



Winter 2016 - 17

WILD NEWS

P.O. Box 330, Monkton, MD 21111 410-357-5179

www.wildliferescueinc.org

OUR MISSION

Established in 1994, Wildlife Rescue, Inc. is a 501(c)(3) tax-exempt nonprofit organization dedicated to alleviating the suffering of sick, injured and orphaned animals. We provide assistance to the public with wildlife emergencies through the rescue and rehabilitation of wildlife with the goal to release back to nature. We provide educational opportunities to communities to foster a respect for our wild neighbors and implement humane non-lethal programs. We are dedicated to providing humane solutions for co-existing with wildlife. We believe there is always a humane answer to any wildlife issue. We are an all volunteer organization and no one gets a salary.

Baby Squirrel at Petco



What were the odds? After picking up a generous donation of dog food from Luna's House, my husband Bill and I saw a Petco in a strip mall. It is actually unusual for us to go into a Petco and never in Bel Air, but in we went.

While Bill was waiting to pay for our purchase, a young man in front of Bill was asking the cashier if she knew what to feed a baby squirrel. The woman replied that she had no idea. I heard Bill say "Ask her!" I turned and saw a group of people staring at me. Turned out a kind young man was buying a cage and supplies for a young squirrel that had followed him in a park. As I got closer I saw it was a very young baby that should be bottle fed. He was grateful when I told him I was a licensed rehabber and would gladly take it.

Too often desperate young animals will follow people when they are starving and in need of immediate help. Thinking they are cute and friendly, they take the animal home. Raising wild animals is illegal except by licensed rehabilitators. Caring people go on the internet to learn how to feed them but can misjudge the animal's age by using photos online. This can be life threatening for the baby who needs formula as often as every 3 hours and cannot digest food for older babies. Babies are weighed and given the proper amount of formula designed for them. So even with the best intentions the animals can suffer and often die. They need immediate help from an experienced rehabber. The good news is this lucky little squirrel made it!

by Barbara Connor

That is just one story. This year many baby squirrels came into Wildlife Rescue after days of people trying to feed them on their own. Every hour that goes by that they are not cared for properly and given the correct nutritional food puts them in danger. Wildlife Rehabilitators are trained and have a wealth of knowledge in taking care of these tiny babies. It is not something that can be learned quickly on the internet. Wild animals need very specific formula which has been designed for their species and specific age and can not be purchased at Petco or PetSmart. Figuring out dosages for very small body weights is a science that is learned through experience.

Baby Squirrels are born in the Spring and the Fall. If you find baby squirrels or any other baby wildlife that need help please call Wildlife Rescue and get them to us or another wildlife rehabilitator as soon as possible. It could mean the difference between life or death for these little ones.



To Feed Or Not To Feed, That is the Question

The question to feed wild animals has become a complicated one. Most people feed the birds especially in the winter and this seems to be an accepted practice. You see them outside your window in the freezing winter and our hearts go out to them. Along with food, the other great necessity for animal life is water, and making sure it's available is crucial. Water, really is important, because people just take it for granted. A bird is three times more likely to die in the winter because of lack of water than lack of food. Keeping that water source fresh and clean can literally save an animal or bird's life.

BIRDS

Backyard bird feeding can make a real contribution to their survival and even thriving during the winter months.

Provide nutritious winter seed foods: These include seed mixes of black oil sunflower seed, hulled peanuts, niger seed and white millet seed.

Offer fatty food too: Birds need to burn more calories in the winter just to stay warm. Suet is considered a high energy food because it consists of fat and has more calories. Suet feeders are a favorite of woodpeckers and other insect-eating birds. Peanut Butter is also popular.

Keep your feeders full: Winter birds need to stock up on calories especially for those long, cold winter nights. Be consistent and keep feeding through the winter. Birds grow accustomed to your feeders especially in severe weather. If you leave home for an extended period, try to have a neighbor or friend keep the feeders going.

Remember feeder cleanliness: Because natural food sources are scarcer in the winter, more birds may be attracted to backyard feeders and those feeders will need to be cleaned. Use a diluted bleach solution (no more than 1 part bleach to 9 parts water). Rinse thoroughly and allow to dry before refilling.



