

**Background:** As another year of badger culls begin in areas across England, it is likely that badgers that have been shot both 'legally' (under licence) and illegally will come into the care of wildlife groups. It is important when these animals are seen, that reliable clinical data is collected in a co-ordinated and professional way, as was achieved in previous years. This information can then be used in opposition to further culling. These sheets should assist with this process. It should be remembered that shooting badgers without a licence is still an offence under the Badger Act and if this is suspected the case should be reported immediately to the police via the National Wildlife Crime Unit (NWCU).

**Injured badgers:** Where the badger is injured and still alive its clinical care is paramount, it should be taken immediately to the NEAREST veterinary surgeon. Veterinary surgeons are legally obliged to provide emergency care to injured animals of all species and your local vet should be your initial point of contact. Injured animals should NOT be transported long distances to see an alternative vet (this is illegal). Wildlife and Badger Care staff and their vets are happy to help advise others who are less experienced in dealing with badgers. The form attached is for completion by your veterinary surgeon, it should however, be very much secondary to the provision of clinical care to the badger.

It is unlikely that badgers that have been shot will survive, most will die or need to be euthanased as a result of their injuries. There is an added complication that animals from the licenced cull areas cannot ethically be released back to where they were found. Although we would all want to do everything possible for badgers injured under these circumstances, it is important that individual animal welfare is not compromised by the emotion and anger associated with this situation.

**Collecting clinical data:** It is very important that as much information as possible is carefully collected. In previous years, where this has not happened, it has not been possible to take further legal or press action.

When the dead or injured badger is found it should be **photographed** in situ and a **six-figure grid reference** taken. The finder's **full, name, grid reference** and the **date on which the animals was found** become identifying labels for that case and should appear on all labels, radiographs, photographs etc.

The **veterinary examination** sheet should be completed as soon as possible and signed and dated. Additional photographs may be taken at this time. **Radiographs** (x-rays) are useful for illustrating skeletal injuries and may show evidence of use of illegal low calibre ammunition. Radiographs should ideally be taken at that time of the initial examination. The details which follow explain how to take the radiographs in order to ensure that the whole animal is imaged and that the images are correctly and permanently labeled. Please make your vet aware before radiographs are taken that you will need a copy, copies may be in the form of an x-ray film or digital images on a CD.

Badgers that have died should be **bagged** following examination, ideally **sealed with tamperproof tags**, and **frozen**. Copies of completed examination forms, x-rays, photos etc. should be emailed to: [info@wildlifeandbadgercare.org](mailto:info@wildlifeandbadgercare.org)

Please do not ask you vet to carry out post-mortem examinations, as these carry a potential health and safety risk and should additionally be carried out following a set protocol. Any stored frozen badgers will be collected at a later date and full **post-mortem examinations** carried out as necessary, in a safe environment, using standardised procedures.

**Important note:** this form should usually only be completed when a badger has died. Where the badger is alive, its clinical care is paramount and the form should only be completed if the animal is considered to be clinically stable by the attending veterinary surgeon.

## Basic identifying information:

Date:

Finder's name:

Grid reference:

Gender (M/F) of badger:

Weight (Kg):

Length (cm):

## Clinical examination (to be completed by the attending veterinary surgeon):

Please fully examine the badger and describe ALL clinical abnormalities. Please estimate the likely duration of clinical signs (days, weeks, months). Please continue over the page as necessary.

## Radiography (information for the attending veterinary surgeon):

Please take the following four radiographic views in order to radiograph the whole animal:

- 1) DV cranial view, collimated to include the nose, all of both fore-limbs and the caudal ribs.
- 2) VD caudal view, collimated to include the caudal ribs and all of both hind-limbs.
- 3) Left lateral cranial view, collimated to include the nose, fore-limbs and caudal ribs.
- 4) Right lateral caudal view, collimated to include the caudal ribs and hind-limbs.

Please include permanent labeling (X-rite tape or similar) to include finders name, grid reference and date found. Also include left/right markers.

Please supply a film copy of the radiographs or supply digital images on a CD labeled with finder's name, grid reference and date found.


Name of veterinary surgeon:


Practice stamp:

Signature:

Caring for all wildlife  
throughout the night

Call 07954 036687  
8pm - 8am

 [www.facebook.com/wildlifeandbadgercare](http://www.facebook.com/wildlifeandbadgercare)

 @badgercare

[www.wildlifeandbadgercare.org](http://www.wildlifeandbadgercare.org)



Wildlife and Badger Care  
[info@wildlifeandbadgercare.org](mailto:info@wildlifeandbadgercare.org)

07954 036687 (24hrs)