IT'S BABY SEASON!
BABY ANIMALS AT WILDCARE

2024 ANNUAL REPORT

wildcare NEWS

HELPING YOU LIVE WELL WITH WILDLIFE SUMMER 2025

FEATURES:

- GROUNDBREAKING FOR THE NEW WILDCARE
- AMAZING ACORN WOODPECKERS
- IN MEMORY OF VLADIMIR THE TURKEY VULTURE
- BOBCATS: MEET YOUR LOCAL LYNX

Dear WildCare Family,

As I reflect on the remarkable achievements of 2024, I am filled with gratitude and excitement to share some wonderful updates about our future.

Thanks to your unwavering support, our Elevate WildCare campaign has reached an incredible milestone—raising over $18.6 million toward the creation of our new facility. On May 3rd, we celebrated a major step forward with the groundbreaking of this transformative project, bringing us closer to our vision of enhancing wildlife medicine, nature education, and community partnerships for generations to come.

Our new facility will be a game-changer. It will include a welcoming reception area for rescuers, an exceptional Education Center, and state-of-the-art spaces for animal care. These enhancements will empower us to provide more innovative and effective care for our wildlife patients while inspiring the next generation of environmental stewards.

In 2024 alone, we provided emergency care to over 3,400 wild animals and educated over 13,000 students through our Terwilliger Nature Education Programs—achievements made possible by the dedication of our staff, volunteers, and the generosity of donors like you.

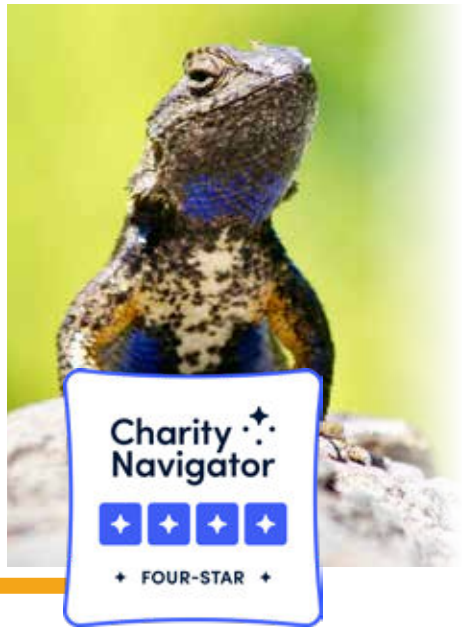
To all who contribute to WildCare's mission—our donors, staff, and volunteers—you are the heart of everything we do. Your commitment not only saves lives but also strengthens the bond between our community and the wildlife we cherish.

The future is bright for WildCare. Together, we will continue to make a lasting impact on wildlife conservation, advocacy, and education.

With heartfelt gratitude,

Ellyn Weisel

EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR



WildCare is a 4-star charity with **Charity Navigator!**

We are proud to be recognized for our strong leadership, accountability, and financial health.

WILDCARE NEWS

SUMMER 2025

WILDCARE 415.456.7283

WEBSITE discoverwildcare.org
EMAIL info@discoverwildcare.org

BUSINESS HOURS
9AM - 5PM, seven days a week

DEDICATED TO
Maureen Groper

ALSO IN MEMORY OF
Elizabeth Terwilliger and Julie Malet

LIVE WELL WITH WILDLIFE.

Cover photo Dan Pagano
Editors Alison Hermance and Dion Campbell
Graphic Design Applehead Design
Website Alison Hermance

Every effort has been made to ensure that the contents of this publication are accurate. We regret that we cannot be responsible for human error, printing mistakes, or variations in individual workmanship. Printed in USA on 30% recycled paper using soy-based ink.

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wildcare NEWS AND NOTES

WILDCARE EVENTS

Mark your calendar for WildCare's Talons & Friends event at Cavallo Point on Sunday, July 13, 2025, and the glamorous WildCare Gala on Saturday, September 6, 2025! Tickets will be available soon.

Gala

wildcare TALONS & FRIENDS

Visit discoverwildcare.org/events for more information.

WAIT! DON'T TRIM THOSE TREES!

Songbirds, hawks, owls, hummingbirds, squirrels, and other animals use your trees, bushes, shrubs, and hedges to raise their babies during the spring and summer months. Please "respect the nest" and delay non-emergency tree work until winter when baby animals aren't at risk.

AVIAN INFLUENZA IS STILL A CONCERN!

Highly Pathogenic Avian Influenza (HPAI) continues to impact wildlife in our region and beyond. Waterfowl are the most common victims we see at WildCare, but the last few months have seen an increase in raptors and vultures exhibiting symptoms of the disease.

WildCare's Medical Staff follows strict protocols to isolate and quarantine incoming Wildlife Hospital patients from susceptible species to protect our other patients and our Wildlife Ambassador animals. Birds with avian influenza may exhibit respiratory symptoms, gastrointestinal signs, and neurological symptoms. Call WildCare's hotline 415-456-7283 for information on safely rescuing a water bird like a duck or a goose, or another bird with potential exposure to HPAI.

Please maintain awareness of HPAI, and follow the precautions at discoverwildcare.org/HPAI.

photo© Rob Wiley

ENTER WILDCARE'S LIVING WITH WILDLIFE PHOTOGRAPHY CONTEST!

Grab your camera to capture some of California's amazing wildlife in action!

Then enter your favorite photos in WildCare's annual Living with Wildlife Photography Contest. The prize for the Best in Show photograph is $500 and the winning photos will be printed in WildCare's newsletter.

Deadline for entries is September 26, 2025.

For entry form and complete rules visit discoverwildcare.org/photo

IT'S BABY SEASON!

