WILDCARE NEWS  VOLUME 22 NUMBER 5

2022 ANNUAL REPORT

HELPING YOU LIVE WELL WITH WILDLIFE

SUMMER 2023

FEATURES:

· COYOTES & BADGERS HUNT TOGETHER
· WILDLIFE AMBASSADOR UPDATE
· GALA SPONSORSHIP OPPORTUNITIES
· BILINGUAL KIDS’ PAGE

BABY ANIMAL YEARBOOK CLASS OF 2023

PAGE 4
DEAR FRIENDS,

The last year has forced us to adapt with resilience, creativity, and team spirit to continue to provide the highest standard of care for the thousands of animals we receive in our Wildlife Hospital each year and to connect thousands of children with nature.

Here are some seasonal updates—

HPAI (Avian Influenza) — WildCare admits an average of 3,500 wildlife patients yearly; over 80% arrive at our doors between April and August. Finding a way to quarantine HPAI-susceptible species in the rush of spring and summer’s wildlife baby season has required a lot of planning, ingenuity, and repurposing of our Courtyard. There has been no evidence of infection among patients inside our Wildlife Hospital, which means our containment efforts onsite are working. However, dealing with this incredibly contagious (between birds) virus has required a massive overhaul of hospital operations and the implementation of complex quarantine and testing protocols.

And we are continuing to work towards building WildCare a new home that will provide the best possible care for local wildlife. We will have more news to share on this front in the coming months.

We have launched the quiet phase of our Elevate WildCare Capital Campaign with a tremendous tailwind generated by an early leadership gift of $3 million and generous stretch gifts from several closely connected organizational champions. With over 40% of our goal secured to date, we’re moving forward with momentum and confidence, knowing there is much work ahead.

With gratitude,

Ellyn Weisel
Executive Director
HOW DO YOU KNOW IF A WILD ANIMAL OF ANY SPECIES NEEDS YOUR HELP?

THE FIVE CS!

Although there are many reasons wildlife may need help, the first things to look for if you think a wild animal of any age needs rescue are the Five Cs. If an animal demonstrates any of these five symptoms, it is an emergency and he needs immediate help:

1. Are they CRYING?
2. Are they COLD?
3. Are they COMING toward you (approaching people)?
4. Are they COVERED with blood or insects?
5. Have they been CAUGHT by a cat or a dog?

If the answer to any of these questions is yes, or if you are concerned about a wild animal for any other reason, please call WildCare’s Hotline immediately at 415-456-7283 for assistance and advice.
EVERY YEAR, WILDCARE ADMITS THOUSANDS OF INJURED OR ORPHANED BABY ANIMALS TO OUR WILDLIFE HOSPITAL. MEET SOME OF THE MEMBERS OF THE “CLASS OF 2023.”

**AMERICAN CROWS**

**PATIENTS #23-546 – 23-550**

**Age:** 3-5 days old

**REASON FOR INTAKE:** Nest fell from the tree, probably due to wind.

**MOST LIKELY TO:** Remember your face! Crows are incredibly intelligent, and have been shown to recognize individual people.

**QUOTE FROM A CAREGIVER:** “They were warm and vocal on intake. Baby crows have bright red mouths, and you can really see them when they beg for food!”

**VIRGINIA OPOSSUM**

**PATIENT # 23-518**

**Age:** Approximately 10 weeks

**REASON FOR INTAKE:** Found in a basement with no sign of her mother.

**MOST LIKELY TO:** Not get rabies due to low body temperature.

**QUOTE FROM A CAREGIVER:** “She was freezing cold on intake, but once she warmed up, she began vocalizing and tried to bite my finger. That’s a good sign!”

**BLACK-TAILED JACKRABBIT**

**PATIENT #23-298**

**Age:** 1-2 weeks old

**REASON FOR INTAKE:** Nesting spot was flooded in a storm.

**MOST LIKELY TO:** Run as fast as 40mph once he grows up.

**QUOTE FROM A CAREGIVER:** “His rescuer found him waterlogged and cold behind their barn. I was so glad he survived!”

**EASTERN FOX SQUIRREL**

**PATIENT #23-366**

**Age:** Approximately 4 weeks

**REASON FOR INTAKE:** Nest tree fell in a storm. She was admitted with a broken leg.

**MOST LIKELY TO:** Grow up to plant trees.

**QUOTE FROM A CAREGIVER:** “After treatment for the broken leg and emergency surgery for a ruptured bladder, she’s made a wonderful recovery and is doing great!”
EASTERN GRAY SQUIRRELS
PATIENTS #23-193 – 23-197
Age: Approximately 2 weeks
REASON FOR INTAKE: Nest cut down by tree trimmers.
MOST LIKELY TO: Be spotted in a city park.
QUOTE FROM A CAREGIVER: “These little ones were plump and healthy, but they must have been thirsty… they sucked down the electrolyte solution on intake!”

MOURNING DOVE BABIES
PATIENTS #23-441 AND 23-442
Age: 3-5 days old
REASON FOR INTAKE: Nest was in a wreath that fell and got destroyed.
MOST LIKELY TO: Be mistaken for an owl due to their call
QUOTE FROM A CAREGIVER: “It was an adventure, but we got her reunited with mom! See the video at discoverwildcare.org/fawnreunite!”

