

Spring/Summer 2014



WILD NEWS

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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 are an all volunteer organization. No one gets a salary. We assist Maryland residents with wildlife emergencies, rescue and rehabilitate wildlife with the goal of release back to nature. We are dedicated to helping people find humane solutions for co-existing with wildlife. We believe there is always a humane answer to any wildlife issue.

Deer Spay Project 2014

4th Phase Completed for Maryland's First Non-Lethal Sterilization Spaying Birth Control Project for Deer!



James Berglie/For The HSUS

This photo is of the busy mobile surgical area setup in a garage with many of the amenities of a veterinarian's office.

On the far left is volunteer Charles Evans taking data, which consists of approximate age, weight, time of darting and arrival into surgical area. In the back is Dr. Steve Timm and volunteer Debbie LaTorre. As Dr. Timm is finishing up surgery on one doe, Dr. Anthony DeNicola - principal researcher and developer of deer sterilization, Meredith Callahan - VP, Wildlife Rescue, and volunteer Matt Matthias prep another doe as Lierra Lenhard - VP, Wildlife Rescue looks on. Each doe is shaved at the surgical area, ear tagged and checked over before she is moved to the operating table. After the surgery, which takes about 15 minutes, she is returned to where she was darted and given a reversal drug to wake her up.

In February of 2014 we completed another phase of our non-lethal deer sterilization birth control project. Joining us for the first time was Stephanie Boyles Griffin, Senior Director of Wildlife Response, Innovations, and Services for The Humane Society of the United States and Karen Lange, Senior Writer for their HSUS Publications. Karen was reporting on our deer project for an upcoming article in their All Animals magazine on humane wildlife fertility control.

As in 2012 and 2013 only remote immobilization darting was used and we were able to perform the rapid ovariectomy procedure on nine more does with one additional doe who had been shot with an arrow. Her injury brought a different perspective to the project this year because many of the people involved had never seen first hand the damage that results from being wounded by a bow hunter. There were tears and shock at the infection and suffering she must have been enduring. The veterinarian did his best to relieve her pain and save her.

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Together We Did It! - Bill Killed That Would Have Made Feeding Deer Illegal In Maryland!

by Joseph Lamp, Board of Directors Maryland Votes for Animals, PAC

Certain misguided politicians in Annapolis were up to no good again, but together we stopped them! While this winter's extreme cold, snow and ice was taking its toll on our wildlife, certain politicians in Annapolis were introducing legislation making it illegal for the 98% of Marylanders who do not hunt to feed deer -- and most other wildlife! That's right, House Bill 860 would only allow hunters to feed deer, as they already do to bait and then kill them for sport and recreation. It took behind the scenes collaboration between Wildlife Rescue, Inc. and Maryland Votes for Animals-PAC (MVFA-PAC) during the 2014 Maryland General Assembly to let you keep feeding deer on your own property. And there's more....

Because deer also eat the same food put out for birds, squirrels, and other animals you could be a criminal by feeding those other animals. Even if you were not trying to feed deer and you got caught or turned in by a nosy neighbor who just saw a deer eating in your backyard, under this bill, Maryland's Department of Natural Resources could charge you with a misdemeanor and you could be fined up to \$500!

Thanks to the outstanding efforts of Carolyn Kilborn, chair person of MVFA-PAC, we were alerted and immediately began working together to stop this legislation. Both Maryland Votes for Animals-PAC and Wildlife Rescue, Inc. sent out action alerts to their supporters and you came through with

your letters, phone calls, and emails rallying against this bill! This led to the bill's co-sponsors dropping off, and its sponsor finally withdrawing the bill altogether.

MVFA-PAC is our animals' voice in the Maryland legislature. Remember, 2014 is an election year whereby we can elect animal friendly legislators! Please go to MVFA's website, www.voteanimals.org, see who they endorse, and vote! Who we elect in 2014 will determine the playing field for animal protection laws in Maryland for the next four years. Nothing is more important!



"Drop the apple and step away from the carrot!"