Every spring and summer, WildCare's Wildlife Hospital is flooded with orphaned baby animals.

We step in to give all of our wildlife orphans the comfort and care they need, through every stage of their development. Each baby animal has special requirements we must provide to help prepare them to eventually make their way in the wild.

Read on to meet some of the newest arrivals to the Wildlife Hospital!

BABY GREAT HORNED OWLS

These little bundles of joy have clacking beaks and sharp talons!

Every year, WildCare admits baby hawks and owls, like these nestling Great Horned Owls that fell from their nests. Fortunately, the fluffy young birds usually don't injure themselves in their tumbles, so WildCare's Raptor Reunite Team returns them to their nests and their parents' care.

SPECIAL CARE REQUIREMENTS:

Top-loading carrier, heating pad, defrosted mice, a trip back home!

BABY NORTHERN RACCOONS

A newborn baby raccoon might be unrecognizable until you see the tiny rings on his tail! Because they're so intelligent and impressionable, baby raccoons must always be raised with members of their own species.

Raccoons are often orphaned when botched exclusion attempts separate them from their mothers. If the babies are healthy we try to reunite the family, but if the attempted reunite fails, the baby raccoons grow up with trained raccoon Foster Care volunteers who ensure they grow up healthy and wild.

SPECIAL CARE REQUIREMENTS:

A SnuggleSafe, special raccoon formula and cozy fleece blankets when they're tiny, and ripe persimmons mashed into pudding and mixed with raccoon formula when they're ready to wean.

BABY SQUIRRELS

A newborn squirrel is pink, blind, and completely helpless. Within just a few weeks she develops soft gray fur and soon will begin to explore and show off her curious, acrobatic nature! Squirrel babies require specialized care to develop healthy bones and teeth and acquire the climbing and foraging skills they'll need in the wild.

Squirrels are often orphaned when their nests are cut down during springtime tree pruning. WildCare reminds you to "respect the nest" and delay non-emergency tree work until November when wildlife babies won't be at risk.

SPECIAL CARE REQUIREMENTS:

Squirrel nursing nipples, special squirrel formula, rodent blocks and natural foraging materials (twigs and leaves for chewing practice) soft fruits and vegetables like avocado and watermelon for weaning, and whole pecans and walnuts.

BABY SONGBIRDS

A tiny nestling songbird may look nearly prehistoric at first with bare pink skin and pinfeathers, closed eyes, wild natal down, and a wide, begging mouth! These delicate babies grow rapidly and require near-constant feeding.

These nestlings and fledglings were all orphaned when their nests were accidentally trimmed out of trees.

SPECIAL CARE REQUIREMENTS:

Songbird mash, soft knitted bird nests tiny feeding syringes and pipettes, and fresh insects like mealworms for transitioning to solid food and learning to self-feed.

VISIT THE WILDLIFE ambassador ZONE AT WILDCARE TRANSITION

WildCare's Ambassador Zone is open to the public! Join us every Tuesday, Wednesday, Thursday, and Saturday from 10am to 3pm. Easy parking is available and admission is free. Get nose-to-beak with WildCare's beloved Wildlife Ambassador animals!
Learn more at
discoverwildcare.org/ambassadorzone

Remember that rescued wildlife should also be brought to **WildCare Transition,** located behind 251 North San Pedro Road, off Schmidt Lane in San Rafael.

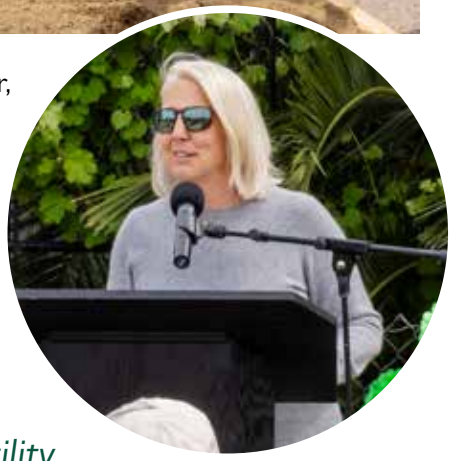
A **Groundbreaking Day** for WildCare

On a breezy Saturday morning in May, a crowd gathered at 76 Albert Park Lane to witness a long-awaited moment. With the ceremonial turn of five shovels, we officially broke ground on WildCare's new Wildlife Hospital and Nature Education Center. For all of us who have been part of this journey, it wasn't just the start of construction—it was a deeply meaningful milestone.

This marks a major inflection point in our $24 million Elevate WildCare campaign, powered by our community's unwavering belief that healing wildlife and inspiring people to care about the natural world are more vital than ever.

Set to open in late 2026, the new center will strengthen every aspect of our mission. It will enable us to provide more advanced care to ill, injured, and orphaned wild animals, deepen the impact of our environmental education programs, and enhance our ability to advocate for wildlife in an increasingly human world. And it will do all of this right where our story began: on Albert Park Lane.

Our Executive Director, Ellyn Weisel, put it best:



"Every day for the past nine years, my team and I have dreamed of a facility that reflects and supports the incredible work we do. Thanks to the generosity of our donors and the tireless efforts of so many partners, we are now building that future together."

Above: Steger Johnson, California Assemblymember Damon Connolly, WildCare Board President Veronica Geczi, San Rafael Mayor Kate Colin, Kathryn Cahill Thompson

WHAT WE'RE BUILDING

This new three-story facility is designed to elevate the quality, resilience, and long-term impact of WildCare's existing programs. At its heart:

- A state-of-the-art Wildlife Hospital with a laboratory, a surgical suite, a radiology room, dedicated isolation wards, and naturalistic enclosures to support recovery and successful release.
- Immersive education spaces, tailored for hands-on programs, school visits, and community gatherings.
- Modern infrastructure to strengthen collaboration, innovation, and adaptability as we respond to the evolving challenges facing wildlife and our shared environment.
- This project is an investment in doing what we already do—with deeper care, greater excellence, and stronger footing to ensure WildCare's longevity.

