2022 EVENTS AT WILDCARE

FEATURES:

- Storm and Flood at WildCare
- How to Prevent Wildlife Conflicts
- Wildlife Advocacy Update
- Meet Our Wildlife Patients

LIVING WITH WILDLIFE PHOTOGRAPHY CONTEST WINNERS
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DEAR FRIENDS,

Welcome to our Winter 2021 newsletter. WildCare continues to deliver on our mission to teach us all to live well with wildlife and provide essential care to our wildlife neighbors in our hospital. Our Spring-Fall 2021 baby season was busier than ever: Since March 1st, 1,551 babies from 93 species have been admitted to the Clinic, an 11% increase over the same period last year! With many people continuing to work from home, more have been finding orphaned or injured animals in their neighborhoods or on the trail and bringing them to WildCare for expert care.

Our education programs before COVID were entirely in-person events in the classrooms at our Center and in our local parks. Our educational programs usually serve 35,000 students per year. For many months, we pivoted to an entirely distance-learning model. In the school year starting September 2020, with a significantly reduced schedule due to COVID-19, we were still able to engage 8,162 students via our online distance learning programs. This fall, we are beginning to deliver programs and nature hikes again in person.

It is with great excitement that we share our plans to build a beautiful three-story, state-of-the-art WildCare Center at our current Albert Park location. This is a mission-driven, board-approved, environmentally sustainable plan to completely replace the structures on our existing site. If you would like to learn more, please contact me at ellynweisel@discoverwildcare.org.

Our staff, volunteers, donors, community partners, and advocates all work to make the magic that is WildCare to exist. During this holiday season, we thank you for all you do for this organization. Thank you for your ongoing commitment to our work.

Best,

Ellyn Weisel
Executive Director

MAKE A DONATION AND YOUR GIFT WILL BE MATCHED UNTIL DECEMBER 31, 2021.

PLEASE VISIT DISCOVERWILDCARE.ORG TO DONATE TODAY!
SAVE THE DATE!
WILDCARE’S UPCOMING 2022 EVENTS

FAMILY NATURE DAY
APRIL 2
Learn about wildlife “Mrs. T style” at WildCare’s Family Nature Day on Saturday, April 2, 2022.
Birdwatch, join a naturalist hike, meet our Wildlife Ambassador animals and more at the beautiful Richardson Bay Audubon Center and Sanctuary in Tiburon, CA.

TALONS & FRIENDS JUNE 26
WildCare’s Talons & Friends event will take place on June 26 at the beautiful Cavallo Point Lodge in Sausalito.

This family event will feature wonderful opportunities to learn about wildlife, including a meet-and-greet with WildCare’s live educational wild animals, our Wildlife Ambassadors.

The event will also feature a mobile nature exhibit, an owl-themed presentation by our Hungry Owl Project, and more. Guests will enjoy live music while gathering for a delicious vegetarian picnic box lunch, featuring a menu prepared especially for the event by the chef at Cavallo Point.

The event will culminate with a 45-minute presentation of magnificent hawks and owls from our friends at Native Bird Connections.

Details at discoverwildcare.org/talons

Join us for the WildCare Gala on AUGUST 20
The 2022 WildCare Gala will be streamed live before a small audience, making this glamorous event available to both in-person and virtual guests.

Our evening’s celebration will include an engaging program with an exciting online auction, close-up moments with our Wildlife Ambassador animals, and presentations about WildCare’s impactful work. Enjoy a tasty vegetarian menu and excellent wines throughout the evening.

Sponsorship opportunities and other details about this glamorous event will be at discoverwildcare.org/gala.
LATE SATURDAY NIGHT, OCTOBER 23, A MAJOR STORM SYSTEM MOVED INTO NORTHERN CALIFORNIA, BRINGING WITH IT HEAVY WINDS AND AN ABSOLUTELY ASTONISHING AMOUNT OF RAIN.

In what the National Weather Service is calling the largest rainstorm in our area since 1955, San Rafael received a record-breaking 8.35 inches of rain in 24 hours! Coupled with the canal’s high tide in the middle of the afternoon, it was the ‘perfect storm’ for this unprecedented flooding.