Thank you to everyone who called and emailed. You are the voice of the animals who cannot speak for themselves!

If you would like to help wildlife, emails and phone calls to politicians are the best way to show them how you feel about bills concerning wildlife. The more, the better, because every year we have to work together to stop bills like allowing hunting on Sundays or reducing safety zones to 50 yards of your home. Let us know if you want to be added to the email alert list by providing your email address on the donation envelope or send us an email.

Winter Raffle Winners

1st prize Lise and James Crafton

Special Thanks to Lise and James Crafton for donating the prize back to Wildlife Rescue, Inc. in Memory of their Daughter, Hanna

2nd prize Kiernan Fletcher

3rd prize Virginia Aleksalza



**Help Us "Feed the Babies"
Raffle Tickets Enclosed!!**

Your donation is how we help and care for the animals. We receive no government funding. Please donate today, we have lots of hungry babies!



Deer Spay Project 2014 con't from front page



Dr. Keith Gold (left) has been the Chief Veterinarian of our Maryland project since he was taught the procedure our first year by Dr. Steve Timm. Dr. Gold has volunteered his time every year.

Jean Ayres (middle) has also volunteered all four years of the deer project. She has been a long time volunteer at Wildlife Rescue, having worked closely with Gerda and she is a great asset to the deer spay project.

Dr. Steve Timm (right) is a principle researcher and developer of deer sterilization. He came up to Maryland again after overseeing and training at the deer spay project in Fairfax City, VA.

Once again we were very satisfied with our ongoing success in continuing to confirm both a significant reduction in fawns and a stabilization of the doe population without a major influx of new deer. For every 10 does we observed, there was only 1 or 2 who could be darted because 8 or more were already sterilized. This research continues to confirm a lower deer population can be achieved by using humane management tools without killing deer.

We know killing deer is never going to solve anything, because it is like mowing your lawn. Your lawn may look shorter, but before you know it, it grows back and has to be mowed again. This is because you are not stopping the lawn from growing, the same way killing some deer is not stopping the remaining deer from reproducing the way deer sterilization spaying is 100% effective at stopping reproduction.

Other major benefits of non-lethal deer sterilization birth control are less browsing because the deer do not have the caloric requirements of almost 7 months of pregnancy and 3 months of nursing fawns. Just like a pregnant woman eats more for her baby, so does a deer. And even though they still reside in the community, they serve as infertile placeholders who help keep out new deer while consuming much less. In addition, the sterilized deer do not go into heat, so they are not chased by bucks during rut, reducing deer vehicle collisions!

A Very Special Thank You to Keith Gold, DVM and Tamie Haskin, DVM of Chadwell Animal Hospital, Dr. Anthony DeNicola, and Steve Timm, DVM. Chadwell Animal Hospital's vet techs Melissa Goodman, Claudia Johnson, Rachel Lovell, Sharon Sieck and volunteers Jean Ayers, Debbie LaTorre, Matt Matthias, Meredith Callahan and GSU graduate student Charles Evans. We could not have done it without you!

The success of this project is directly related to the donation of these volunteer veterinarians, volunteer vet techs and other volunteers. This incredible level of volunteer support has resulted in a continued reduction of the cost per doe to less than 40% of the first year.

In just the past year non-lethal deer sterilization birth control projects were done in California, New York, Maryland and Virginia. Wildlife Rescue, Inc. worked closely with Humane Deer Management, the Virginia group who raised the majority of the money through individual donations, to implement their first non-lethal deer project in the history of Virginia. And as more and more communities throughout the United States continue to follow the success of our project, we are looking very forward to not only our next phase, but the expansion of more non-lethal deer projects in Maryland and other states to continue to prove humane solutions for living with deer can work, if you use them!



Two of our tagged girls from last year and the first year of project stopping by.

Please Don't Kidnap that Baby!