A COMMUNITY EFFORT

The groundbreaking brought together many whose support and involvement have been instrumental in bringing this vision to life. Ceremonial shovel-turners included California State Assemblymember Damon Connolly, San Rafael Mayor Kate Colin, WildCare Board President Veronica Geczi, Cahill Contractors CEO Kathryn Cahill Thompson, and Steger Johnson, President of the Winifred Johnson Clive Foundation, a leadership-level campaign contributor. We were also honored to welcome long-time WildCare volunteers, key project partners, and many other dedicated supporters.

Construction may be underway, but WildCare hasn't missed a step. We relocated operations in fall 2024 and safely transferred nearly 200 wild patients to our temporary site with the help of partner organizations and volunteers. Our education programs and patient care have continued—and will continue—without pause.

LOOKING AHEAD

As of May 2025, the Elevate WildCare campaign is 78% funded, with $18.6 million raised. This incredible momentum reflects the passion and generosity of our community.

But we're not finished yet. Every contribution brings us closer to the supportive, mission-driven facility that WildCare's future deserves.

In the years ahead, this thoughtfully designed center will help us meet the moment in a rapidly changing world. The building itself is more than historic redwood, concrete and steel—it's a foundation for our work and a promise of a more compassionate, sustainable future for wildlife and for all who share this planet. To finish building it, we need you. Now is the time to help ensure WildCare's new facility reaches completion by making a gift to the Elevate WildCare campaign.

We're honored to have you with us on this journey, and we can't wait to welcome you into our new home.

To learn more or support the campaign, visit **discoverwildcare.org/elevate** or contact Nicole Trautsch, Director of Advancement, at (415) 453-1000 ext. 310.

From top: Steger Johnson, WildCare Director of Advancement Nicole Trautsch, and Astrid Johnson; WildCare Board Vice President Linda Stiles, Marin County Supervisor Brian Colbert, San Rafael Mayor Kate Colin, and San Rafael City Councilmember Maika Llorens Gulati; audience members at the event.

WAKA-WAKA-WELCOME QUERCUS!

BY RYANE LOGSDON, PHD

If you've ever spent time in oak woodlands, you've probably heard the tell-tale "waka-waka" call of the Acorn Woodpeckers. As you wander through their habitat, you may be able to find their granary tree—a tree that Acorn Woodpeckers use as a pantry to store thousands of acorns—or even spot the woodpeckers themselves. A close look might even allow you to tell the males and females apart: female Acorn Woodpeckers have a distinctive black band between the white of their face and red on their heads. For a quick mnemonic, just remember: the ladies wear a headband!

What you can't tell just through observation is that all of the woodpeckers you see are likely related; they live in large family groups of a dozen or so individuals guarding territories of up to 15 acres! These family groups include up to seven breeding males and one to three nesting females, all of whom will lay eggs in the same nest cavity. The other males and females of the group are typically youngsters, who stick around with their parents for a few years to help rear the babies. These close-knit families are infamously territorial, chasing not just other woodpeckers, but other species away from their nest and their precious stash of acorns. One look at the meticulously cared for granary tree can reveal why: these amazing woodpeckers spend years drilling up to 50,000 holes in the tree and then filling the holes with acorns. As fresh acorns dry and shrink, the woodpeckers carefully rearrange them into better-fitting holes.

However, this territorial nature can pose a special challenge for wildlife rehabilitators. If an injured or sick Acorn Woodpecker cannot be quickly returned to their home range, they are unlikely to be accepted by a family group, which can be a death sentence for this incredibly social species.

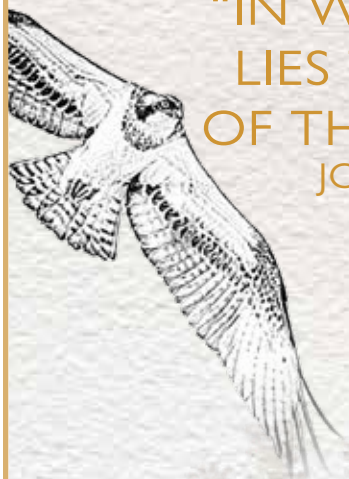
Last fall, a nestling Acorn Woodpecker was brought to WildCare after the tree cavity that served as his nest was cut down. Unfortunately, he was the only baby to survive the fall. It was clear that this bird needed a lot of help - he could barely move his head. After ruling out a broken neck, our medical team realized this young woodpecker had severe head trauma

and spent weeks hand-feeding him. While he regained his strength, the long-term effects of his fall became clear: not only could he not land well on perches, he could not fly forwards, only backwards. As more time passed with intensive care, the woodpecker's flight and landing abilities improved to the point that he can now navigate well in small spaces… but he'll never be agile enough to be released back into the wild. Luckily, he was able to find a home at WildCare as a permanent Wildlife Ambassador!

After being named Quercus (after the genus of oak trees that house these wonderful woodpeckers), this little guy officially moved in with WildCare's other Ambassador Acorn Woodpecker, Cache, in December after a slow introduction period. Because of the territorial nature of this species, WildCare's Ambassador team made sure each initial interaction was short and observed. After a few small squabbles, the two seemed to accept each other and have been cohabitating peacefully ever since! To meet Quercus yourself, stop by WildCare's Ambassador Zone at our Transition location during our open hours.