Although the weather system had been in the forecast, the rate and speed at which the rain fell and water levels rose caught everyone by surprise. But, thanks to our amazing staff and volunteers, our Wildlife Hospital patients and all our Wildlife Ambassadors were safe, and our facility has recovered.
1. High tide and heavy rain caused water to pour over WildCare’s front bridge. 2. Floodwaters behind WildCare reached above the knees of our staff members. 3-4. All of our low-lying enclosures flooded, so staff had to move fast to capture and evacuate our two dozen wildlife patients and our 11 Wildlife Ambassador animals. 5. Street flooding outside of WildCare. 6. As the flood levels rose, we sent our dedicated volunteers home, but we are grateful for their hard work and commitment. 7. Patients included three skunks, forced out of their den box by the rising water. Without time to do a typical slow capture, Amy (shown here) took the brunt of the skunks’ fear. 8. As the wind and rain increased, WildCare lost power. While we tried to find a dry place to start the generator, Medical Staff treated wildlife patients by flashlight. 9-10. Volunteers helped clean up the facility and, when we found that the flood had damaged stored supplies including boxes of latex exam gloves, they also helped empty the soaked boxes of gloves onto tables by size to allow them to dry. 11. Our Hotline remained in service with staff and volunteers working from home to advise people on how to care for rescued animals (like this swept-away Western Pond Turtle). 12. While we hope it never happens again, the silver lining of this massive storm and flood is that it showed us how amazingly dedicated our staff, volunteers, rescuers and supporters are! We are so lucky and proud to be part of this community! Thank you to everyone for your help!”
2021 Photo Contest Winners

WildCare’s 14th annual Living with Wildlife Photography Contest received nearly 250 entries from throughout California. Each photo offers glimpses into the wide diversity of California wildlife and the stunning places wild animals call home.

Special thanks to our hard-working judges, Randall Bryett, Evan Jane Kriss, Melanie Piazza and Kate Van Gytenbeek.

The top photographs in each category are shown here and online at discoverwildcare.org/photo.

Peregrine Falcon in Flight
CARLOS PORRATA

BEST IN SHOW

Coyote Knocking Down ‘Don’t Feed Coyotes Sign’
JANET KESSLER

BEST LIVING WITH WILDLIFE

PEOPLE’S CHOICE
2021 FINALISTS

2021 Photo Contest Winners

**BEST CALIFORNIA WILD BIRDS IN THEIR NATURAL SETTINGS**

- **Northern Spotted Owl Mother and Baby**
  - CARLOS PORRATA

- **Hummingbird and Water Droplets**
  - PARHAM POURAHMAD

**BEST CALIFORNIA WILD ANIMALS (OTHER) IN THEIR NATURAL SETTINGS**

- **Coyote Stand Off**
  - ELYSE OMERNICK

- **Bobcat Caught a Rodent**
  - DAN PAGANO

**BEST GENERAL NATURE**

- **Crashing Waves**
  - LEE KUIPER

- **Mist Rainbow**
  - ROBERT HUGHES

**BEST CALIFORNIA WILD ANIMALS (OTHER) IN THEIR NATURAL SETTINGS**

- **Milky Way Stars Over Desert**
  - AUDREY WILSON

- **Hummingbird and Water Droplets**
  - PARHAM POURAHMAD

- **Bobcat Caught a Rodent**
  - DAN PAGANO

- **Mist Rainbow**
  - ROBERT HUGHES
2021 FINALISTS
CONTINUED

Gray Foxes Playing on a Hanging Chair
SUSIE KELLY

Coyote Crossing Creek and Stilt
ROBERT HO

Parrots in San Francisco
ROBERT HO

Bobcat on Ceramic Frog
JAMES FORSELL

Gull and Reflection I
SUSIE KELLY

Great Blue Heron Courtship
SUSIE KELLY

Oriole Feeding Baby
SUSIE KELLY

Curious Raccoon Looking for Handouts
SUSIE KELLY

Fog Tree Sunset
LAUREN BETTINO

Badger
CARLOS PORRATA

Elk Silhouettes
CARLOS PORRATA

Milky Way, WC
ANGELA NEAL GROVE
BY KAIJA OLLIKAINEN

Winter in the Northern Hemisphere is often represented in stories as a time for hibernation and stillness. But in the biodiversity hotspot that is the Bay Area, winter is brimming with wildlife action!

As a stopover point along the Pacific Flyway, millions of birds visit the Bay’s wetlands and fields on their long migrations. The lowest tides of the year reveal marine organisms not seen on a typical beach walk. With the sun rising later and setting earlier, we have better chances of observing crepuscular and nocturnal wildlife as we go about our daily routines. Seasonal rain creates a blank canvas in the mud and sand for animals to leave fresh tracks that tell their stories.

