



# WILD NEWS

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

[www.wildliferescueinc.org](http://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.

## Why Do We Get So Many Raccoon Babies?

In the Spring many raccoon Moms find a way into attics or other human dwellings to nest and have their babies. That along with the untrue belief that if a raccoon is seen during the day it has rabies, compounds the problem. Mom raccoons need more food while nursing so they will come out during the day to find food. It does not automatically mean they are sick. Too many times homeowners are afraid of a raccoon they see or have left an access open in their house where they can easily get in and nest. Can you blame them for wanting a warm, dry place to take care of their babies? The common scenario is that they call a trapper that kills the mother. Then they realize there are babies and they have to figure out what to do with them. Also, many people will buy their own traps to get rid of a raccoon and dump her far away from her babies leaving the babies to starve to death.



hydrated and fed. I have never seen such terrified babies, and can only imagine the panic and fear they felt. We are so grateful someone cared enough to save these 3 helpless little babies. Thankfully because of donors like you Wildlife Rescue will be there when no one else will.

Homeowners need to close openings where wildlife can enter an attic or other parts of their house. This will stop wildlife Moms from choosing your house as a nice place to have their babies. We understand no one wants wildlife living in their house but if you call Wildlife Rescue we can assist in helping you find a humane solution. And remember if you see a raccoon during the day, it does not automatically mean it is sick. She is probably foraging for the extra food she needs while nursing her babies. Abnormal behavior consists of an animal falling down,

This is just one story about what happened to 3 baby raccoons that were lucky enough to be rescued just before a certain death.

As the bulldozer was bearing down at a local landfill, a man heard screams from the pit. He frantically rushed to stop the driver before the bulldozer crushed the little baby raccoons he saw in horror below him. He could only guess that the person before him threw the poor babies in the pit like they were trash. Wearing heavy gloves they placed the babies in a box and called Wildlife Rescue. They were still screaming when my husband, Bill picked them up and continued to scream through the night, hiding their little faces even after they were

going in circles, biting itself or convulsing. Several wildlife diseases, such as distemper and mange, have symptoms that mimic rabies, but are not (zoonotic) transmissible to humans.

Sadly there are very few rehabilitators in Maryland who take on the responsibility of rehabilitating raccoons, so Wildlife Rescue gets slammed every Spring and into the Fall. Also The Maryland Department of Natural Resources has not granted any new permits to new Rehabilitators for raccoons. We will do everything we can to help raccoons and all wildlife now and in the future.

*by Barbara Connor*

# What Goes Into the Rehabilitation of Our Wildlife Babies Before Release?

Special formula for each species we rehabilitate as well as the many vaccinations and wormers that are given are a very expensive part of the excellent care we give all the animals at Wildlife Rescue.

## Rabbits

Baby bunnies can be the hardest to rehabilitate. They really need Mom's milk with her antibodies to survive if their eyes are not open yet, and they don't generally take well to bottles, but try we must. And luckily with a lot of patience that our wonderful volunteers have, many, many bunnies survive and are released. They don't have to stay very long at the rescue. Cottontails, in the wild, leave the nest when they are 3 weeks of age or before! That is why we release between the ages of 5-6 weeks unless there is a medical reason indicated to the contrary. Their instincts have "kicked in", they are eating their natural foods, and they can camouflage and hide from predators.

## Squirrels

Gray Squirrels are weaned off of formula at about 3 months. They eat rodent chow, monkey chow, cheerios, vegetables, nuts, and fruits. Young squirrels readily accept other baby squirrels, even if their ages are not exactly matched. Baby squirrels raised with other baby squirrels bond to each other, learn from each other, and rely on each other for warmth, play and companionship not only during rehabilitation, but after release as well. It is vitally important to the squirrel's proper socialization and eventual release into the wild that it be raised with other squirrels. It must learn the social "etiquette" and the "language" of being a squirrel. A baby squirrel raised alone without other baby squirrels has a greatly reduced chance of a successful release. We release healthy squirrels in about 4 months. Babies that are born in the Fall must stay with us over the winter.