Find out more at:
discoverwildcare.org/ambassadorzone

"IN WILDERNESS LIES THE HOPE OF THE WORLD."
JOHN MUIR



JOIN US FOR
WILDCARE'S ANNUAL

Gala

SATURDAY
SEPTEMBER 6, 2025
5pm-9pm

BILL & ADELE JONAS CENTER
NOVATO

wildcare

HONORING THE LIFE AND LEGACY OF

MAUREEN GROPER

1943 - 2024

The WildCare community remembers Maureen as a cherished friend, dedicated volunteer and extraordinary supporter whose love of wildlife, education and nature left a lasting impact.

Maureen first joined WildCare as a volunteer in 1995, and over decades, she contributed in a number of meaningful ways. She worked hands-on in the Birdroom, helped coordinate fundraising events, and served as a Transport Volunteer — transferring sick and injured patients to and from WildCare's Wildlife Hospital and releasing healthy animals back into the wild. She was an adored presence across the organization.

One of Maureen's favorite efforts was supporting Dining for Wildlife, WildCare's beloved restaurant-based fundraiser. She played a vital role in helping coordinate the event, enabling the community to gather around local dining in support of wildlife care and education.

A teacher at San Domenico and longtime resident of San Anselmo, Maureen inspired those around her with her deep appreciation of the natural world. That love extended far beyond her time as a volunteer. For more than four decades, Maureen gave generously to WildCare, supporting our work year after year. Most recently, she contributed to the Elevate WildCare capital campaign, helping to shape the vision for our future home.

In our new facility, the Songbird Care Suite will bear Maureen's name - a space that will nurture thousands of injured and orphaned birds and stand as an enduring reflection of how deeply she cared.

Maureen's devotion to nature was also evident in her own backyard, where she cultivated a garden of remarkable beauty. Her Marin Rose Society trophy-winning roses were extraordinary, and she intentionally left a significant portion of her land untouched to support wildlife habitat.

In a final act of generosity, Maureen included a gift to WildCare in her will. This legacy of support will echo into the future, helping ensure that the work she loved continues. We are honored to have been part of Maureen's life and to carry forward the love and dedication she generously gave to WildCare.

JOIN THE WILDCARE VOLUNTEER TEAM!

Our Wildlife Hospital cares for approximately 3,500 wild animals a year, from as many as 200 different species. We provide ongoing care for our patients 365 days a year!

Our goal is to restore our wild patients to full health so that they may be released safely back to their natural habitats.

QUESTIONS?

Contact Brianna Bjarnson, Volunteer Manager
volunteer@discoverwildcare.org
(415) 453-1000 x210

"I volunteer because I want to make a difference. WildCare makes it possible to both help animals and educate the public about wildlife, and I love that."

- Shelly Ross
Wildlife Hospital and Raccoon Foster Care Volunteer

To learn more and to apply, please visit: **discoverwildcare.org/volunteer**

wildcare

ANNUAL REPORT 2024

Dear WildCare Supporters,

2024 was an even bigger year than 2023! So much has happened, and none of it would have been possible without support from all of you. Not only did we fully move into our transition location without interruption to our services (thanks to the amazing support of partner organizations in the area) but we also continued to raise funds for our new facility, now reaching 78% of our goal!

WildCare admitted over 3,400 animals from 186 different species to the Wildlife Hospital for care. Did you know that our biggest category for admissions is "caught by cat/dog" comprising nearly 20% of our patients? It shows the importance of keeping cats indoors (or using catios!) and leashing dogs. The next largest category is habitat disturbance (tree trimming, nest destruction, displacement) at 17.2%. This too is an entirely preventable category, and a reason we have our "Respect the Nest" campaign, and our other advocacy work. As always, please call our Living with Wildlife Hotline (415-456-7283) with any questions you may have about your personal situation with a wild animal—in 2024 alone we received over 12,000 calls! We want to help everyone live well with wildlife.

Speaking of that, over 15,000 kids and adults were impacted by our educational programs during 2024! WildCare believes that in community we will find a way to coexist with the wild world around us, building a strong and resilient ecosystem. At our transition facility, we are now again open to the public, so you can come visit our beloved Ambassador animals and see more of what is in store for WildCare.

Our incredible staff and volunteers are the backbone of our success; no challenge is too big, and their dedication to WildCare is nothing short of awe inspiring. And you, our fantastic supporters and community, help make us what we are and allow us to continue our critical work. The future is exciting for WildCare, and I can't wait to share this future with all of you.

On behalf of the Board of Directors, thank you for your ongoing support!

Warmly,

Veronica Geczi,
WILDCARE BOARD PRESIDENT

2024 ENGAGEMENT STATISTICS

LIVING WITH WILDLIFE HOTLINE: 415.456.7283

SOCIAL MEDIA & WEBSITE

249,712
WEBSITE VISITORS

273,912
TWITTER / X FOLLOWERS

49,775
EMAIL SUBSCRIBERS

32,995
FACEBOOK FOLLOWERS

8,189
INSTAGRAM FOLLOWERS

HOTLINE
CALLS ANSWERED
10,463

AFTER-HOURS EMERGENCY
CALLS ANSWERED
1,851

12,314
TOTAL CALLS ANSWERED

ADVOCACY IN 2024

- WildCare Supported H.R. 7018, the Glue Trap Prohibition Act (Rep. Ted Lieu (D-Ca.-36)), a federal bill to ban the sale and use of glue traps in the United States. We also worked with advocates to help implement bans on the sale and use of cruel and inhumane glue traps at the city, county, and state levels.
- WildCare supported a petition to amend the language in the California Fish & Wildlife code concerning the trapping of wildlife that would reinforce the requirement for the most humane treatment of trapped animals, and encourage the use of proper and effective exclusion techniques.
- WildCare supported a petition to list the Western Burrowing Owl under the California Endangered Species Act (CESA)
- WildCare supported the California Department of Fish & Wildlife's Tomales Point Area Plan's Alternative B, which includes removing the fence to give the Tule Elk in the Tomales Point herd the opportunity to leave the Point and move into areas that offer consistent sources of forage and water.
- WildCare relaunched our "Respect the Nest" campaign to help protect nesting wildlife from nest destruction and injuries to baby wildlife that result from tree trimming and gardening during the spring and summer months.
- WildCare opposed a proposal that would allow off-leash dogs in Larkspur's Piper Park between the hours of sunrise and 9am, due to concerns about the risk of dogs interacting with the wildlife in the Corte Madera Creek marshlands surrounding the park.