Pack your nature journal, binoculars, warm gloves, and a thermos of hot tea as you enter the outdoors and use your five senses to find out what makes winter in the greater Bay Area so special.

CALIFORNIA GRAY WHALES

Head to Chimney Rock and the Point Reyes Lighthouse areas of Point Reyes National Seashore for front-row seats to the longest migration of any mammal. Watch for the heart-shaped spouts of California Gray Whales migrating 10,000 miles south from their feeding grounds in Alaska along the Pacific Coast to mate or give birth in the warm lagoons of the Baja Peninsula in Mexico.

NORTHERN ELEPHANT SEALS

Reserve a guided walk at Año Nuevo State Park to witness one of the largest mainland breeding colonies in the world for the Northern Elephant Seal. Witness massive bulls battle for breeding access to females, as mothers nurse their newborn pups on shore. This extraordinary experience is truly a sight and a smell to behold!

KING TIDES

Super low tides during the first week of January call for rain boots and a sense of adventure. Always keeping an eye on the ocean, carefully walk out onto the vast expanse of exposed tide pools at Agate Beach in Bolinas, or Pillar Point in Half Moon Bay and be prepared to see life forms that look like they are right out of science fiction. Check tide charts to find when the tides will be lowest at the rocky beach of your choice.

(Cont. pg 10)
“Teach children to love nature.
People take care of the things they love.”
– Mrs. T

The only prerequisites are interests in wildlife, nature, and working with children!

- Learn to lead nature discovery walks for elementary school children in Marin County during school hours
- Receive specialized training from WildCare staff in identifying local plants and wildlife, and in outdoor teaching methods.
- Become part of one of the most fulfilling volunteer experiences in the Bay Area – leading children on WildCare Nature Hikes

or in old logs. Be on the lookout for California Newts crossing roads and trails in wooded areas as they migrate to ponds and streams to breed. Listen for the classic “rib-bit” calls of the Pacific Chorus Frog by freshwater wetlands and grasslands.

**SANDHILL CRANES**

Visit the Cosumnes River Preserve in the upper Sacramento-San Joaquin Delta to see flocks of spectacular Sandhill Cranes in their winter feeding grounds. These 4-foot tall birds are best known for their elaborate courtship “dance” that has been imitated by cultures across the world for many thousands of years. You will be able to see these cranes in their greatest numbers and observe the widest variety of intriguing behaviors at dawn and dusk.

**CHRISTMAS BIRD COUNT**

You can add to the nation’s longest-running community science bird project by participating in Audubon’s 122nd Christmas Bird Count. This early-winter bird census encourages birders of all skill levels to join in on gathering scientific data that will be used in peer-reviewed publications and government reports with the goal of advancing conservation efforts. Find out more by visiting [www.Audubon.org](http://www.Audubon.org).
At WildCare’s Family Nature Day, people of all ages learn about wildlife “Mrs. T style”. Common animal sightings at Richardson Bay Audubon Center and Sanctuary include Red-shouldered Hawks, Great Blue Herons, Gopher Snakes, Green-winged Teal, Ruddy Ducks, Buffleheads, Common Goldeneyes, Red-breasted Mergansers, Canvasback Ducks, Great Egrets, Western Fence Lizards, Garter Snakes, and butterflies.

Attendees can use scopes to bird watch from the patio of the historic Lyford House, join a naturalist-led hike, or walk the shoreline in search of marine life including crabs and snails. Everyone enjoys meeting WildCare’s non-releasable Wildlife Ambassadors including a Virginia Opossum, Red-tailed Hawk, Northern Spotted Owl, Desert Tortoise and California Kingsnake. Take on the challenge of an engaging scavenger hunt and receive a reward for completion, create a nature-themed craft to help wildlife or dissect an owl pellet.

Elizabeth Terwilliger, known best as Mrs. T, was an inspiration for generations of Marin County residents. Her multi-sensory approach to teaching children about nature engendered a lifelong love of the natural world, and a desire to protect it, in the hearts of thousands.

The children that went on outdoor excursions with Mrs. T have grown up to be among the environmental advocates overseeing the protection of Bay Area wildlands today. Mrs. T’s legacy, and her creative and compelling teaching methods, live on at WildCare. This event was inaugurated in her honor and is held every spring!

Learn more at discoverwildcare.org/family-nature-day.
Prepare Your Home to PREVENT WILDLIFE CONFLICTS

YOU LOVE YOUR HOME, BUT WILD ANIMALS MAY FIND YOUR HOUSE AND YARD COMFORTABLE TOO!
This guide can help you humanely prevent wildlife conflicts.

