages and all walks of life join in. We let it happen naturally. All

staff at the Center are dedicated to the idea that what we do and what we value are worthy of sharing with others. We believe in the scientific method as a means for developing rational actions on behalf of wildlife and habitats. We value the acquisition of knowledge but as importantly we value the development of skill. We are a free choice learning environment that uses the practice of veterinary medicine as a vehicle for public education.

No one comes to the Center because they are forced. We do not recruit or coerce. Students come because they want to do the things we do. And we encourage them. Learning at the Center weaves Socratic approaches with kinesthetic apprenticeship: learn by asking; learn by doing.

We are an action-based organization. Our core activities embrace the biology and associated sciences of Earth. Because we care directly for animals that represent habitats from all across the world we study and implement facts and concepts that range from the microcosmic to the global. Wildlife veterinary medicine mixes the microscopic, cell-based, and immediate with the far-reaching, community-based, and continental. Sometimes we treat to benefit the

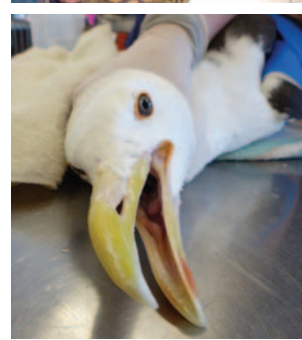
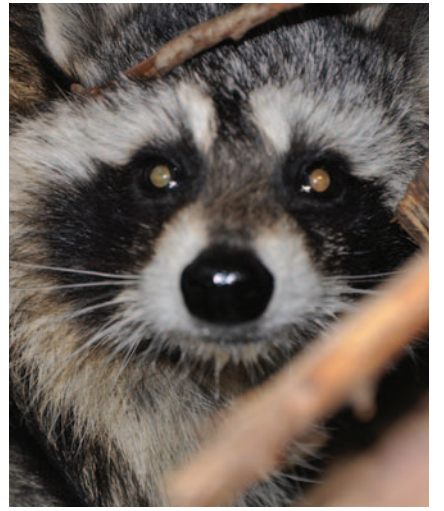
mitochondria of a cell; sometimes we aim to destroy the viral particles of rabies and H5N1 that infect the animal in front of us and might also spread across large regions of the world; at other times we care for endangered species like pied-billed grebes and Northern timber rattlesnakes to protect global biodiversity; at others we treat and release patients, like Canada Geese, that are found ten years later in habitats as local as Whitman Pond and as far away as Labrador. Wildlife and exotic medicine is a diverse and rich field for investigation, action and learning.

Our style of education is natural and uncritical. Everyone learns at their own pace and in their own way. Judgments are not made; tests are not given; grades are not assigned. We depend on students to tell us of their ideas and their questions. Students depend on us to act forthrightly in purveying healthy wildlife, domestic pets and habitats.

So why do we have folk and blues jams every Saturday night? Because our staff, interns and volunteers share more than the work of caring for animals. Vital learners are rarely singularly focused on one idea or one talent. We are real people doing real things

and letting students of all ages and all walks of life join in.

We have no age limits for volunteers. Toddlers work alongside their parents and grandparents; teenagers come to work, socialize and learn; and undergraduate students come to us from colleges and universities from all



over the United States and from around the world. Why? To help care for the hundreds of species of animals that come to us, and to learn.

Join us, learn with us, educate with us. Contact us at 781-682-4878, or on Facebook at New England Wildlife Center or at our web site Newwildlife.com.



## Like Kupo, Fluffy White Dog Next Famous Pet with Facebook Milestone

Sometimes people say he looks like a rug. Other times, he is mistaken for a teddy bear. However, if there's one thing certain about Kupo, no one

would call him unpopular. With a growing audience for his Facebook page, this fluffy white puppy is rapidly becoming the next Internet sensation, following in the paw-steps

of his idols, Boo, the world's cutest dog, and Mark Zuckerberg's own dog Beast.

Kupo's Facebook page has just passed 100,000 likes, no small feat for a puppy that's

less than a year old. But if his recent posts are any indication, he's set his sights higher, looking to reach a million likes and entering into the rarefied space reserved for only a small handful of famous pooches.

Kupo's page features daily posts where he shares photos of his adventures, answers questions, and gives advice. Ranging from uplifting to silly, he speaks with confidence in his posts, despite his breed not being known to be the smartest. For example, in one post answering the frequently asked question of how he's able to see through all his hair, he enthusiastically answered "With my nose!" addressing the question, but raising more curiosity about this delightful little dog.

While interest in Kupo initially started in the United States, his popularity has extended internationally, and he has now amassed a strong fan base in Brazil where followers affectionately cry out "Fofo"

and "Lindo" each time he posts a new photo.

The popularity of Kupo has helped raise awareness of the Coton de Tulear, an uncommon breed that's being increasingly recommended for its unique combination of being extremely soft and fluffy, while being non-shedding and hypoallergenic. In addition to having no congenital health issues and minimal exercise requirements, a Coton can be a great choice for many families looking for a friendly lap-pet to live indoors.

Kupo has also recently expanded his presence to Twitter and Pinterest as well, and in the coming year may look to offline channels as well.

If you want to support one dog's dreams of making it big, or just need a daily dose of cute in your life, like Kupo on Facebook today.

<https://www.facebook.com/kupo.the.dog>

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