In the spring and summer, people frequently find baby wild animals and assume they are orphaned. However, whether or not an animal is orphaned depends on the animal's age and species, and how their natural behaviors are perceived. People sometimes assume that an animal found alone means the animal is orphaned. They don't realize that certain animals, like deer and rabbits, commonly leave their young alone to avoid attracting predators with their own scent. While other animals like raccoons are closely supervised by their mothers, so finding a young raccoon alone does indicate that the animal is likely to be an orphan. Here are some tips to help you decide whether the baby you are seeing is truly an orphan, and what if anything you should do.

BIRDS

Q: Baby birds fell from their nest and I touched them – will the parents reject them now?

A: It's a myth that birds abandon their chicks if a person touches them. Unlike other animals, birds are not sensitive to the human scent. Just put the baby birds back in their nest if safe to do so. If the original nest was destroyed or is too high to reach, hang a wicker or woven stick basket close to where the original nest was. Woven stick baskets make perfect substitute nests: they resemble natural nests and allow rain to pass through so the birds don't drown. However, make sure the basket isn't too deep - adult birds will not jump into anything they can't see out of. You should watch for an hour to make sure that the parent birds return to the new nest to feed their chicks. If they don't return, then help is needed.

Q: There's a bird outside that can't fly. Is he injured?

A: If it's summertime and the bird is almost full-sized, fully feathered, but has short tail feathers, he may be a fledgling. Often birds leave the nest several days before they are able to fly. This is normal, as birds learn to fly from the ground up. Stand back and look for parent birds who will fly over to feed their fledgling a few times per hour. For several days, the fledgling may remain on the ground but the parents will supervise and teach their young how to hunt for food- so it is very important to leave the fledgling there! Be sure to keep your companion animals indoors during this period. If there are cats or dogs in the area whom you can't control, put the fledgling in a basket and hang the basket securely from a nearby tree limb. Hopefully, this will keep the bird off the ground for the few extra days he needs before he can fly. However, if the bird appears injured and/or alone, or in imminent danger, they need help.

DEER

Q: I found a fawn all alone – is he orphaned?

A: People mistakenly assume that a fawn is orphaned if found alone. Rest assured that the mother deer is nearby. The doe will only visit and nurse her fawn a few times a day to avoid attracting predators. At four weeks old, the fawn will begin to travel with his mother. Just leave the fawn alone unless you know that the mother is dead. Mother deer are wary of human smells; if you have already handled the fawn, take a towel, rub it in the grass, and then wipe down the fawn to remove all human scent. Using gloves, promptly return the fawn to where he was found. However, if the fawn is lying on his side, or wandering and crying incessantly, they need help. But remember, a fawn found alone and quiet is OK!



OPOSSUMS

Q: I found a baby opossum – is he orphaned?

A: Baby opossums are born as embryos, barely larger than a bee. They crawl up to their mother's pouch where they spend about 2 months attached to one of her 13 nipples. Sometimes when baby opossums get to be about 3-4 inches long, they ride around on mother's back – if they fall off, she may not know they are missing. The general rule is if the opossum is less than 7 inches long (without the tail) he is an orphan. Over 7 inches long, he's old enough to be on his own!



RABBITS

Q: I found a nest of baby rabbits. Are they orphaned?

A: If the nest is intact and the babies are not injured, leave them alone! Mother rabbits only visit their young 2-3 times a day to avoid attracting predators. If the nest has been disturbed, or if you think the babies are orphaned, recover the nest with surrounding natural materials, such as grass, leaves and fur, and put an “X” of sticks or yarn over the nest to assess if the mother is returning to nurse her young. If the “X” is moved but the nest is still covered by the next day, the mother has returned to nurse them. If the “X” remains undisturbed for 24 hours, they need help.

FOXES

Q: I see fox kits (pups) playing by themselves – but no parent is around. Are they orphaned?

A: Often fox kits will appear unsupervised for long periods of time while both parents are out hunting for food. Observe the kits from a distance. If they seem energetic and healthy, just leave them alone. Call Wildlife Rescue, Inc. if the kits appear sickly or weak, or if you have reason to believe both parents are dead.