CHECK FOR ANIMALS FIRST:
Never seal ANY hole or entry point until you know for certain that there are no animals inside. This is the #1 rule for any exclusion process. If crumpled newspaper placed in the hole isn’t dislodged after 72 hours, you can likely assume the entry point isn’t being used.

DO SOME RESEARCH:
Know what animals are local to your area and their habits. Some species prefer living in attics (bats, squirrels, raccoons) and some live under floors (skunks, raccoons). It is especially important to know how small a hole an animal can fit through, as most animals can squeeze through anything the size of their skull or bigger. Knowing which species are nocturnal and which are diurnal can help you feel confident no animal is inside asleep when you start repairs to seal an entry point. WildCare’s Living with Wildlife Hotline can help answer questions at 415-456-7283.

Learn local animals’ breeding times. In Northern California, skunks start mating as early as January and February. Raccoon mating season starts soon after. Late fall and early winter are the best times to do repairs, as it’s unlikely any animals will have helpless young in dens. Do not do exclusion work during spring and summer.

SURVEY THE FULL EXTERIOR OF THE BUILDING:
Inspect the baseline of the property for potential entry points. Scan for chewing, digging, tracks, scat and urine marks. Check carefully for bits of fur against walls where animals may have passed frequently, and bare or broken spots of vegetation. Disturbed spider webs can be a great indicator of an active entry point. Digging animals like skunks are especially prone to denning under decks and can be deterred with a dig barrier. Learn how at discoverwildcare.org/digbarrier.

Check the roofline of the building(s). Look specifically for signs of chewing, and cracks or holes that squirrels, raccoons, etc. might use to get in. These should be sealed tightly. Replace damaged wood,
Magda Sarkissian was born and raised locally, playing among the Marin redwoods in her backyard. She was first introduced to WildCare as a middle schooler when Mrs. Terwilliger came to Saint Patrick School and showcased her educational animals. After that, whenever Magda came across an injured animal, she knew she could get help from WildCare.

As a Real Estate Professional on the Sarkissian-Bullock team with Golden Gate Sotheby’s International Realty, which represents the largest inventory of high-end homes in Marin, Magda works closely alongside her mother, Lydia, and Bill Bullock, a former WildCare volunteer. In her professional life, Magda tries to educate her clients about issues she has learned about from WildCare, such as humane rat abatement and the dangers of rodenticides to owls and other wildlife.

A deep commitment to community and animal conservation encompasses much of Magda’s personal life. As a volunteer on both WildCare’s Board of Directors and Development and Marketing Committee, Magda brings a multigenerational perspective on what people hope to learn about WildCare as well as what they want to contribute. She has helped bring in many young supporters and volunteers from San Francisco who want to learn more about WildCare and help support its mission.

In the past, Magda had found herself donating to conservation organizations outside of California, even outside of the country. The more Magda learned about WildCare, however, the more it hit home for her that she wanted to support work that was happening locally.

Magda cares as deeply about local wildlife as she does the homes she puts her clients into. She aims to show people how to live together in harmony with our wildlife neighbors and is always open to having conversations with anyone interested in getting involved with WildCare.

Magda understands that sometimes the world’s problems seem so much bigger than we are, but she believes that supporting WildCare is a way people can contribute and physically see the difference they are making.

Photo ©Jacquelyn Warner
As an entity of a nonprofit organization, a board can sometimes seem like an omnipotent decision-maker. This is particularly true to those familiar only with the concept of boards of directors in publicly shared companies.

The board of directors for a nonprofit organization has a number of very important responsibilities including overseeing the mission, providing guidance and support for the Executive Director, attending board meetings, participating in committee work, ensuring financial accountability, helping fundraise, and being ambassadors in the community.

To supporters, decisions made by “The Board” as a whole can seem like they are coming from somewhere unknown, from staff members high up in the organization. But actually, while board members interface with the Executive Director frequently, they are not compensated for their services. They are legal overseers, community advocates, strategic planners, fundraisers, jacks of all trades, and unpaid volunteers.

In other words, each board member is an extremely dedicated volunteer who gives their time and expertise to assure the longevity of causes they believe in.

WildCare’s board members come from the worlds of animal welfare, real estate, marketing, design, finances, project management, and technology just to name a few examples. One of the primary reasons that WildCare has been able to maintain and adapt so many of its programs and services is because of the hard work and advocacy from an incredibly talented and dynamic board of eleven individuals.