WILDLIFE HOSPITAL STATISTICS 2024

SURVIVAL RATES AND NUMBER OF ANIMALS
TREATED BY CLASS

	TOTAL NUMBER BY CLASS	DIFFERENT SPECIES	SURVIVAL RATE (AFTER 24 HOURS)
MAMMALS	371	31	83.23%
BIRDS	2,455	130	74.33%
REPTILES	72	6	77.04%
AMPHIBIANS	3	2	50%
TOTAL NUMBER OF ANIMALS & OVERALL SURVIVAL RATE (based on all admissions, after 24 hours)	3,185		77.04%

TOTAL ANIMALS TREATED 3,431

MOST FREQUENT REASONS FOR ADMISSION

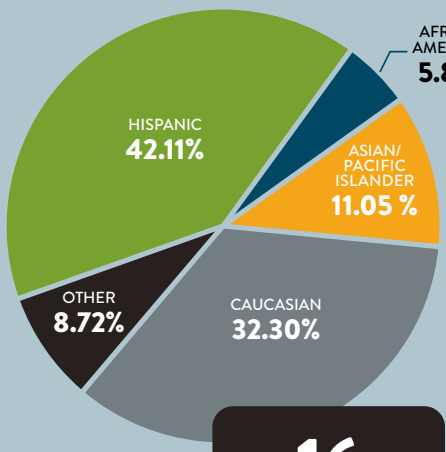
- CAUGHT BY CAT OR DOG **18.8%**
- VEHICLE COLLISION **6.4%**
- < 1% ENTRAPPED IN LITTER/GARBAGE
- 2% ENTANGLED IN NETTING/STRING /WIRE
- 2% TRAPPED IN STORM DRAIN/SEWER
- UNKNOWN **3.0%**
- WINDOW COLLISION **12.2%**
- GROUNDED **8.7%**
- ORPHAN **15.3%**
- PHYSICAL TRAUMA **3.2%**
- NEST DESTROYED/ DISPLACED FROM NEST **17.2%**
- TREE TRIMMING **2.8%**
- TRAPPED IN GLUE TRAP **1.9%**

75 BABIES REUNITED WITH PARENTS

SQUIRRELS	14
FAWNS	2
RACCOONS	3
RAPTORS	34
· HAWKS	22
· OWLS	12
SONGBIRDS	16
OTHERS	6

2024 EDUCATION STATISTICS

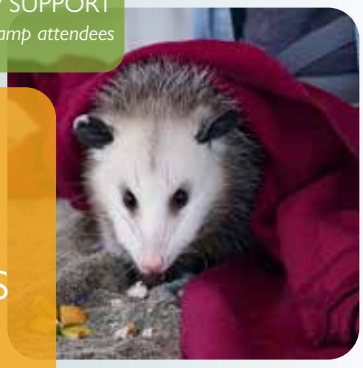
STUDENT DEMOGRAPHICS



162
SCHOOLS AND ORGANIZATIONS RECEIVED WILDCARE PROGRAMS
21 NEW SCHOOLS!

13,519
STUDENTS
45% OF PROGRAM PARTICIPANTS RECEIVED SCHOLARSHIP SUPPORT
**includes Wildlife Camp attendees*

16
WILDLIFE AMBASSADOR ANIMALS



15,780
TOTAL PARTICIPANTS
(ADULTS AND CHILDREN)

EDUCATIONAL PROGRAM REACH

Number of programs in Spanish
46

TOTAL number of children served by WildCare's Terwilliger Nature Education Programs
13,519

Number of youth served on scholarship
6,094
(45.1%)

Number of participants served
991

9
Outreach events attended by WildCare

TOTAL number of programs 651

NUMBER OF OF PRESENTATIONS BY PROGRAM

84	Nature Hike Programs
3	Wildlife Encounter Hour Presentations at WildCare
103	Wildlife Ambassador Programs
447	Nature Van Programs
10	Wildlife Camps
4	Zeva Longley Family Adventures / Aventuras Familiares

Number of people served by program

2048	Nature Hike Programs
64	Wildlife Encounter Hour Presentations at WildCare
2389	Wildlife Ambassador Programs
8933	Nature Van Programs
149	Wildlife Camps
121	Zeva Longley Family Adventures / Aventuras Familiares

OUR 2024 VOLUNTEERS

thank you for helping wildlife!