SQUIRRELS

Q: There’s a baby squirrel outside under a tree – is he orphaned?

A: If tree work was recently done and the nest or baby fell down as a result, give the mother a chance to reclaim her young. If the baby fell from the tree uninjured, leave him where he is, leave the area and keep people and companion animals away. Monitor from a safe distance; if the baby is not retrieved by night-time, contact Wildlife Rescue, Inc. If there is a risk of predation, you can put the squirrel in a wicker basket and attach the basket securely to the tree. Do not cover the squirrel with leaves or blankets because the mother may not be able to find him. If it is chilly outside, or if the baby isn't fully furred, provide him with a heat source, such as a heating pad or a hot water bottle.



RACCOONS

Q: There’s a baby raccoon outside wandering around – is he orphaned?

A: If the baby raccoon has been seen alone for more than a few hours then he has probably lost his mother, since mother raccoons closely supervise their young and don't let them out of their sight. You can put an upside down laundry basket over the baby (with a weight on top) and monitor for a few hours. Ask around to see if anyone in the neighborhood trapped an adult raccoon or saw one hit by a car. If the mother does not return then call Wildlife Rescue, Inc.



A WORD ABOUT TRAPPING

Please note that the live trapping of "nuisance" wildlife often leads to wild animal babies being unintentionally orphaned. This is because spring and summer are when many wild animals attempt to use chimneys, attics, and outbuildings as sites in which to raise their young. It may seem like a kind solution to trap and relocate a wild animal, but a high mortality rate among relocated animals, and orphans being left behind to starve, are the all-too-frequent results. We strongly discourage the trapping of wildlife for these reasons.

www.urbanwildliferescue.org/humane will tell you lots of ways to use humane eviction without trapping and without harming the animal if an animal is in your house, attic, yard or a visiting nuisance.

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 11/1/13 to 3/31/14.

In Honor of:

My Mother, Mrs. Geraldine Welty as a Christmas Present to her for the deer sterilization program ~ Claire Welty

Thomas and Robin McElfattrick for a Christmas Present ~ Caitlin McElfattrick

Alli and Megan Diamond ~ Amy Diamond

Jasmine and Theo ~ Janelle Dietrich

Bhaga ~ Carol Ferguson

Lierra's Birthday ~ Ann Selnick

In Memory of:



Our Daughter, Hanna ~ James and Lise Crafton

Hanna Crafton ~ Ellen Madden

Mr. Casper Voithofer ~ Bernadine D. Seymour

The Bay Ridge Deer ~ Irene Howie

Tom Tom ~ Carol Ferguson

Brulee ~ Bill and Suzie Blair

Pepper, Squeaky and Puffy ~ Misti Shaffer

Greta and Bubba ~ Ms. Marsha Goldberg

(Picture on left)

"Wildlife Parents"

Duck Adoption In Honor of Sierra Rose ~ Jean DiBlasio

Fox Adoption In Memory of Our Daughter, Hanna ~ James and Lise Crafton

Fox Adoption In Honor of Joppa View Kindergarten Children ~ Michele Gugliatta

Fawn, Fox and Raccoon Adoption in Memory of Yvonne Treslar, a wonderful friend to all animals, wild and domestic ~ Enid & Lierra

Thank You!

Our Board of Directors – Each of you have made contributions of your time and talents in your own special way!

To Each and Every One of Our Volunteers – For always going “above and beyond” to make our rescue work possible!

Our Vets and Their Staff, as well as the Other Organizations That Have Worked Hand and Hand with Wildlife Rescue – Thank you so much for partnering with us for the animals!

Brad Scrivener – For organizing a Charity Bingo with proceeds for Wildlife Rescue, Inc.

Michael Masenior, Barbara and Pam, Print Shack – For your support in printing and mailing this newsletter.

Becky Wolff, Dramatic Visions – For our great website.

Lierra Lenhard – For writing and designing this newsletter.