Not only do the members of our all-volunteer board provide resources to which our nonprofit wouldn’t normally have access, their knowledge and skills contribute to the longevity of our organization, and ensure that WildCare is living up to its mission while adjusting based on ever-changing needs.

WildCare is extremely fortunate to have the board members that it does. From working in the Wildlife Hospital and Wildlife Ambassador program, to assisting with fundraisers and maintaining community relationships, they have been at the foundation of what WildCare does, every step of the way.

Are you interested in volunteering at WildCare as a board member or in another capacity? Email volunteer@discoverwildcare.org.

WildCare is now accepting applications for NEW Wildlife Hospital Volunteers!

Applications will be reviewed starting in January 2022.

Watch our orientation video and learn more about how you can volunteer your time to save wildlife and become part of the WildCare team at discoverwildcare.org/volunteer.
Have you ever met someone who not only exudes warmth and radiance, but also has a respected presence that makes you want to stop and listen? Kate Van Gytenbeek is that person.

She has been a member of the Board of Directors at WildCare for nine years, and the Chair of the Board for three years. In that time, she has made a significant and lasting impact to both the organization and the community WildCare serves.

Throughout her tenure, Kate has used her compassionate demeanor and strong leadership to deliver clear and thoughtful messaging regarding many of WildCare’s most transformative times. This includes the pausing of our initial capital campaign, finding a new Executive Director and steering WildCare through the COVID-19 pandemic. She has worked tirelessly and diligently to ensure WildCare will be the best it can be for years to come.

I first met Kate when I had lunch with her to discuss my joining the board. Immediately, I was put at ease with her kind smile and bright energy. She had detailed and helpful answers to my many questions and genuinely made me feel that my contributions would be valuable and needed. To this day she continues to support and encourage not only me, but everyone around her. Kate is an inspiring leader and a great friend.

Knowing that Kate will remain involved with WildCare helps ease the sadness of her leaving. Though we are moving into a new chapter here with the coming capital campaign and new facility, Kate’s legacy will continue to guide us forward. We will also miss all the delicious vegetarian snacks she supplied at the board meetings!

Kate, you will never know how cherished you are to all of us at WildCare. We are quite fortunate and grateful that you chose to dedicate your time, skills, and compassion to this organization. You will forever remain a part of us. Thank you.

Steve Kimball has been a force on WildCare’s Board of Directors for eight years. Departing Board Chair, Kate Van Gytenbeek says, “It is bittersweet to be departing the board at the same time. I feel a deep comradery with him, gained through many years of driving change and growth for WildCare.”

Steve served WildCare faithfully and with great generosity of time, critical applied thinking, and good will in the community. WildCare is also grateful for his incredible financial support both personally and through the Kimball Foundation.

Steve will be so missed on the board, and most certainly, WildCare is a stronger, better organization for his involvement.

Mahatma Gandhi famously said, “Be the change you want to see in the world.” Steve embodies that quote, living it every day, looking for ways to make the world a better place.

It has been an absolute honor and privilege to have him as a member of WildCare’s Board of Directors.

Steve Kimball with wife Julie, and Wildlife Ambassador team, Beth Ridout and Kele the American Kestrel
WildCare’s 2021 Gala was a WILD success! We want to say a huge thank you to our generous sponsors and donors, and to everyone who attended the event, both in person and online, on August 21, 2021.

The 2021 WildCare Gala was a hybrid event, streamed via YouTube to hundreds of viewers live from the Marin Osher Jewish Community Center. A select audience of 42 people attended the event in person, enjoying the filming of the livestream “cabaret style,” after attending a cocktail reception featuring close-up encounters with WildCare’s Wildlife Ambassador Animals, including our Northern Spotted Owl and our Desert Tortoise.

It was a glamorous evening, with both onsite and online attendees enjoying in-depth looks at some of the animals at WildCare and video previews for our glamorous silent auction items. Viewers and attendees also gained heartfelt insight into the work WildCare does to help people everywhere live well with wildlife.

This year’s entirely plant-based hors d’oeuvres menu, deliciously catered by A Fork Full of Earth, was generously underwritten by a grant from the Giant Steps Foundation. The Giant Steps Foundation offers grants to non-profits for special events, allowing organizations to offer their guests organic, vegan and more humane menus.

The evening, of course, was a fundraiser for WildCare, and we are thrilled that our Gala raised over $270,000! These funds will help us care for many injured and orphaned wild animals in the year to come, and will also help us continue to advocate for wildlife and introduce thousands of adults and children to a love and appreciation of nature.