MALLARD DUCKLING
PATIENT # 23-805
Age: Approximately 2 weeks
REASON FOR INTAKE: Fell down a hill and was found alone with no mother or siblings nearby.
MOST LIKELY TO: Go for a swim in your pool – please put a ramp or “frog log” in your pool to allow animals that fall in to escape.
QUOTE FROM A CAREGIVER: “Once she got a negative HPAl test, we put her with other ducklings. She’s doing well now.”

ANNA’S HUMMINGBIRD
PATIENT #23-529
Age: 2 - 3 weeks
REASON FOR INTAKE: Found on the ground, and the nest couldn’t be located.
MOST LIKELY TO: Dive-bomb your hummingbird feeder to keep other hummingbirds away.
QUOTE FROM A CAREGIVER: “He wasn’t sure how to gape for his first syringe feed, but he quickly figured it out.”

NORTHERN RACCOON
PATIENT #23-771
Age: Approximately 3 days
REASON FOR INTAKE: Orphaned, found in crawlspace under house. Mom took 3 of 4 babies during reunite.
MOST LIKELY TO: Eat the rats and mice in your yard. Raccoons are great rodent predators!
QUOTE FROM A CAREGIVER: “This baby was so young on intake that his umbilicus was still attached! We don’t know why mom left him, but he’ll grow up in foster care.”

GREAT HORNED OWLET
PATIENT #23-380
Age: Approximately 7 weeks
REASON FOR INTAKE: On the ground at a dog park under a fallen tree.
MOST LIKELY TO: Grow up to provide free rodent removal services. Don’t use rat poisons!
QUOTE FROM A CAREGIVER: “We couldn’t reunite him, so we sent this owlet to be fostered with a nonreleaseable adult Great Horned Owl at another wildlife care center. He’s doing great!”

STRIPED SKUNKS
PATIENTS # 23-708 AND 23-709
Age: Approximately 3 weeks
REASON FOR INTAKE: Mother died from exposure to poison.
MOST LIKELY TO: Give you lots of warning before they spray.
QUOTE FROM A CAREGIVER: “They’re already learning to forage for food… I teach them by hiding tasty treats (mealworms, grapes) in various places in their enclosure.”

BLACK-TAILED DEER FAWN
PATIENT #23-452
Age: Approximately 7 weeks
REASON FOR INTAKE: Found sitting quietly under a car. Actually, this fawn was “kidnapped.”
MOST LIKELY TO: Grow up to eat poison oak.
QUOTE FROM A CAREGIVER: “These babies are so young, you can still see the egg tooth on each little beak!”

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WILDCARE NEWS  SUMMER 2023

NATURE VAN  (PRE-K – 8TH GRADE)
Now available in Spanish!
Examine and touch fascinating taxidermy and bio-facts.
45 min – 1 hour presentations
$220 for the first presentation, and $160 each additional presentation.
Once class per presentation, up to four classes per date.
WildCare has hired a Bilingual Wildlife Educator!
Nature Van Programs can be delivered in Spanish, English, or both.

NATURE AMBASSADORS  (1ST – 8TH GRADE)
Bring three live wild animals into your classroom!
1 hour presentations
$260 for the first presentation, and $200 for a second presentation. Maximum two per date. One class per presentation.

NATURE HIKES  (K – 6TH GRADE)
Terwilliger Nature Guides lead nature discovery hikes at Ring Mountain, Muir Woods, or Miwok Meadows.
Hikes are 2.5 hours
$300 per hike. One class per hike.

“The 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.

Apply now by scanning the QR code

Now accepting reservations for the 2023/2024 school year
Request a program today at discoverwildcare.org/education
Scholarships available for public schools!
education@discoverwildcare.org  415-453-1000 x190

BECOME A TERWILLIGER NATURE GUIDE VOLUNTEER
ORIENTATION HELD IN MID-SEPTEMBER.

EDUCATION PROGRAMS

WILDCARE NEWS  SUMMER 2023

PAGE 6 WILDCARE NEWS  SUMMER 2023
COYOTE AND BADGER:
FEARSOME FOE OR FORMIDABLE FRIEND?

BY CASEY PEARCE
NATURE EDUCATION AND CAMP MANAGER

In 2020, an amazing video went viral on Twitter showing an American Badger and a coyote crossing under a California highway together. The video was taken as part of a study by Peninsula Open Space Trust (POST) and Pathways for Wildlife, looking into how wildlife cross roadways in the southern Santa Cruz Mountains and where improved crossing options may be needed. The coyote is seen jumping and wagging his tail, waiting for the slower badger before navigating the drainpipe crossing together.

Previously, badgers and coyotes were thought to be strict competitors because they are both predators who eat similar prey, but Native American tribes have known the pair to hunt together for thousands of years. Even so, the first studies documenting badgers and coyotes hunting together weren’t conducted until 1992. Scientists found that coyotes working with badgers were more successful hunters and the badgers were able to expend less energy while hunting.

Lone coyotes hunt ground-dwelling prey by stalking the surface and waiting to surprise animals as they leave the burrow. Coyotes can’t easily access animals who are safe inside their subterranean homes but deftly give chase once the prey is aboveground. Conversely, badgers—who are very fast underground but cumbersome when pursuing prey on the surface—chase prey into their burrows, cornering them in dead-end tunnels. When coyotes and badgers join forces and hunt together, the coyote chases creatures that try to escape aboveground while the badger can track them through even the most labyrinthian underground tunnels. Badgers and coyotes partner up and rely on each other most in areas where their common prey tends to dwell in winding, criss-crossed tunnels that would be challenging to infiltrate alone. Both animals benefit, saving time and energy by working together!

