

FINAL DISPOSITION OF RAPTORS ADMITTED TO THE TAFIRA WILDLIFE REHABILITATION CENTER (GRAN CANARIA ISLAND, SPAIN) (2003-2013)

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ABSTRACT

1 INTRODUCTION

The Canary Islands harbor 42 raptor species. Some subspecies are endemic, and six of the 11 breeding raptor species have an unfavorable conservation status.¹ Data published from wildlife rehabilitation centers are mainly focused on the causes of admission. However, the final dispositions stratified by causes are rarely reported.²

2 MATERIAL AND METHODS

A total of 2,194 raptors were admitted alive. Four final dispositions were established: euthanized birds, dead birds during the hospitalization period, released birds into the wild, and birds moved to zoological collections. Overall (and also stratified by causes of admission) euthanasia (E), unassisted mortality (M), release (R), and move (Mov) rates were calculated. Chi-square test (χ^2) or Fisher exact tests were used in the statistical analysis.

3 RESULTS

The overall rates were: E=19.8%, M=22.2%, R=57.6%, Mov=0.5%. E value was significantly higher in the captivity (47.9%) and trauma (37.3%) categories (mainly due to electrocution, gunshot and unknown trauma) compared to other causes of admission. Raptors admitted due to infectious/parasitic diseases or metabolic/nutritional diseases had the highest M values, 60% and 46.9%, respectively. R values were significantly higher in the glue trap (86%), other causes

(79.1%), orphaned (78.7%), and unknown/undetermined (70.4%) categories compared to other causes of admission.

4 DISCUSSION

Comparing with other studies,^{2,3} our overall E value was lower, M value was slightly higher, and R value was higher. In our survey, R values for glue trap (86%), other causes (79.1%), orphaned (78.7%), and unknown/undetermined (70.4%) categories were higher than the overall R value.

5 CITATION INDEX

1. IUCN/SSC website. The IUCN red list of threatened species. 2015. <http://www.iucnredlist.org>
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3. Deem S. L., Terrell S. P., Forrester D. J. A retrospective study of morbidity and mortality of raptors in Florida: 1988-1994. J Zoo Wildl Med. 1998;29: 60-164.

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