Amelie Adjodha
Mila Alioto
Siena Alioto
Emma Almaguer
Francesca Angelo
Vincent Anibale
Dianne Arancibia
Toni Arkoosh
Debra Armstrong
Amy Atherton
Camille Atwood
Francesca Austin
Trish Axsom
Debora Babe
Shayla Baird
Dale Ball
Alix Barbey
Nancy Barbour
Anne Barker
Lindsay Bartsh
Denise Bearg
Steve Beatty
Chantal Bedard
Doug Begle
Axel Bensch
Lisa Bernier
Lauren Bettino
Brianna Bjarnson
Kahsaia Bjarnson
Emma Blakeley
Molly Blauvelt
Victoria Bloom
Andre Borgman
Janeko Bower
Akhila Bradmandam
Ellie Braggs
Akira Bratti
Terry Bremer
Jan Bricca
Ella Briggs
Mare Brixie
Emily Brown
Jenn Brown
Lucy Burlingham
Sue Burrell
Jake Butler
Ashlyn Byous
Kyna Byrd
Katharine Cagney
Linda Cain
Sally Campbell
Dion Campbell
Erika Chan
Jessica Chang
Karen Chen
Tracy Christensen
Aiden Christiansen
Davina Chu
Maddie Churchill
Natalie Clark
Lilly Clemons
Michele Coleman
Patrick Colin
Claire Colvin
Peter Colwell
Jaliyah Cook
Marisa Cooper
Yulia Cornwell
Lynne Coulson
Caitlin Cox
Mariah Cribben
Becky Dahlstrom
Terri Dailley
Isa de la Huelga
Libby DeBattista
Chloe Delerm
Carla DeMaestri
Aurora DeVilbiss
Mike Dixon
Denise Dugan
Bella Echavarri
Isabella Echavarri
Sandy Edinger
Lucy Egan
Alice Elegant
Daniele Erville
Sharon Fertitta
Zhanna Filotava
Debbie Fisher
Lisa Fleming
Dana Flowerman
Cynthia Folkmann
Dallas Forshew
Bill Foxall
Caitlin Fried
Susy Friedman
Andrea Gabusi Callan
Heather Gamberg
Guria Ge
Veronica Geczi
Lily Gee
Peggy Ghertner
Theresa Gibbens
Dylan Gibson
Susan Girtler
Vanessa Glidden
Brenda Goeden
Robbie Goldfarb
Jensen Goldman
Rocio Gonzalez
Emily Goodwin
Susie Graven
Natalie Gray
Riley Greany
Rachel Griffiths
Nancy Groom
Sofia Guagenti
Sarah Guehring
Cari Gundee
Samantha Gutierrez
Yanet Gutierrez
Erin Hankins
Christine Hansel
Tara Harris
Brynn Hassan
Lynn Haug
Tess Hazelrigg
Alison Hermance
Fiona Higgins
Andrea Hirsig
Marie Hoffman
Paula Holman
Ryan Hopper
Faline Howard
Amy Hunt
Elsa Hunt
Jessica Jacobson
Caroline Jaeger
Jann Johnson
Charlie Jones
Susie Kelly
Sarah Kemper
Elizabeth King
Jennifer Klatt
Rachel Klyce
Nikki Knight
Mayu Ko
Krystal Koop
Susan Kreibich
Veronique Krenitsky
Laakea Laano
Jenean LaRoche
Heidi Law
Liz Lazich
Renee Lee
Deborah Lennon
Claire-Louise Leonard
Jess Lester
Jacqueline Lewis
Jia Li
Anne Libbin
Josh Logan
Robert Lundstrom
Kate Lynch
Holley Maassen
Amy Mac Villano
Gail MacMillan
Kati Malabed
Tracy Manheim
Cooper Matuszak
Holly McArthur
Dinah McClure
Carol McCormick
Ginny McGraw
Elaine McHugh
Ben McKinley
Barbara McNamer
Erin McPherson
Kiara Meza
Karen Michels
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THANK YOU TO OUR SUPPORTERS!

Thank you to the incredibly generous individuals, businesses, corporations, associations and foundations that provided funding to support WildCare last year! You helped us raise over $4.4 million in our fiscal year ending Sept. 30, 2024 to make our work possible.

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

RAPTOR REUNITE TEAM

LEARN MORE AT

DISCOVERWILDCARE.ORG/VOLUNTEER

NATURE EDUCATION PROGRAMS

Three new Upper Level Education Programs coming in the 2025/2026 school year!

This coming school year, WildCare is excited to announce three new programs for middle and high school students. Classroom visits will teach students about biodiversity and climate change through real life examples. These programs support Next Generation Science Standards and are sure to inspire students to become stewards of our planet.

WILDLIFE IN A CHANGING CLIMATE

Wildlife Ambassador presentation with live animals

Climate change impacts all creatures across the globe. In this program, meet three of WildCare's amazing ambassador animals to learn about how climate change can impact our local wildlife. Discover the science behind climate change and how all human actions can have an impact on climate. Learn how everyone can work together to take practical actions to combat climate change every day!

WILDLIFE IN PERIL

Nature Van presentation with taxidermy and biofacts

Biodiversity is one of Earth's most valuable resources, representing the incredible variety of life that exists across different ecosystems. However, human actions such as habitat destruction, pollution, overfishing, and the introduction of invasive species have severely threatened this diversity, endangering countless species and disrupting crucial habitats worldwide. Learn what you can do every day to help protect biodiversity worldwide and in our own backyards.

BIODIVERSITY IN PERIL

Wildlife Ambassador presentation with live animals

According to the Living Planet Index, wildlife populations have declined 73% since 1970. Earth is losing its biodiversity of plants and animals, both worldwide and in our own backyards. Protecting biodiversity goes beyond protecting individual species of animals; it also protects resources humans need to survive. Meet three live ambassador animals and dive deep into issues that impact local wildlife and biodiversity around the world.

REQUEST A PROGRAM TODAY AT DISCOVERWILDCARE.ORG/UPPERLEVEL
EDUCATION@DISCOVERWILDCARE.ORG 415-453-1000 EXT. 190

BECOME A VOLUNTEER TERWILLIGER NATURE GUIDE

ORIENTATION WILL BE HELD IN MID-SEPTEMBER.