This unlikely partnership is particularly interesting because coyotes are relatively solitary and do not often hunt with other coyotes. You are actually more likely to see a coyote hunting with a badger than with another coyote!

While coyotes are a common sight in Marin County’s parks and open spaces, American Badgers are some of the most reclusive mammals. You are more likely to see their den entrances and associated mounds of excavated soil than the badger itself, as they are nocturnal and predominantly live underground. Badgers, who are considered a Species of Special Concern in California, require large swaths of undeveloped land to call home, a resource that is dwindling in Marin County. Protecting open spaces and grasslands is an essential part of protecting one of the most elusive mammals of Marin.
Mohave (the Desert Tortoise) got some upgraded digs! His two-room den is heated and insulated, and features an ever-changing art gallery, thanks to some generous and loving volunteers. After a quiet winter with his new home, he’s loving the shift back to warm weather and outdoor walks in the courtyard.

Marla (the Western Pond Turtle) is also enjoying the warmer weather and the chance to get outside and bask in the sun.

Oakley (the Eastern Fox Squirrel) got a new, 3-room sleeping box. But unlike Mo and Marla, Oakley would prefer it to stay cool all year long. Oakley, who turned 10 in 2022, is a master of the famed squirrel sploot!

Stryker (the California King Snake) has become a star of our education events, traveling all around the Bay Area to help educate students. And whenever Stryker is shedding his skin (which he often is!), Rosie the Rosy Boa does a beautiful job taking his place for a program.

WildCare’s education team is excited to prominently feature snakes in our programming and help dispel misconceptions about these often-maligned animals.

Milo (the Virginia Opossum) is another educational superstar! Milo, the newest addition to the Wildlife Ambassador team, has already taught hundreds of students about the importance of Virginia Opossums in our ecosystem. When he’s not educating, he loves munching on fruit and yogurt and running on his XL exercise wheel!

Since WildCare closed to the public last summer, Vladimir (the Turkey Vulture) has not been able to greet WildCare’s usual group of daily visitors. Instead, we’ve found ways to provide him with alternative forms of enrichment, like this papier-mâché hippo full of food made by one of our Ambassador volunteers!
When avian flu (HPAI) arrived in California last summer, all of WildCare’s avian Wildlife Ambassadors moved into quarantine areas to keep them safe. HPAI is highly contagious and can be transmitted through bodily fluids, on surfaces, and through the air. Protecting our Wildlife Ambassadors involved creating enclosures that not only had a roof (to protect from wild bird droppings), but barriers along the sides to eliminate airborne transmission from hospital patients. We are overjoyed to report that all remain healthy!

**Cache (the Acorn Woodpecker)** has enjoyed exploring his new quarantine enclosure and making lots of new holes to cache acorns!

Our owls **Sequoia** (the Northern Spotted Owl) and **Trill** (the Western Screech Owl) are both happy and healthy! We’re hopeful that we’ll be able to safely reincorporate these two back into our programming in the coming months.

Our beloved pool birds, **Herman** (the Heerman’s Gull), **Baja** (the California Brown Pelican), and **Marshall** (the American White Pelican) were housed in a large quarantine enclosure through the fall and winter while we made their primary enclosure (with a larger pool) HPAI-safe. In April, they moved back home and are happier than ever!

While we completed cage improvements, **Calli** (the California Quail) had been housed in an area without much sunlight. However, in March, he was able to move into a brighter enclosure and he loves to bask in the afternoon sun.

WildCare has been published in **TWO National Geographic children’s books!**

Hospital staff has collaborated with Nat Geo to produce and edit our own chapter involving the rescue, raising and release of one of our bobcat kitten patients, including photographs provided by our staff. The books have been published and are now available for purchase!

If you’re looking for a great gift for the children in your life, pick up one or both of these books!

(Please note: while WildCare did receive compensation for the use of our photos in these books, we do not receive any proceeds from their sale.)

There are multiple versions of these children’s books so, to be sure you get the one featuring WildCare’s bobcat kitten story, please scan the QR codes.

Please note: while WildCare did receive compensation for the use of our photos in these books, we do not receive any proceeds from their sale.)
JOIN US FOR THE WILDCARE GALA ON SEPT. 9, 2023, AND PLEASE CONSIDER SPONSORING THIS ELEGANT EVENT!

Please scan for more information.