To see photos and other details from the event, visit discoverwildcare.org/gala.
UPDATE ON WILDCARE’S ADVOCACY EFFORTS OVER THE PAST YEAR

WILDCARE WORKS HARD TO ADVOCATE FOR WILDLIFE AND THE ENVIRONMENT. HERE ARE THE HIGHLIGHTS OF OUR ADVOCACY WORK OVER THE LAST 12 MONTHS.

LEGISLATION

**AB 1788** – California’s Statewide Ban on 2nd Generation Rodenticides. We sent a letter to Gov. Newsom thanking him for his signature, and updated the information on the website.

**SB 790** – Wildlife Corridors. We signed on to a support letter, and were cited in the Bill Analysis. This law will require planning for wildlife corridors on highway projects, and provide funding (credits) for the work. The Bill was passed by the Legislature, and signed by the Governor in early October.

**PT. REYES GENERAL MANAGEMENT PLAN**

We signed on to a letter opposing the treatment of elk herds at Pt. Reyes, and gave testimony at the California Coastal Commission consistency determination hearing on the National Park Service (NPS) proposal to extend ranching leases. Prior to the hearing, we met with NPS staff to express our concerns. WildCare’s position focused on three key points:

1. Treatment of the captive Tule Elk in the Tomales Point Herd
2. Water quality impacts of ongoing ranching operations
3. Unintended consequences of ranch diversification on wildlife

Ultimately, the Coastal Commission approved a ‘conditional’ consistency determination by a vote of 5-4. This included added conditions regarding water quality and climate action plans. A motion to eliminate proposed elk culling failed on a 4-5 vote. The Commission did not address the Tomales Point herd.

WildCare was the only organization to provide testimony of the risks of diversification, especially concerning the increased variety of livestock and crops at the ranches attracting predators which would increase conflicts between ranchers and these wild animals.

Diversification was not addressed in the Commission action, but the final Management Plan for the ranches significantly scaled back ranch diversification.

**FARALLON ISLANDS POISON DROP**

This remains the primary focus of our advocacy efforts. US Fish and Wildlife is coming back to the California Coastal Commission for a consistency determination for plans to drop tons of poison pellets on the Southeast Farallon Island to control a non-native mouse population on the island. This item has been pulled from the Coastal Commission docket several times, but is scheduled for the Commission meeting in December. WildCare has been testifying under ‘general public comment’ at every monthly meeting.

WildCare’s research shows that 76% of tested predatory animals have rodenticide in their bodies. Other studies have shown similar results in Bald Eagle and other wildlife populations. It seems extremely unlikely, given the movement of birds between the islands and the mainland, that USFWS can prevent this poison from spreading up the food chain.

Other advocacy issues WildCare worked on in 2021 include our very popular “Respect the Nest” campaign, and initial steps we’ve taken to propose a ban on the use of glue traps (also known as glue boards and sticky traps) to the San Francisco Board of Supervisors.

Outlawing the use of these cruel and inhumane traps in San Francisco will represent the first step in a statewide, and hopefully, eventually nationwide ban on their use.
MEET OUR PATIENTS!

BLACK-TAILED DEER FAWN
PATIENT 21-2843
Admitted on August 22, 2021

Typically May marks the end of the newborn fawn season, so WildCare medical staff were shocked to receive such a young animal so late in the season!

This fawn was admitted after being found alone in a yard in Fairfax. She was thin, and had been approaching humans, which usually means that a fawn has been orphaned and needs help.

Fortunately, once the fawn had received subcutaneous fluids and a few days of specialized fawn formula, she was able to be transferred to Fawn Rescue, to be with other, slightly older conspecifics (members of her same species) with whom she will grow up and eventually be released.

SONOMA CHIPMUNK
PATIENT 21-2485
Admitted on July 23, 2021

At the end of July, four hypothermic and dehydrated Sonoma Chipmunks were brought in after being found sick and alone.

Due to their age and condition on intake, they required antibiotics and formula feeding around the clock from our dedicated staff and hospital volunteers.

The chipmunks grew very quickly and were soon moved into a specially-designed outdoor enclosure to learn how to survive on their own.

After six intensive weeks in care, they were completely independent and wild and were able to be released back into their habitat in Fairfax.
EVERY YEAR, WILDCARE’S WILDLIFE HOSPITAL ADMITS OVER 3,500 ILL, INJURED AND ORPHANED WILD ANIMALS, FROM OVER 200 SPECIES. MEET FOUR OF THIS YEAR’S WILDLIFE PATIENTS!

