



BABY ANIMALS:
GROWING UP AT
WILDCARE
PAGE 4

**2023 ANNUAL
REPORT**

FEATURES:

- WILDLIFE IN A WARMING WORLD
- GALA SPONSORSHIP OPPORTUNITIES
- WILDCARE IN TRANSITION
- TAKE THE CONSERVATION QUIZ

wildcare NEWS

HELPING YOU LIVE WELL WITH WILDLIFE SUMMER 2024



DEAR FRIENDS,

We extend our heartfelt gratitude to each of you for your unwavering love and support for our mission. Your dedication to helping us teach people everywhere to live well with wildlife is appreciated and we could not do this work without you. In this issue, you will read about the amazing year WildCare had in 2023.

WildCare addresses the many urgent issues that impact our local wildlife and environment, including providing critical emergency and medical services for as many as 3,500 injured, orphaned, and sick wild animal patients each year at no cost to members of the community. Our Terwilliger Nature Education Programs provide standards-based environmental education for nearly 10,000 pre-K-12th graders per year — over half of them from Marin County — at 100+ Bay Area schools and youth organizations. And WildCare's Hospital Internship program

trains aspiring veterinary professionals in wildlife medical techniques.

We are also thrilled to provide you with an update on our Elevate WildCare capital campaign and transition.

Our capital campaign in support of redeveloping WildCare's current site and replacing our timeworn facility has reached over \$16M thanks to the generosity and enthusiasm of key individual donors based in Marin and beyond, as well as Bay Area foundations, many of whom have supported our work for years and others who are new to the organization. Your continued support fuels our passion and determination to create a brighter future for WildCare and wildlife. Together, we are making a tangible difference in the world.

As we forge ahead with our Elevate WildCare campaign, we invite you to join us in this journey of conservation and stewardship. Your involvement, whether through donations, volunteering, or spreading awareness, is crucial to our collective success.

Once again, thank you for your unwavering support and dedication. Together, we are champions for wildlife and our shared environment.

With gratitude,

WILDCARE NEWS

SUMMER 2024

WILDCARE 415.456.7283

WEBSITE discoverwildcare.org

Email info@discoverwildcare.org

BUSINESS HOURS

9AM - 5PM, seven days a week

BOARD OF DIRECTORS

President Veronica Geczi

Vice President Linda Stiles

Treasurer & Finance Chair Robert Carlson

Secretary Beth Ridout

Audit Chair Vaughn Maurice

President Emeritus Vaughn Maurice

BOARD MEMBERS

Ben Fackler Darin Freitag

Rob D. Kline Magda Sarkissian

Kate Van Gytenbeek

Ming Wu Helen Yang-Fung

EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR

Ellyn Weisel

WILDCARE STAFF

Zoe Andersen Shayla Baird

Steve Beatty Chantal Bedard

Brianna Bjarnson Kahsaia Bjarnson

Dion Campbell Claire Foster

Joanne Grantz Nancy Groom

Alison Hermance Jessica Jacobson

Eileen Jones Bob Kendall

Rebecca LaMotte Cecilia Ledesma

April Lofgren Ryane Logsdon Kate Lynch

Cate Mason Brittany Morse

Greg Neal Kristie Nguyenhoag Tracy Novik

Andrea O'Dell Casey Pearce

Melanie Piazza Barbara Pritchard

Carly Pucci Laura Scaparro

Beth Slatkin Juliana Sorem, DVM

Nicole Trautsch Shereen Welling

IN MEMORY OF

Elizabeth Terwilliger & Julie Malet

LIVE WELL WITH WILDLIFE.

Cover photo Shorebirds by Sue Klapholz

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.

✿ | wildcare | ✿



Charity
Navigator



★ FOUR-STAR ★

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

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

NEWS AND NOTES



WILDCARE EVENTS

Mark your calendar **WildCare's Talons & Friends** event at Cavallo Point on Sunday, July 14, 2024, and the glamorous **WildCare Gala** on Saturday, September 7, 2024! Tickets will be available soon.

Visit discoverwildcare.org/events for more information.

Gala

WILDCARE TRANSITION

WildCare is thrilled to be moving forward with our plans to build a new facility at our Albert Park location. To make the dream a reality, we will be temporarily relocating (for the next two years) to a transition site in early fall of this year. Watch your email and our website at discoverwildcare.org/transition for updates and timing, and be ready to bring rescued wild animals to Transition, located at 251 North San Pedro Road, San Rafael, starting in early fall!



Read more about Transition on page 18 of this magazine.



WAIT! DON'T TRIM THOSE TREES!

Songbirds, hawks and owls, hummingbirds, squirrels and other animals use your trees, bushes, shrubs and hedges as a nursery 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. If a tree must be cut or trimmed during breeding season, please have it thoroughly checked for nests by a qualified arborist, and whenever possible, leave dead trees (called snags) in place. They continue to provide food and shelter for many species of wildlife.

GIVE US YOUR BEST SHOT!

Grab your camera and get outdoors 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 27, 2024.**

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



HELP BABY WILDLIFE AS A MONTHLY SUPPORTER!