### Presenting Sponsor - $25,000
- Two premium tables for up to 10 guests each
- Full-page advertisement in Gala program
- Presenting Sponsorship recognition during event program
- Presenting Sponsorship recognition in pre- and post-event communications and materials

### Peregrine Falcon - $15,000
- One premium table for up to 10 guests
- Half-page advertisement in Gala program
- Sponsorship recognition during event program
- Sponsorship signage throughout event
- Sponsorship recognition in pre- and post-event communications and materials

### Swainson’s Hawk - $10,000
- One premium table for up to 10 guests
- Half-page advertisement in Gala program
- Sponsorship recognition during event program
- Sponsorship signage throughout event
- Sponsorship recognition in pre- and post-event communications and materials

### Red-Shouldered Hawk - $5,000
- Ten tickets to the event
- Preferred seating
- Sponsorship signage throughout event
- Sponsorship recognition in pre- and post-event communications and materials

### Northern Harrier - $2,500
- Six tickets to the event
- Sponsorship recognition in pre- and post-event communications and materials

### American Kestrel - $1,500
- Two tickets to the event
- Sponsorship recognition in pre- and post-event communications and materials

Sponsorship opportunities for WildCare’s Talons & Friends event, happening **July 16, 2023** at the beautiful Cavallo Point Lodge, are also available!
Just last week during my clinic shift I set up an enclosure for our very first orphaned duckling of the year. This is always a pivotal moment for the hospital – one of the first signs heralding the arrival of Wildlife Baby Season! This year, in addition to the usual challenges, we are contending with the added complication of the ongoing HPAI (Highly Pathogenic Avian Influenza) outbreak. WildCare staff and volunteers are implementing new mitigation protocols, such as special quarantine zones for patient intakes and additional wards, which add a significant amount of preparation, time, and cost for every animal that enters our hospital.

In 2023, WildCare is facing yet another challenge – one that has been years in the making! We have begun the long road to reimagining our beloved facility and rebuilding it as one that is worthy of the amazing work done within its walls. Don’t worry, though – WildCare will still be operating and serving our wildlife patients and our community, continuing to heal injured and orphaned animals and to conduct our world-class educational programs, just at a temporary location. We are excited to share more information about the process as things move forward.

Every year, WildCare admits approximately 3,500 animals, with the ultimate goal for each and every one being a safe return to the wild. Our staff members and volunteers dedicate so much of themselves to our mission in so many ways all day, every day. They approach challenges head on, always with the animals’ best interest guiding their decisions. I find myself in awe each week while working with this incredible team.

On behalf of the WildCare Board of Directors, I want to say thank you. Thank you for being with us and supporting us through the uncertainty of the past few years.

We would not be here today without each and every one of you. You have proven that we as a community can step up to handle whatever comes our way and even come out stronger on the other side.

Now if you’ll excuse me, I must get back to this baby squirrel that just came in... And so it begins!

Sincerely,

Veronica Geczi,
WildCare Board President
### 2022 ENGAGEMENT STATISTICS

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Social Media &amp; Website Category</th>
<th>Statistics</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Website Visitors</td>
<td>209,777</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Twitter Followers</td>
<td>283,359</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Email Subscribers</td>
<td>63,959</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Facebook Followers</td>
<td>23,656</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Instagram Followers</td>
<td>6,387</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

### ADVOCACY IN 2022

- **WildCare advocated**
  - Against glue traps. We presented about the harms of glue and sticky traps to the San Francisco Commission for Animal Control & Welfare to hopefully help implement a ban on the sale and use of these traps in the City of San Francisco.
  - In favor of coexistence between coyotes and the residents of the City of Belvedere.
  - In favor of wildlife corridors and conservation easements to help protect wildlife.

- **WildCare supported**
  - The Kentfield School District’s efforts to peacefully coexist with nesting Cliff Swallows on the buildings of Kent Middle School.
  - The National Park Service on the availability of water for the captive Tule Elk herd on Tomales Point during the hot summer months.
  - Efforts to hold the National Park Service accountable for the protection of coastal resources after the California Coastal Commission’s conditional concurrence with the new Management Plan for Point Reyes.

- **WildCare relaunched** our “Respect the Nest” campaign to help protect nesting wildlife from tree trimming and gardening during spring and summer.

- **WildCare made national news** with our efforts to alert the public and prepare our facility for the advent of Highly Pathogenic Avian Influenza (HPAI) in California.

### THANK YOU TO OUR SUPPORTERS!

Over 6,000 individuals, businesses, corporations, associations and foundations provided funding to support WildCare, helping us raise nearly $3.2 million in our fiscal year ended September 30, 2022, to make our work possible. Additionally, WildCare also benefited from $773K CARES Act Covid-related government grants.
## WILDLIFE HOSPITAL STATISTICS 2022

### Survival Rates and Number of Animals Treated by Class

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Class</th>
<th>Total Number by Class</th>
<th>Different Species</th>
<th>Survival Rate (After 24 Hours)</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Mammals</td>
<td>829</td>
<td>38</td>
<td>82.04%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Birds</td>
<td>2,551</td>
<td>133</td>
<td>77.6%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Reptiles</td>
<td>37</td>
<td>10</td>
<td>82.04%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Amphibians</td>
<td>3</td>
<td>3</td>
<td>100%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>Total Number of Animals &amp; Overall Survival Rate</strong></td>
<td><strong>3,422</strong></td>
<td><strong>78.82%</strong></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

*(based on all admissions, after 24 hours)*

### Most Frequent Reasons for Admission:

- Nest Destroyed/Displaced from Nest: 19.4%
- Caught by Cat or Dog: 17.9%
- Orphaned: 17.1%
- Grounded: 13.8%
- Flew into Window: 10%
- Hit by Car: 5.9%
- Other: 15.9%

### Other Reasons Include

- Trapped in Storm Drain/Sewer: 2.8%
- Stranded/Beached: 1.5%
- Stuck in Fence: 0.5%
- Entangled in Netting/String/Wire: 1.5%
- Trapped in Glue Trap: 1.5%