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

FAREWELL TO VLADIMIR

On Friday, March 28, 2025, WildCare bid farewell to Vladimir, our venerable and beloved Wildlife Ambassador Turkey Vulture.

Vladimir was 40 years old, one of the oldest vultures known in captivity. Due to severe complications from age-related arthritis, WildCare Medical Staff, in consultation with veterinarians from the Medical Center for Birds, made the humane decision to give him a peaceful end.

Vladimir's many, many friends and admirers are heartbroken at his loss.

Vladimir had been found as a tiny fluffy baby and was raised by humans. Unfortunately, as he grew into an adult vulture, he was too imprinted to be a wild bird. Attempts were made over the years to "wild" Vladimir with hopes he could be released, but all were in vain, so Vladimir remained an educational animal for his entire life.

Over the many years he lived at WildCare, Vladimir taught untold numbers of people to love and appreciate vultures in general, and Turkey Vultures in particular. These social and intelligent birds are truly remarkable.

In WildCare's Courtyard, Vladimir would spread his wings in the classic vulture "horaltic pose," giving himself the opportunity to warm his back and shoulders and visitors the opportunity to appreciate his impressive 6-foot wingspan and his gorgeous plumage—deep brown feathers with hints of iridescent blues and greens shimmering in the sun.

Vladimir seemed to enjoy being admired. He developed special relationships with his handlers (sometimes positive and sometimes negative!) and he clearly enjoyed tearing into special treats built by his fans out of papier-mâché or enrichment toys created by young Wildlife Camp attendees.

From daily visitors to WildCare to event attendees, Vladimir gained fans for himself, and for Turkey Vultures in general, wherever he was.

For so many people, Vladimir and WildCare were inextricably linked. He will be remembered with love and deep respect by everyone who came "nose to beak" with this incredible bird.

Vladimir's actual baby photo. Marin Wildlife News 1986

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!

MAMA OPOSSUM BAY BRIDGE RESCUE

With the cooperation of a good Samaritan, a helpful CHP officer, and an "extremely low speed pursuit," the harrowing rescue story of this wayward opossum on the Bay Bridge had a happy ending!

Upon intake, we noted right away that this female opossum was a mother with at least ten jelly bean-sized babies in her marsupium (pouch), so it wasn't just one life saved that day! Based on her singed fur, feet, and tail, we deduced that she had likely sought a warm place to sleep in the engine block of a vehicle and had fallen out on the bridge.

She enjoyed the daily smorgasbord of healthy food she was provided during her stay at WildCare, and her wounds healed beautifully. She was successfully released, babies and all, in a safe, wild area from which we think she had likely originated.

Photo ©California Highway Patrol

RATTLESNAKE ON GLUE TRAP

This glue trap was set out to capture rodents, but this rattlesnake ended up stuck instead. Never use glue traps! They are cruel and inhumane to target and non-target animals alike!

The snake's face and jaw were glued to the trap, rendering him temporarily harmless, but his rattle remained loose, warning everyone within earshot of the presence of one very angry and terrified snake.

Fortunately, WildCare's team is well accustomed to dealing with injured rattlesnakes! Snake tongs, heavy gloves, and lots of experience with venomous snakes reduces the risk to our Medical Staff, but this case offered an additional challenge—this young snake was too embedded in the glue trap to use the snake tongs!

The rattlesnake was sedated for the arduous process of removing his body from the sticky glue. While he was sedated, Med Staff also washed the snake to remove any remaining residue before administering subcutaneous fluids to rehydrate him after his ordeal. Amazingly, once he was removed from the trap, the snake proved to be healthy and uninjured.

Our team kept the snake overnight for observation, but the next morning it was clear that he had recovered sufficiently to safely return to the wild, and was cleared for release.

WESTERN GRAY SQUIRRELS

These beautiful, healthy baby Western Gray Squirrels arrived at WildCare on the first day of spring after an incredibly poorly-timed tree trimming project brought down their whole nest. Knowing squirrel mothers often keep ancillary second or third nests, our team had one thing in mind for these babies: a reunite!

That same afternoon, an experienced member of WildCare's Squirrel Team brought the babies back to the base of the now-naked palm tree that had once held their nest. As anticipated, the mother squirrel returned and eagerly whisked away each of her babies, delivering them one by one to a spare nest in a neighboring pine tree.

GREAT HORNED OWLETS

These fuzzy nestling Great Horned Owl siblings were found huddled together beneath a tall Eucalyptus tree. Seeing them alone and unmoving for more than a day, a local resident called WildCare's after-hours e-line for advice.

A Marin Humane officer helped rescue the babies and brought them straight to the home of Melanie Piazza, WildCare's Director of Animal Care, who was middle of an online meeting with WildCare's volunteer e-line crew, including the operator whose assistance made it possible to get these babies to safety!

These healthy owlets were returned to their parents' care by WildCare's Raptor Reunite Team, and spotters report the parents are taking good care of them.

SHOES FOR A CROW

This young American Crow was brought to WildCare unable to stand, hop, or fly. He was thin, docile, and very dehydrated. Both legs were cold to the touch and his toes were weak and curled under his body.

Because the crow's x-rays revealed no fractures or spinal trauma, Med Staff determined that his apparent leg and foot problems, in addition to his subdued behavior, could be due to something neurological, and potentially fixable, like head trauma from hitting a window or a vehicle.

With a bit of creativity, Med Staff fitted the crow with tiny shoes we hoped might encourage his feet to heal in a normal position… or help his brain remember how feet are supposed to work!