**WHITE-BREASTED NUTHATCH**
**PATIENT 21-3184**
**Admitted on October 2, 2021**

This adult, male White-breasted Nuthatch was admitted to the Wildlife Hospital after being attacked by a free-roaming cat. WildCare always recommends keeping cats indoors to prevent injuries to wildlife.

This bird presented with soft-tissue trauma and some respiratory issues due to puncture wounds.

In this photo you can see the wing wrap applied to correct a drooping wing, also the result of soft-tissue trauma from a puncture.

After two weeks in care, where he received antibiotics and pain medications, this nuthatch had made a full recovery and was released back to his home territory in San Rafael.

**CALIFORNIA GULL**
**PATIENT 21-1993**
**Admitted on June 20, 2021**

This bird was admitted after being found floating alone in the water off the shore of Sausalito reportedly “screaming his head off.” Although his is a very common species, these birds as hatchlings look very different when they are older. Can you tell what he is?

This spotted bird is a California Gull! His body condition was good, but we still needed to keep him in a very warm ICU incubator since he was not yet able to thermoregulate, that is, control his body temperature on his own.

Because the gull was a solo patient in the Wildlife Hospital, he was given a mirror and a feather duster to give him a sense of avian company. After being hand-fed every two hours by specially-trained staff, this little one was transferred to the International Bird Rescue to be with other young gulls and where he will continue to grow prior to release.
Zeva Longley (1946 - 2020) was a passionate and renowned environmental educator, activist and artist. WildCare awarded her the Terwilliger Environmental Award in 2005, but her intersection with WildCare came decades before.

Zeva met Elizabeth Terwilliger (“Mrs. T”) in the 1970s and said of the meeting, “I fell in love with her and the nature she loved, and since that time have dedicated myself to learn more about the earth and my connection to the earth, and to teach what I learn.”

Zeva worked at Community Action Marin’s Canal Child Care Center for over 25 years and created their innovative Environmental Education Program. Three times a week, she took children, many of whom had rarely ventured from the urban setting of their own neighborhoods, out to the beach, the woods, the marshes, reservoirs, and hills of the Bay Area.

In addition to facts and information, Zeva’s curriculum promoted scientific investigation, responsible stewardship, teamwork, connection and compassion. In honor of her work with under-represented populations in San Rafael’s Canal District, Zeva received the Sierra Club’s Hannah Creighton Environmental Justice Award.

Zeva’s deeply-felt connection to nature and animals was formed early. She grew up in Corona Del Mar, CA where she spent hours with her horse on the beach, exploring the wild shoreline. The feeling of freedom and joy from unstructured time in nature at a young age is what Zeva would grow up to share with children and families through her work at the Canal Child Care Center.

Zeva raised her daughter, Alicia House, without a TV at home. Instead, they spent time outdoors together, on Mt. Tamalpais, exploring nature and observing wildlife. She instilled in her daughter the importance of play, courage, beauty and freedom. Today, Alicia works as a theater director and teacher, and her mother’s values are woven into the fabric of her work.

To continue her mother’s legacy, Alicia spearheaded the creation of a scholarship program at WildCare in collaboration with Zeva’s brother and fellow nature enthusiast, Jay “Sparky” Longley. A generous donation has been made from Rainbow Sandals Foundation to create The Zeva Longley Scholarship for Nature Education that will connect children and their families who reside in San Rafael’s Canal District with the natural world through WildCare’s education programs.

Zeva once said:

“My only wish now is that all children have the opportunity to experience, understand, and appreciate the beautiful Earth we depend on.”

In that spirit, her work lives on at WildCare.
WELCOME TO OUR NEW WILDCARE STAFF MEMBERS

MARIEL VANDERSTEEL WYSLOUCH
STEWARDSHIP ASSOCIATE

Growing up in Marin, Mariel frequently visited WildCare and is delighted to return, this time as a member of WildCare’s Development team.

Mariel holds a graduate degree in Arts Administration with a certificate in Fundraising Management from Boston University and has a background in working with non-profits on membership and educational programming. While in Boston, she ran the Passim School of Music and Membership department at Passim and administered the Vocal Arts Program at the Handel and Haydn Society.

Mariel also earned a Bachelor of Music in Violin Performance at Berklee College of Music and was selected twice by the U.S. State Department to act as a musical ambassador throughout Kazakhstan, Uzbekistan, India, Bangladesh, Ukraine, Montenegro, Greece, and Estonia. When not at WildCare, you can find Mariel admiring produce at the San Rafael Farmers Market or somewhere on a Bay Area trail with her husband and their adopted dog, Luna.