### 44 Babies Reunited with Parents
EDUCATIONAL PROGRAM REACH:

TOTAL number of children served by WildCare’s Terwilliger Nature Education Programs: 10,198
  Number of youth served on scholarship: 3,473 (34%)

TOTAL number of programs: 463
  NUMBER OF PRESENTATIONS BY PROGRAM:
    Nature Hike Programs: 62
    Center Tour Programs: 24
    Wildlife Ambassador Programs: 88
    Nature Van Programs: 275
    Wildlife Camps: 10
    Family Adventures / Aventuras Familiares: 4

Number of Students Served by Program:
  Nature Hike Programs: 1578
  Center Tour Programs: 435
  Wildlife Ambassador Programs: 2309
  Nature Van Programs: 5742
  Wildlife Camps: 134
  Family Adventures / Aventuras Familiares: 101

FREE Courtyard Presentations*
  Number of Presentations: 440
  Number of Participants: 1901
*We were forced to close WildCare’s Courtyard to the public in July 2022 due to the detection of Highly Pathogenic Avian Influenza (HPAI) in California. These numbers represent Courtyard visitors and programs for the first half of the year.

Educational Events Attended by WildCare: 9
  Number of participants served: 2117

STUDENT DEMOGRAPHICS

- HISPANIC: 40.03%
- CAUCASIAN: 23.55%
- ASIAN/PACIFIC ISLANDER: 12.92%
- AFRICAN AMERICAN: 5.61%
- OTHER: 17.90%
- OTHER: 17.90%

10,198 TOTAL STUDENTS SERVED IN 10 COUNTIES
34% OF PROGRAM PARTICIPANTS RECEIVED SCHOLARSHIP SUPPORT (3,473 STUDENTS)
125 SCHOOLS AND ORGANIZATIONS RECEIVED WILDCARE PROGRAMS
14 WILDLIFE AMBASSADOR ANIMALS
OUR VOLUNTEERS IN 2022

THANK YOU FOR HELPING WILDLIFE!

Giuse Adragna
Logan Agard
Arielle Andreis
Vincent Anibale
Dianne Arancibia
Anne Ardillo
Toni Pinsky
Sarah Atherton
Francesca Austin
Julie Austin
Trish Axsom
Deb Abe
Lauren Bacon
Taylor Bacon
Jeff Baker
Alix Barby
Nancy Barbour
Courtney Barend
Lindsay Barish
Anne Barker
Karin Clark
Natalie Clark
Kiki Clarke
Claire Colvin
Chloe Corsini
Mina Cosko
Elizabeth Costa
Mariah Cribben
Tom Crouse
Chloe Crull
Becky Dahlstrom
Andress de Carmon Aruda
Athina de la Cruz
Libby Debattista
Sofia Dinglasan
Marcella Dirks
Beth Ebinder
Sandy Edinger
Piper Egan
Suzanne Egan
Alice Elegant
Aiden Essig
Alfonso Faustino
Zhanna Filatova
Debbie Fisher
Cynthia Folkman
Dallas Forshew
Darin Freitag
Caitlin Fried
Susy Friedman
Amber Fua
Barbara Gallardo
Heather Gamberg
Sofia Gaugenti
Kai Gaultier
Veronica Geczi
Lily Gee
Leigh Genser
Terry Gibbens
Susan Girtler
Vanessa Glidden
Alex Godbe
Brenda Goeden
Andrea Goldfien
Susie Graven
Shannon Gray
Jeff Greendorfer
Rachel Griffiths
Nancy Groom
Yanet Gutierrez
Erin Hankins
Christine Hansel
Tara Harris
Lynn Haug
Nicole Hediger
Bryan Hendon
Alison Herrera
Andrea Hirsch
Paula Holman
Rai Holzman
Danni Ingargiola
Ralpha Jacobson
Amy Junker
Shanthi Kalpat
Holly Karmanocky
Steve Kimball
Rob D. Kline
Rachel Klyce
Susan Kreibich
Veronique Krenitsky
Robert Kruthoff
Kermit Kubit
Laakea Laano
Rebecca LaMotte
Kristen Lang
Sasha Larson
Heidi Law
Anders Layton
Liz Lazzich
Vet Le
Cecilia Ledesma
Claire Lesh
Jess Lester
Jacqueline Lewis
Anne Libbin
Kelly Liehoff
Kevin Lindsay
Amy Loewen
Shannon Lottmann
Bob Lundstrom
Kate Lynch
Holley Maassen
Amy MacVillano
Gail MacMillan
Tracy Manheim
Andi Martin
Marina Mata
Vaughn Maurice
Barbara Pritchard
Patricia Prorok
Leilani Pursel
Gretchen Rau
Nathan Rawlins
James Reed
Renee Reed
David Reinstein
Beth Ridout
Tori Rockas
Skyler Rockwell
Nicole Rodney
Lucy Romero
Brittany Rosario
Shelly Ross
Shelly Ross
Maggie Rufo
Linda SaintAmant
Maggie Sarkissian
Laura Scaparro
Marjorie Scarborough
Joel Schick
Lyanne Schneider
Liz Thawley
Nicole Trautsch
Janna Ullrey
Kate Van
Gytenbeek
Leigh Vogen
Leif Waage-Pickle
Melissa Wahlstrom
Selina Wajnowski
Marisa Walker
Julia Walsh
Hailey Weisel
Jennifer Weller
Nancy West
Grace Whitty
Alexander Yaitanes
Cait Youngquist

WE Couldn'T Do IT WITHOUT YOU!