Remember water: Birds can become dehydrated in winter even if surrounded by ice and snow. Putting out a pan of water near the feeder on warmer days is a terrific idea. Heated bird baths can be purchased too. Stamp down the snow below. Ground-feeding birds such as doves and many sparrows will be able to gather up the seed that drop from the feeders if they don't have deep snow to try to manage.

Hang feeders in safe locations: Away from shrubs or brush piles (ten to twelve feet) so birds will have time to react to predators.

A WORD ABOUT RACCOONS, FOXES, OPPOSUMS AND SKUNKS

Since these animals become very nocturnal in winter we rarely see them as we do in the Spring and Summer, when they are rearing their young. They are also out and about more in the Summer fattening up for the winter months. We do get calls about raccoons eating cat food that is left outside for cats and that is a tough problem to solve. We also know many people that allow the raccoons to eat with the cats and the raccoons share and never hurt any of the cats.

We do not suggest feeding these animals in most situations for their own safety. You don't want them to become so friendly that they could get hurt by other people. Yet if an animal does seem very friendly, often they are injured or starving and need help. Foxes with mange can be remotely treated and you never have to have contact with them, so don't hesitate to call Wildlife Rescue for advise.

MEMORIALS & TRIBUTES

Memorial and Tribute Gifts honor a special family member, friend or pet while supporting Wildlife Rescue's programs.
The following Memorial and Tribute Gifts were received from 5/1/16 to 10/30/16.

In Memory of:

Tom Vail who was a volunteer and close friend of Gerda's. He and his wife Linda spent countless hours transporting animals and helping Gerda with rescues. He will be missed.

~ Dorothy and Hillard Witt
~ The Mall Walkers of Westminster

Hanna Crafton ~ Ann Logsdon
Megan ~ Allison Childs
Vera & Jim Dunnigan ~ Kelly Hupfeld
Al & Jo Kach ~ Wade & Evelyn Kach
Snowball & Scaredy Cat ~ J. Gordon

In Honor of:

Bird Adoption ~ Cindy Candelori

Luv-n Bunns Domestic Rabbit Rescue ~ Janelle Dietrich

SQUIRRELS

Squirrels do not hibernate in the winter and feeding them can be fun to watch. Most people have seen the way squirrels raid their bird feeders and it's generally because they want to eat the sunflower. This makes separate feeders a good idea. Local nuts are the best present you can give squirrels. People like to feed them peanuts, which is a legume, not a nut and has poor nutritional quality for squirrels. Peanuts aren't something a squirrel would naturally eat. Take a look around at the local nut trees in your area. Hickory nuts, beech-nuts, walnuts, and butternuts are all great options. Gather acorns up in the fall and put them away for when the snow comes. The best way to store acorns is in mesh bags so they can breath. Hang them on a hook or nail in the garage or shed.



Squirrels also need vegetables and are attracted to bright colored veggies like yellow squash, broccoli, carrots. A little fruit is good too, like grapes, cantelope and apple. Our furry little friends need a proper balance of essential minerals that are crucial for maintaining adequate bone health with a mixture of nuts, seeds, corn, fruit, leaves, fungi and bark. Lots of feed stores sell a mix of corn, sunflower seeds, and peanuts in the shell as a squirrel treat. If you decide to give your squirrels peanuts as a treat, make sure they are roasted (Raw peanuts can be dangerous because they can harbor toxic mold) and they need to be unsalted. Don't forget about your squirrels in the spring and summer when they have less to eat because their nut stash is gone.

DEER

Feeding deer is a very controversial subject. Some humane organizations do not approve of feeding deer at all because the deer will congregate in the area and upset neighbors. If neighbors get upset enough they might invite hunters into your neighborhood and then everyone suffers. Sadly, some people dislike deer that much. In Maryland, Wildlife Rescue fought a recent bill to ban feeding the deer. It failed because so many people were outraged. The bill allowed only hunters to feed or bait during hunting season, which we feel is incredibly cruel. So right now in Maryland anyone can legally feed deer on their own property. Maryland winters are not usually bad for too long and deer thrive here, rarely starving to death in the winter. Their metabolism actually slows down and they require less food during hard times. Deer's natural food source is made up from woody vegetation, so it does become harder for them to find food during