After only three days, the crow was standing normally and able to perch and grip with his toes! Once the shoes came off, he rapidly improved, getting feistier and more defensive by the day. He has since been released back to his home in the wild.

NORTH AMERICA'S WILD NEIGHBOR

THE BOBCAT

by Dion Campbell

When you hear the word "lynx," you might picture a large wildcat stalking prey through a mountain forest, far removed from human civilization. But did you know that here in North America we have a lynx that visits our backyards?

The Bobcat's scientific name is Lynx Rufus, or Red Lynx. Within the lynx genus there are four species: Canada Lynx, Iberian Lynx, Eurasian Lynx, and our humble Bobcats—the smallest of the lynxes. All lynxes share the characteristically stubby "bobbed tail" from which our Bobcat gets his name.

North American Bobcats are arguably the most successful of the lynxes, as they are more adaptable to varying terrain and prey than their northern cousins. Found throughout the continental United States, these cats thrive in almost every habitat and their diet is as diverse as their range. While they favor rabbit, these opportunistic hunters will readily take a wide variety of birds, reptiles, and mammals. Conversely, the Canada Lynx's population levels tend to rise and fall with the availability of snowshoe hares, their strongly preferred food choice.

A Bobcat's target prey size ranges from micro to macro, as they'll hunt creatures as small as insects and even take prey as large as deer. Their favorite foods, however, are mostly small mammals like mice, rats, gophers, and voles, which makes them excellent neighbors if you favor natural rodent control! Although

rodents do play important roles in their own ecosystems, unchecked and overabundant populations of small herbivorous mammals can adversely affect soil and vegetation health, sometimes to the point of causing excess erosion and groundwater pollution.

Although fully grown North American Bobcats are only about twice the size of domestic house cats, a single male Bobcat can command a territory larger than the city of San Francisco. A Bobcat marks his territory by making scent trails using glands located inside his cheeks and mouth, between his toes, and under his tail, in addition to leaving scratches, scat, and urine.

Armed with astonishing adaptability and lacking significant predators, Bobcats are incredibly successful animals, but they still face dangers from disease, vehicles, and starvation, in addition to habitat fragmentation caused by continuing human development and urbanization. Bobcats who live near urban areas—including our own beautiful Bay Area—are particularly threatened by rodenticide poisoning from preying on mice and rats that have consumed these toxins. Over time, non-lethal doses of rodenticides can critically weaken a Bobcat's immune system, making them more susceptible to severe mange infections and other problems.

Bobcat mothers give birth to 2-4 kittens each spring, and are excellent parents who are very protective of their kits! Kittens stay with mom for at least nine months, but sometimes for as long as two years! When WildCare takes in a Bobcat kitten we have to assume that either something happened to mom or that the baby was orphaned after being picked up by a predator. It's especially risky to allow curious, impressionable Bobcat kittens to become accustomed to seeing human beings as friendly caretakers, so at WildCare, everyone who interacts with one must wear what's called a "ghillie suit," a camouflage outfit with a face mask and gloves that disguise the human form.

Bobcats are as resilient and resourceful as an animal can be, but they still need us to help protect their habitats and ensure their continued survival. By advocating for responsible pest control, preserving natural spaces, and spreading awareness about the challenges they face, we can coexist peacefully with these remarkable wild neighbors. Together, we can ensure that these fascinating, elusive, incredibly beautiful wild cats continue to thrive for generations to come.

This page, clockwise from top: Bobcat mother and kitten, ©Dan Pagano; Playful Bobcat kitten in care at WildCare, ©Melanie Piazza; Newborn Bobcat kitten found alone on a hiking trail, ©Dion Campbell

Left bottom: Bobcat hunting from atop a pole. Photo ©Ryan Hopper; Bobcat stalking a gopher, ©Nick Fain

VOLUNTEER SPOTLIGHT

TERRY BREMER

Terry Bremer lives in Marin County, California with her husband David and their adorable dogs, Dutch and Piper. She has been a volunteer in WildCare's Wildlife Hospital's Clinic and Birdroom for ten years.

Terry goes above and beyond at WildCare, doing two, sometimes three hospital shifts each week. She is always willing to cover shifts and comes in early and stays late when the hospital is extra busy.

As a longtime member of our patient release team, Terry once released a Barn Owl who had been trapped in a Ross family's pool filter. Once the owl recovered, Terry involved the whole family in his beautiful release, which was an emotional experience for all.

Terry is very supportive of our youth volunteers too, taking them under her wing, training them, encouraging them, and making sure their experience is truly special.

Terry regularly does reorganization projects and she ordered and donated many needed items as we settled into our temporary location. She has a strong work ethic and finds even the unglamorous work of doing the patients' dishes, laundry, and meal prep rewarding.

We can always rely on Terry's caring support. She absolutely loves helping Marin's wildlife. Thank you for all you do for WildCare, Terry!

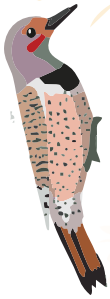
Bay Area Woodpecker Search!

The Bay Area is home to many different species of woodpecker. *How many of each species can you find?*

Acorn Woodpeckers have a round, red cap with a white face. In flight, they have a white patch on each wing and the rump.

Downy Woodpeckers have a black and white pattern with white "eyebrows" and a white "moustache." They have a shorter beak than the Hairy Woodpecker.

The Hairy Woodpecker looks strikingly similar to the Downy, but has a longer beak that is about as long as the bird's head is wide.



The Northern Flicker looks quite different from the other woodpeckers. If you find a flicker's feather, its shaft will be bright orange.

The Pileated Woodpecker is the largest woodpecker in our area. These birds look the most similar to the famous "Woody Woodpecker."

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Photo ©Susie Kelly

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