Thank you to our many volunteers for all the ways you help wildlife and support WildCare’s important work!

SO MANY WAYS TO VOLUNTEER:

HELP IN THE WILDLIFE HOSPITAL
TRANSPORT WILDLIFE PATIENTS
EDUCATE SCHOOL CHILDREN AND THE PUBLIC
CARE FOR AND PRESENT OUR WILDLIFE AMBASSADOR ANIMALS
JOIN THE WILDCARE BOARD OR A COMMITTEE
ANSWER THE AFTER-HOURS EMERGENCY LINE
PROVIDE VETERINARY CARE
LEARN MORE AT DISCOVERWILDCARE.ORG/VOLUNTEER

WildCare News Summer 2023 Page 15
WHERE ARE THEY NOW?

One of the best things about WildCare is the people who choose to give their time, energy and skills to make our work possible.

WildCare volunteers and interns go on to do amazing things with their lives, and so often, one of the primary experiences and influences these fascinating and successful people reference is their time in our Wildlife Hospital!

Three of the amazing volunteers and interns featured in this article became (or are becoming) veterinarians. The fourth discovered a love for human medicine during her years at WildCare.

Thank you to all of our volunteers and interns, current and former, for giving your time to help WildCare!

**LEO LE MERLE**

Leo Le Merle started at WildCare as a Wildlife Hospital Intern in 2022. He quickly became a fixture in both the Clinic and the Birdroom, charming everyone with his light-hearted attitude and willingness to learn. Leo will be starting veterinary school at the Royal Veterinary College (RVC) in London in the fall of 2023.

He writes: “After my time at WildCare I spent some quality time with family at home for the holidays before flying to Panama to work at an ecolodge for two months. While most of the daily tasks consisted of gardening, cooking, and construction, it was still an opportunity to see a whole host of diverse wildlife, especially birds!”

“I’ll be moving to the UK this spring to work on a sheep farm during lambing season - RVC requires that students complete 12 weeks of farm animal husbandry over their first two years, so I’m getting some done early. After that I’ll be living with family and working in London until classes start up in September.”

**MAYA SAMPATH, MD**

Maya Sampath was a volunteer at WildCare from 7th grade through high school graduation! Every Friday, her warm personality and ever-ready willingness to help made her a tremendous asset to both the Wildlife Hospital and the Wildlife Ambassador Program.

She writes, “As I entered WildCare’s gates each week, I was greeted by my many friends there. The work was hard and dirty and included cleaning poop from cages and chopping up [defrosted] mice to feed animals. As I gained experience, I was allowed to assist in the hospital. Over time my confidence grew, as did my sense of worth - I was saving lives. Assisting in the Wildlife Hospital, I saw how the Medical Staff were able to heal animals there so that they could be released back into the wild. It was empowering.”

“WildCare made me realize I wanted to be a physician. I loved science and I wanted to help people, so I graduated from the University of Southern California in 2020 with an MD. I am now an OBGYN resident in Santa Maria. I owe my career as a physician to WildCare for teaching me the value of caring for life.”
HSIN-HUNG LIN, DVM

Hsin-Hung Lin started as an intern at WildCare when she was a pre-vet student at Mills College before spending three years working as a Wildlife Assistant in our Wildlife Hospital. After graduating with a BS in General Biology from Mills, she received her DVM from the UC Davis School of Veterinary Medicine, where she immersed herself in wildlife medicine, emergency disaster response, equine, and shelter medicine. An externship at Berkeley Dog and Cat Hospital allowed her to shadow veterinarians on emergency cases, while time spent at Nevada Humane Society improved her surgical skills and gave her experience assisting mobile veterinarians with in-home euthanasias.

After graduating veterinary school, she joined two wonderful hospital teams in Reno as an associate veterinarian. Currently, her professional interests include puppy/kitten wellness visits, reducing pet obesity, soft tissue surgery, ophthalmology, and in-home euthanasia.

Beyond the hospital walls, she enjoys designing and creating hamster bin cages and ultra-light backpacking gear, and engaging in the great outdoors through snowshoeing, running, hiking, photography, and videography.

She writes, “WildCare holds an extraordinarily special place in my heart. As an intern, volunteer, and wildlife assistant I had first-hand experience rehabilitating wildlife with varying prognoses, providing foster care for a variety of orphaned wildlife, and performing diagnostics, all while under the mentorship of an incredibly compassionate and devoted medical staff.”

JULIANA SOREM, DVM

Dr. Juliana Sorem started her association with WildCare as a Hospital Volunteer in 1997 and completed WildCare’s internship program in 2000 before leaving for veterinary school.

After graduating from the UC Davis School of Veterinary Medicine, she completed an internship at the Pet Emergency and Specialty Center of Marin, and spent 11 years working in companion animal medicine and surgery in Oakland. Dr. Sorem returned as a volunteer at WildCare in 2012, and we were lucky enough to be able to hire her as WildCare’s first ever full-time veterinarian in 2017!