the winter, especially when there is deep snow. This is the reason people choose to feed deer. If you decide to feed deer, begin combining supplemental food with their natural diet before snow arrives for a smooth transition of their digestive tracks. Whole corn is the best food for deer because it does not get moldy in wet weather. Choose an area to feed as far away from your home as possible, but not close to other people's property. You can keep a feeder full at all times or stick to a set feeding time. The deer will become accustomed to eating your food, so a regular schedule, early morning and/or sunset are best. Deer love acorns! If you do have a lot of acorns and want to save them, make sure you store them in breathable mesh and hang on a nail or hook in a cold area like a garage or shed so they don't rot. Deer also love apples and when deer are very sick sometimes it is the only thing they will eat. We have saved quite a few deer lives by feeding them apples. They seem to be medicinal for deer.

Please fill out this coupon and mail it to: Wildlife Rescue, Inc., P.O. Box 330, Monkton, MD 21111

YES! I want to save animals in need. Here's my tax-deductible donation of:

() \$25 () \$50 () \$75 () \$100 () \$250 () \$500 () \$_____

Name: _____

Address: _____

City, State & Zip Code: _____

For credit card donations, please call or go to www.wildliferescueinc.org and select Make A Donation
This donation/adoption is in Memory of _____ or in Honor of _____

I want to adopt and become a "Wildlife Parent" (Donation must be \$100. or more. Please check one animal below)

For each adoption you will receive a certificate with a color photo of the animal species of your choice,
a beautiful Wildlife Rescue reusable tote bag or a T-shirt and in the next newsletter you will receive recognition of your adoption.

() Bird () Duck () Raccoon () Fawn () Rabbit () Squirrel () Fox **Circle: Tote or T-Shirt**

Summer Raffle Winners

1st Prize Ron Wicks

2nd prize Bev Drake

3rd Prize Karen Tutin

Thank you to Ron for his generous donations and donating his prize back to the animals in Memory of his brother, Anthony Michael Wicks.
Thank you to our other raffle winners for donating their prize back to the animals!

GOOD NEWS!

Four staff members of the Humane Society of the United States are now approved by the Maryland Department of Natural Resources, Wildlife and Heritage Service to implement non-lethal deer management in Maryland.

As deer hunting started Sept. 9th, we were dismayed at the prospect of another 5 months of killing until Jan. 31st. It is our greatest hope that more communities in Maryland will now choose non lethal deer management.

Thank You!

Our Volunteers – For donating so much of your time for our wildlife babies!

Our Vets, their Staff and the organizations we work hand in hand with!

Becky Wolff of Dramatic Visions LLC – For our great website!

Lierra Lenhard – For donating the writing, designing and printing of the newsletter!

"Babies Go Wild Raffle"

Your donation is how we help and care for the animals.
We receive no government funding.

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Winter 2016-17

Barbara Connor,
Wildlife Director

Board of Directors

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Vice President of Finance
and Treasurer

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Gerda Deterer
Wayne Deterer



Wildlife Adoption

By Donating \$100.00 or more you can become a "Wildlife Parent"

Your adoption will contribute to their daily care which includes veterinary treatment, food, housing and special treats.

For each adoption you will receive a certificate with a color photo of the animal species of your choice, a beautiful Wildlife Rescue reusable tote bag or a T-shirt (your choice) and in the next newsletter you will receive recognition of your adoption.



Certificate of Fawn Adoption In Memory of Gerda



I am a white-tail deer fawn.
I was rescued and brought to Wildlife Rescue, Inc. Fawns come here when they are attacked by domestic dogs, suffer from lawn mower and farm equipment injuries, or when their Mom's get killed.

Here I will be bottle fed 3 times a day and stay with other rescued fawns in a fenced in pasture.

I will start to nibble on grass and hay at about 6 weeks old and will be weaned off my bottle slowly and given whole corn and deer pellets to supplement my diet. When I am about 3 months old, I will still have my spots but I will be strong enough to forage for food on my own and I will be released back to the wild.

Fearing her scent may attract predators, a mother deer leaves her fawn alone most of the day. If you encounter a fawn lying quietly by itself - and it looks healthy - leave it alone. Mom will be back.