## Raccoons

Unfortunately we get a very large number of baby raccoons in the Spring. People hire trappers to get rid of mother raccoons that very often nest in attics or are spotted during the day, unaware that there are babies left behind. The lucky ones come to us for rehabilitation. Raccoons are kept inside in multi level cages and are weaned at about 3 months old, but start nibbling puppy chow at about 6 weeks. They enjoy eggs, chicken, cereals, fruits, and raw vegetables. We worm as soon as they are stable, then every 10 days until release. When they are big enough they move into the large barn where we have attached outside enclosures. All raccoons are vaccinated for distemper, parvo, and rabies. Raccoons in the wild stay with their mother until they are about a year old so we keep Spring babies at Wildlife Rescue for at least 5 to 6 months. Fall babies stay with us over the Winter and we release in May.



## MEMORIALS & TRIBUTES

Memorial and Tribute Gifts honor a special family member, friend or pet while supporting Wildlife Rescue's programs from 4/16/17 to 11/1/17

### *In Memory of:*

Mel & Diane Carlson ~ Patricia Carlson

Dr. Albert M. Hess ~ The Rotary Club of Pikesville-Owings Mills

All My Loving Past Bunnies ~ Janelle Dietrich

### *In Honor of:*

Wade & Jo Kach ~ Beth Wiseman

### *Wildlife Parents:*

Rabbit Adoption ~ K & C Dunlap



Give the Gift of becoming a  
"Wildlife Parent"  
for that special animal lover  
in your life!

We will send a Beautiful Wildlife Card  
to the person you want to gift with a  
Certificate of the animal of your  
choice and a tote bag or T-shirt  
Just fill out the form on the next page



### Fawns

Most of the deer that come to us are very young, and must be kept indoors for their own safety. Keeping deer inside is quite interesting. They must be kept on non-slippery surfaces because their hooves can cause them to do "the Bambi on ice thing" and their legs will slide out from under them. While this is made to look cute in the movie, in real life they can break their legs and cause other serious and life threatening injuries. We have 2 barns for the deer once they can go outside and a safe privacy fence which little legs can't get tangled in. We start out feeding them a special formula made especially for deer. Fawns are weaned by 12 weeks when they start eating deer pellets, clover, apples, tree leaves & small branches (new growth), and various grasses. They are released in the Fall after living at Wildlife Rescue for about 3-5 months depending on how big they are when they come in. They need to be able to forage on their own and we always release them with at least one other fawn. The bigger the group the better since they are herd animals and stay in family groups.



### Fox

This Spring we took in the tiniest fox we ever rehabilitated, so it was the longest time a fox has been at Wildlife Rescue. They are weaned with special fox formula at 10 weeks and stay indoors until then, but start to nibble earlier at about 4 weeks. We give them wet & dry cat chow, eggs, meat, and fruits. They are vaccinated for distemper, parvo, rabies and wormed for roundworm. They are kept for the very long time of 6 months. Very large double caging is required for a fox until it is released. The fox needs to be big enough to survive the winter when they lose half their body weight.



These pictures show how tiny this fox baby was when he was brought into Wildlife Rescue and how he grew into a beautiful healthy fox.



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](http://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*

*Love of animals is a universal impulse, a common ground on which all of us may meet. By loving and understanding animals, perhaps we humans shall come to understand each other. - Louis J. Camuti, DVM*  
*May the beauty of nature bring you peace and joy in 2018*

# WILD NEWS

Winter 2017-18

**Barbara Connor,**  
*Wildlife Director*

### Board of Directors

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*Vice President of Communications and Secretary*  
Matt Matthias  
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### Veterinary Consultants

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### Board Members Emeritus

Gerda Deterer  
Wayne Deterer

## Summer Raffle Winners

**1st Prize Joyce Franzosa**

**2nd Prize Shannon Doherty 3rd Prize Sandra Boehnlein**

*Thank you to all our raffle winners  
for donating their prizes back to the animals!*

## 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"

**Please donate today! We receive no government funding, so your donation is the only way we can help and care for the animals.**