“Dr. J,” as she is affectionately known, is just as likely to be found cleaning cages and prepping diets as she is to be in surgery. As the Team Leader of the Raccoon Foster Team, she can also frequently be found bottle feeding babies, even at home.

She writes, “WildCare has been tremendously influential in my life. I had no idea when I started volunteering how the experience would change my relationship with nature and wildlife and how it would alter my career path. I feel so fortunate to spend my days healing animals, and to do it in a caring environment which promotes education and living in harmony with wild animals.”
MEET OUR PATIENTS!

EVERY YEAR, WILDCARE’S WILDLIFE HOSPITAL ADMITS APPROXIMATELY 3,500 ILL, INJURED AND ORPHANED WILD ANIMALS, FROM OVER 200 SPECIES.

MEET SOME OF OUR RECENT WILDLIFE PATIENTS!

BLACK-TAILED DEER FAWN
PATIENT # 23-452

The first fawn of the season was brought to the wildlife hospital on April 5, 2023. A family found her sitting quietly under their car in the parking area of their condominium complex. They had never seen a deer in the area, so they assumed that the baby must be abandoned. They picked her up and brought her to WildCare’s Wildlife Hospital.

Adult deer will park their young fawns in what they consider “safe” places while they graze, returning a few times each day to allow them to nurse. The fawn remains still and quiet, to prevent attracting the attention of predators. A fawn sitting quietly is usually a healthy baby, just waiting patiently for mom to return, even when she’s in an unlikely location. When we admit a fawn to WildCare, we first check to see if the baby is actually orphaned. This little one had the full belly and bright eyes of a healthy fawn, so we knew we needed to get her back to her mother.

Melanie Piazza, WildCare’s Director of Animal Care, brought the fawn back to the location where she was found later that day. The condo complex itself had no grass, only concrete and low shrubs, but Melanie was relieved to spot a doe halfway down the nearly-vertical grassy hillside behind the complex. The doe shied away when she saw Melanie, so Melanie knew the mother deer would need to smell and see her baby to effectively reunite the two.

The mother deer did catch the fawn’s scent as Melanie slipped and slid with the baby down the steep hill. The doe began stomping her legs and pawing in a defensive display, making it very clear that she was, in fact, the fawn’s mother. The tiny fawn’s eyesight wasn’t developed enough to see her mother, so she didn’t at first head in
the right direction, choosing instead to turn back toward the other long-legged mammal in the vicinity, Melanie. But finally, the fawn started moving in the right direction. Her mother gave her a quick sniff, and then aimed a few more hearty stomps at Melanie to warn the “predator” away from her baby. Then, the doe and fawn faded into the trees.

WESTERN POND TURTLE
PATIENT #23-475

On April 8th, a rescuer in Inverness, CA found a Western Pond Turtle in the middle of the road. The turtle appeared to have been hit by a car.

Western Pond Turtles are the only remaining native freshwater turtle species in California and they are, sadly, also listed as a species of special concern, mostly due to habitat destruction.

Once the turtle arrived at WildCare, Medical Staff started him on pain medication, anti-inflammatories, and antibiotics. They also provided wound care for the carapace (top of the shell) and bridge (side of the shell) that had been fractured. They taped the fracture sites together to provide some temporary stabilization to the broken shell, a very painful and life-threatening injury for a turtle.

The following day, our team used dental acrylic to place small metal brackets along the fracture site. They then twisted wire around these brackets to stabilize the loose piece of shell. Reptiles heal very slowly, so we expect that this turtle will be in care throughout the summer, healing from this severe injury, before being released back into the wild this fall.

BAND-TAILED PIGEONS
PATIENT #22-3033 AND #22-3053

In mid-October of last year, we had a little flurry of Band-tailed Pigeon patients arriving at WildCare. Band-tailed Pigeons are our region’s native pigeons. We do not admit many of them to our hospital, so it was unusual to have several juvenile Band-tails come in within a week of each other.

#22-3033 was a nestling Band-tail, found on the ground under a group of redwood trees. This species of pigeon can nest quite high, and so it is not easy to locate a nest to attempt a reunite. This young pigeon had fortunately not injured himself in his fall; he just needed some supplemental feeding and time to grow.

A week later, we admitted another Band-tailed Pigeon, #22-3053. He was a juvenile that had struck a window. This youngster had a broken bone in his wing, and he also had head trauma.

Eventually these two juveniles graduated to our aviaries where they spent a couple of weeks exercising and building up stamina before being released back into Marin!
In mid-March, a passerby saw a Northern Spotted Owl on the ground in Woodacre. When she saw the owl in the same place the following morning, she knew something was wrong and contacted Marin Humane for assistance getting the owl to WildCare.

The owl arrived wet, hypothermic, and very weak. She had numerous wounds along her side, and her bloodwork showed that she was severely anemic. She remained in very critical condition for the first week; while she received pain medication, antibiotics, rehydration fluids, and wound care. After two weeks, she was finally stable enough to move into an outdoor enclosure to begin preparing for release.

This owl was released back to her territory after 34 days in care. What a journey for this beautiful bird!

Since the start of 2023, WildCare has admitted almost 50 hummingbirds into our care! We are very fortunate to have a foster care volunteer who specializes in these amazing birds, and once these hummingbird patients are stable, we transfer them to her.

