



YANKTON VETERINARY CLINIC

July 18, 2011

Bat World Sanctuary
ATTN: Amanda Lollar
217 N. Oak Avenue
Mineral Wells, TX 76067-4946

Dear Amanda:

It was my great pleasure to be able to visit Bat World Sanctuary and intern in your rehabilitation facility. It has been a dream of mine for the last 15 years, as I, too, have a great respect and fondness for bats. Although I have been in veterinary practice since 1985, I do not have any experiential training involving bats. My externship in wildlife medicine, while at veterinary school at Iowa State University, with Dr. MaryAnne Nieves, did not include bats of any kind, as bat curriculum was, and likely remains, non-existent at most veterinary colleges.

Besides the general orphan care training I received while at Bat World, I was extremely grateful to have observed the following two special cases:

The first case involved a female Mexican Free Tail bat with a pup lodged in her birth canal. The condition of the baby was unknown, but the mother was in obvious distress. An episiotomy was the only procedure that had the possibility of saving both lives. Your rapid assessment of the mother's condition, and your ability to go forth with the appropriate treatment in a timely manner, was the only thing that saved the mother's life, although the pup was learned to have died before the birth began.

You provided a standard of care equal to, or exceeding, that of trained, licensed veterinarians. I could not have performed the procedure at your skill level in the twin episiotomies you completed to save her. Your accurate and detailed knowledge of the bat's anatomy allowed precise cuts in an area that would not impact her recovery time and return to normal function. The fact that she was up with 3 minutes of the anesthesia, and eating with all normal body functions by the following morning, testifies to your skill level and judicious approach in surgery.

The second case was a red bat that had suffered a spontaneous pneumothorax that resulted in subcutaneous emphysema and severe acute respiratory distress. Your immediate recognition of the problem allowed you to insert a needle

Dr. Janet Messner
1518 Broadway • Yankton, SD 57078
605/665-1841

Amanda Lollar

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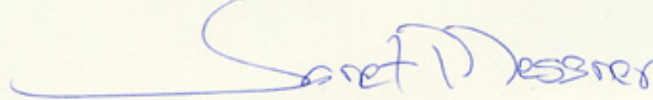
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subcutaneously and evacuate the emphysema returning her to a normal respiratory pattern immediately.

Both cases would have ended in rapid death without your immediate and appropriate intervention. Even if time allows one to get these types of cases to a licensed veterinarian, their knowledge base is too often not sufficient to allow for a rapid diagnosis and treatment.

Now that I am home, I hope to utilize in my veterinary practice the skills you have so generously shared with us that we might be able to serve, and save, these gentle and beneficial creatures.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in blue ink that reads "Janet Messner". The signature is written in a cursive style with a long horizontal flourish extending to the left.

Janet Messner, DVM

JHM:lhv