DION CAMPBELL
WILDLIFE SERVICES REPRESENTATIVE

Following some very nomadic and adventurous formative years, Dion found her one true home in foggy San Francisco two decades ago and hasn’t wanted to leave again since.

Working primarily in hospitality, she supported her own ambitions as an artist and a traveler, but has also worked as a seamstress, a graphic designer, and even a lab tech for the USGS. Her innate love for nature, the Earth, and its processes buoyed her to study Earth Science at CCSF and to become an avid wilderness backpacker, but it was her passion for animals—especially the too often forsaken ones—that compelled her to volunteer with Palomacy Pigeon Rescue, which is what so serendipitously led her to WildCare.

She lives in a teeny tiny apartment on top of a hill in the city with her husband, who is a lecturer at SFSU, her son Atlas, who is brilliant, and an undisclosed, ever-fluctuating number of rescue cats and pigeons. You can find Dion in her art studio in the city, at the beach, or somewhere under the coastal redwoods, almost always on foot, and almost always holding coffee.

HAVE AN OLD CAR, RV OR BOAT TAKING UP SPACE IN YOUR DRIVEWAY?

CALL 855.500.RIDE (855.500.7433) OR VISIT DISCOVERWILDCARE.ORG/AUTO TO DONATE A CAR, TRUCK, MOTORCYCLE or BOAT TODAY!

Your old car could give our patients a second chance at life in the wild, and your neighbors a break.

Fast, easy and FREE!

• TAX-DEDUCTIBLE
• FREE TOWING
• ANY VEHICLE, IN ANY CONDITION (YES REALLY!)
Hungry Owl Project

Help the mama Barn Owl get home to her owlets!
Rodenticides, or rat poisons, widely sold as an everyday “quick fix” for mice and rats, often cause irreversible damage to the environment by killing wildlife, making them a dangerous choice for the curbing of rodent populations.

Rodenticides heavily contribute to the death of many wildlife species other than rodents. Tests from WildCare patients from 2015 to 2016 identified 13 different non-target species that suffered from rodenticide poisoning - In our studies over those two years, 78% of raptors tested positive for rodenticide, while 86% of non-rodent mammals tested positive.

The bait often comes in various colors and forms, and even includes particular flavorings such as fish oil and peanut butter. Although bait boxes look as if they’re not accessible to anything larger than a rat, the smells and flavorings are often irresistible to pets, who can easily chew through the plastic. In 2019, rodenticide exposure in pets increased in number to 6.8% of the Animal Poison Control Centre’s caseload. Rodenticide now ranks at #7 on the ASPCA’s list of Top 10 Pet Toxins.

In addition to pets easily mastering the procurement of bait from supposedly discreet boxes, small children are also drawn to the mystery of the box and its colorful pellets. According to the 2017 Annual Report of the American Association of Poison Control Centers, over half of the 10,000 annual ingestions of rodenticide a year happen in children under the age of six.

While rodents are one of the top nuisances of home ownership, there are safer ways to effectively control their populations other than the use of rodenticide. Properly enclosing trash receptacles, ensuring vines and brush are maintained away from exterior walls, avoiding the use of bird feeders that can attract rodents, and not leaving pet food out are sound places to start. Exclusion is another step, and this involves sealing gaps around the home, and properly securing all exterior openings.

In addition to these easy steps, you can encourage natural predators to your property by procuring your own Barn Owl or Western Screech Owl box through WildCare’s Hungry Owl Project. By providing a space for natural predators, you can completely eliminate the need for rat poison or other toxic chemicals.

For more information on owl nesting boxes, non-toxic rodent control, and to sign our Poison Free Pledge, please visit: hungryowls.org
ENSURE A LEGACY FOR WILDLIFE BY INCLUDING WILDCARE IN YOUR WILL!

OUR FREE TOOL AT FREEWILL.COM/WILDCARE CAN HELP YOU:

- Protect the family, friends, and pets you care about.
- Act as a steward for the natural spaces and world you love.
- Plan beneficiaries for your assets (including an IRA, 401(k), or assets passed on outside of a will!).
- Create a powerful legacy to heal injured and orphaned animals in our care.

It is so important to have an estate plan. Visit freewill.com/wildcare to make your plan today, and let us know if WildCare is already in your will at wildcare@discoverwildcare.org.