This hummingbird was admitted after being found injured on the ground. When she arrived, our staff noted that she had a wing droop and couldn’t fly. As hummingbirds grow up, they practice flying near their nest and will “helicopter” up and down to exercise their wings. This youngster likely got sidetracked during this process, and bumped into something, injuring her wing.

Fortunately, she recovered well, and we soon transferred her to home-care to join another “teenage” hummingbird for feeding and supportive care while she recovered.

This baby chickadee fell from her nest in mid-May. There was no clear sign of the parent birds around, and her subdued mentation made it clear these babies needed help!

She was dehydrated at intake and barely responsive. Our Birdroom team warmed and hydrated the nestling, and soon she was begging for food.

WildCare is fortunate to have a great network of other wildlife care centers, so after a few days of nutrition and stabilization, we transferred this baby to Native Songbird Care and Conservation in Sebastopol for specialized care.

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Window Snyder compares her love of nature to the human necessity of water—she can’t imagine existing without it. From admiring the shimmering grass in the sun on the rolling Novato hills as a young child, to shadowing her mother in the garden, her love of nature was only strengthened by participating in Mrs. Terwilliger’s beloved Nature Hikes. These impactful experiences with WildCare and the natural world play integral roles in the jubilant life she leads today.

She can still recall the lemony, tangy flavor of the Redwood Sorrel that Mrs. Terwilliger foraged for her and her fellow hikers. These experiential moments elevated her fascination with plant edibility and defense mechanisms. It was actually the “prickly and incredibly gorgeous” Scottish Thistle (pictured right) she encountered while exploring the Marin Headlands that inspired the name for her company, Thistle Technologies.

Even as an adult, Window and WildCare continue to interweave. One day, while enjoying lunch in Sonoma, a baby Green Heron fell out of its nest and plopped down right next to her! She instinctively knew where to take the heron and made the rescue trip to WildCare’s Wildlife Hospital. She and her husband were also the rescuers of a Red-Tailed Hawk, and were able to release the hawk back onto their property where it was found.

Today, Window passes down her love of nature to her three children. As eager WildCare camp attendees last summer and enthusiastic witnesses to a Virginia Opossum release earlier this year, their engagement makes it clear that the legacy of Mrs. T is alive and thriving in the next generation of environmental stewards.

Thank you, Window, for your wonderful support of WildCare and wildlife!

Haven’t yet made a will? Creating a will is a powerful way to support the people and causes you care about. We’ve partnered with FreeWill to give you an online tool to write your legally valid will in under 25 minutes for free! Many people also like to include a gift to WildCare to support our wildlife rehabilitation and nature education as we create a more sustainable world. Create your legacy with WildCare and write your free will now.
Finally, that iconic “who who?” As mentioned above, that is the call of the Great Horned Owl.

You’ll often hear mated (or soon-to-be-mated) pairs of Great Horned Owls calling to each other from the tops of nearby tall trees. The female owl is significantly larger than the male, but her call will be the higher-pitched of the two.

The mission of WildCare’s Hungry Owl Project is to reduce the need for pesticides and rodenticides by encouraging natural predators through conservation of habitat, nesting boxes and education.

Learn more at hungryowls.org
Who Am I?

¡Quién soy?

I am a special kind of predatory bird. I am silent while I hunt and fly at night, but you might hear me calling in the dark! My name in Spanish is like the sound I make… what’s my name?

A: FALCON
B: SKUNK
C: OWL

They call me “big tile” in Spanish because I am a strong builder and digging is my game.

TRUE OR FALSE

En español me llaman tajón porque soy un constructor fuerte y excavación es mi juego.

CIERTO O FALSO

These animals are your neighbors, have you seen them? Estos animales son tus vecinos, ¿los has visto?

Answer these questions and see how well you know your neighbors! Good luck, naturalists!

Responde a estas preguntas y verás lo bien que conoces a tus vecinos. ¡Buena suerte, naturalistas!

I am a jumping spider and I am bold, or brave, because I can eat prey that is bigger than me!

TRUE OR FALSE

Soy una araña saltarina y soy audaz, o valiente, porque puedo comer presas más grandes que yo.

CIERTO O FALSO

I am an Ornamental Shrew! I live on the forest floor and I enjoy eating insects, especially ________, the ones with eight legs! FILL IN THE BLANK!

A: FROGS
B: SPIDERS
C: WORMS

AMIGOS QUE VIVEN EN EL SUelo

A: RANAS    B: ARAÑAS    C: GUSANOS

1) B: Spiders. The word for shrew in Spanish, musaraña, will help remind you of what they like to eat!
2) True. Jumping spiders can eat prey that is 1.5 times their size!
3) True. “Tejar” in Spanish means to tile, and “jón” means “big!” Their name reminds us that they are builders! They make their homes in the earth, and they are experts at constructing burrows.
4) C: Búho. Now try it: “bu-ho”. Owls are nocturnal predators that have the special ability to fly silently.

1) B: Arañas. El nombre en español, musaraña, te ayudará a recordar lo que les gusta comer.
2) ¡Es cierto! Las arañas saltarinas pueden comer presas de 1,5 veces su tamaño!
3) Cierto. Tejar es la primera parte, con jón que significa grande. Su nombre nos recuerda que son constructores. Construyen su hogar en la tierra y son expertos en excavar sus madrigueras.
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