Wildlife in Your Backyard



Gray Squirrel

- Adult Weight - 1-1½ pounds
- Diet - acorns, beechnuts, hickory nuts, berries, seeds & occasionally bird eggs
- Where they sleep - tree cavities, old woodpecker holes, nests of dry leaves & twigs
- Most Active Time - daytime, more in morning & evening
- Mating Season - 2 times a year. Winter & late Summer
- Average Gestation - 45 days
- Litter Size - 2-3 but can be more
- Care for Young - in nest by mother and after they are weaned they stay until totally independent.



Rabbit

- Adult Weight - 2-4 pounds
- Diet - variety of plants, tree bark
- Where they sleep - do not dig burrows, but use shallow depressions in grass to rest. In extreme cold they will seek abandoned groundhog dens
- Most Active Time - dawn & dusk
- Mating Season - February-September
- Average Gestation - 30 days
- Litter Size - 1 rabbit can have 5 litters of 3-8 babies in one season
- Care for Young - Babies are born hairless & helpless. By 2 weeks of age they can forage for themselves



Red Fox

- Adult Weight - 8-15 pounds, but appears heavier
- Diet - mice, rabbits, squirrels, birds, snakes, insects, berries & fruit
- Where they sleep - dig burrows, improve abandoned groundhog burrows
- Most Active Time - dawn & dusk
- Mating Season - January-March
- Average Gestation - 51-53 days
- Litter Size - 4-5 kits
- Care for Young - raised by both mother and father. At 3 months the kits learn to hunt.

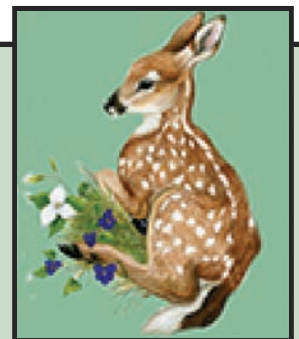


Raccoon

- Adult Weight - 10-35 pounds
- Diet - wild berries, apples, acorns, hazelnuts, beechnuts, fish, turtle eggs, snails.
- Where they sleep - holes in trees, hollow logs, brush piles, abandoned burrows
- Most Active Time - night, but sometimes look for food in the day
- Mating Season - January-March
- Average Gestation - 65 days
- Litter Size - 2-5 kits
- Care for Young - kits remain with Mom until fall

White Tailed Deer

- Adult Weight - 50-250 pounds
- Diet - variety of plants, acorns, fruit
- Where they sleep - outside with little protection. In hot weather they often sleep near streams. Their coats resist water & in Winter their coats get very thick.
- Most Active Time - dawn & dusk
- Mating Season - October to mid December
- Average Gestation - almost 7 months (200 days)
- Litter Size - young doe will have 1 fawn, a mature doe can have 2
- Care for Young - Newborn fawns remain hidden and solitary for at least 3 weeks. Mom visits to feed & groom twice a day. Then they will spend more time with Mom, learn to forage and are weaned by 3 months.



Long Winter

Last year, after the fire the entire barn had to come down and a new barn was built. Unfortunately, it has been slow going due to the miserable winter. Plumbing and electrical lines could not be dug and were held up time and time again with each

storm. With no electrical in the barn, the poor old farm animals had to stay warm with anything Barbara and Bill could find, including their old winter coats.

Finally Spring is here and since babies are so late this year, we are ready.

The tiniest Baby Raccoon Barbara has ever rehabilitated entertains volunteers while Cathy Jones photographs her. Is she dancing, swimming or just being silly?



RESCUE DON'TS

DON'T give water or food (including milk, which is especially deadly!) to an injured or orphaned animal.

DON'T leave pets or children outside when a fledgling is on the ground.

DON'T cut a tree down without looking to see if there's a squirrel or bird's nest.

DON'T allow pets or children to disturb a rabbit's nest.

DON'T keep a wild animal as a pet.

WILD NEWS

Spring Summer 2014

Barbara Connor,
Wildlife Director

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*Vice President of Finance
and Treasurer*

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