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Media Release

Lucky Rescue for Little Penguins

EcoWorld Aquarium & Wildlife Rehabilitation Centre rescued three Little Blue Penguins trapped in a drain in the Interislander carpark in Picton this week.

The two adult penguins and a chick were admitted to EcoWorld' rehab. centre.

"We responded to several calls from members of the public who heard the Little Blues plaintive cries," said EcoWorld's director John Reuhman.

"We have checked them over. They seem to be in reasonable nick, and they are very feisty and bitey. We do need to get them back up to a healthy weight so they can survive in the wild.

The chick has a reasonable coating of down. But there are patches where the down has obviously been worn off being trapped in the drain," said John.

EcoWorld Aquarium works with Kaipupu Wildlife Sanctuary where the Little Blues, once back to full health, will be released back into the wild.

The Little Blues lucky escape is a classic example of man meets nature and nature comes off second best. Penguins live in dangerous places where it is hard for predators to get at them, but sometimes they get stuck.

NB. It's Penguin breeding season and more injured and sick Little Penguins are expected at EcoWorld. If you find a sick or injured Little Blue Penguin please contact EcoWorld Aquarium or your local DOC office for advice. And take care Little Penguins are wild animals and they do bite.

John Reuhman Director

End

Photo: EcoWorld's trainee vet nurse Celine Moshier checking out the baby Little Penguin.

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