Join our team of committed monthly donors and know that you're making a difference for all of the baby animals in our care! Giving monthly is the easiest and most efficient way to support WildCare. Your contribution of any amount is securely deducted each month, which saves on administrative costs and directs more of each dollar to saving wildlife.

Learn more and sign up at discoverwildcare.org/monthly.



GROWING UP AT WILDCARE

In spring and summer, what we call “Wildlife Baby Season,” WildCare admits orphaned baby animals of many species. Different baby animals at various ages need very different specialized care. Meet some of our commonly-admitted babies and find out how we raise them to be ready for life in the wild!

GREAT HORNED OWLS

1



These three owlets (photo 1) fell from the same nest and were reunited, all together, with their parents. The youngest owlet is around three weeks old but the other two are at least a week older.

Great Horned Owls lay and hatch their eggs asynchronously. The mother owl begins incubating her

first egg as soon as it's laid, and that owlet hatches first. This means that siblings of different ages share the same nest.

WildCare does everything we can to reunite baby raptors with their families, both for their benefit and so we can save our resources for truly orphaned baby animals.

Caring for baby raptors is extremely expensive! Our youngest owlet patients can eat nine whole mice per day.

This owlet (photo 2) is 2.5 months old and can eat as many as 20 mice per day... quite an expense at \$2 per mouse!

2



1



BABY SQUIRRELS

Baby squirrels often arrive at WildCare when their nest has been cut down by ill-timed tree trimming. This tiny neonate baby (photo

1) is less than two weeks old. Baby squirrels at this age require supplemental heat and specialized squirrel formula, warmed and offered through a nipple attached to a syringe, every 2 – 3 hours.

A baby squirrel's eyes open at four weeks old. This baby (photo 2) has just opened her eyes for the first time.

A few weeks later, the baby squirrel's tail has started to fill out (photo 3). She is mostly weaned and eats shelled nuts, fruits, and vegetables. She has also started climbing, jumping, and cultivating her squirrel skills.

Once they're old enough to crack whole nuts with their teeth and construct a nest in a nest box, we know our baby squirrels are ready for release!

2



3



VIRGINIA OPOSSUMS

As marsupials, Virginia Opossums have a very different gestation process than other mammals. Baby opossums are born—meaning they leave the protection of the mother’s uterus—at a very early stage compared to other mammals. At only 11 – 13 days past fertilization, the tiny opossum neonates.... (photo 1) — blind, pink, and with barely formed front limbs — exit the birth canal and make their way over the mother’s abdomen to her marsupium, or pouch.

There, each tiny opossum latches onto a nipple (there are 13 of them) and swallows it, essentially fusing their mouth around it. They stay safely protected in the mother’s pouch until they’re old enough to relinquish the nipple and begin to move freely.

These baby opossums (photo 2) are actually eight weeks old! They are still too young to be disconnected from the nipple, but their mother was hit and killed by a car. Their rescuer brought the mother’s body with the babies still in the pouch to WildCare, where our team carefully disconnected them. If it’s safe for you to do so, always check a hit-by-car opossum for living babies, and don’t try to detach the babies yourself. Because baby opossums,

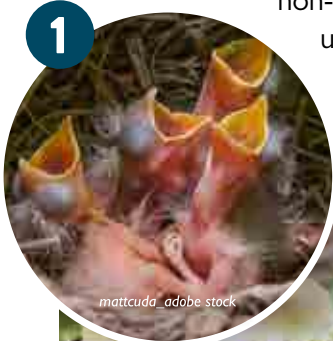
called “joeys,” don’t suckle, these little ones will need to be tube-fed until they can eat on their own.

At about 3.5 months old, baby opossums ride around on their mother’s back (photo 3), only ducking back into the pouch periodically for milk. Once they’re old enough, they’ll drop off, mom will leave them behind, and they will have to make their own way in the world.



BABY ROBINS

Like baby squirrels, many of WildCare’s songbird patients arrive at our Wildlife Hospital because of ill-timed tree, bush, or shrub pruning. Please “respect the nest” and delay non-emergency pruning and trimming until after October to prevent harm to wildlife families!



Altricial birds like robins are almost completely helpless



when they hatch (photo 1). When WildCare admits baby birds this young, they immediately go into intensive care in a heated incubator because they are not yet able to regulate their own body temperature. They must be fed an insect-based diet every 20 – 30 minutes from dawn until dusk, and are handled with extreme care.

In a few short weeks, the baby robins (photo 2) will have sprouted feathers and developed attitudes! At this age, we still hand-feed them every 45 minutes while also providing natural foods they might find in the wild, like worms and fruit, to encourage them to begin self-feeding.

Learning to perch and fly are the next steps for a baby songbird (photo 3) at WildCare! We “graduate” our baby birds from an incubator to a net-topped basket, then to a wire cage, and finally to an aviary, where they develop the flight muscles and skills needed to successfully survive in the wild.





**Meet Didi the
Virginia Opossum!**
Didi's name comes from
the scientific name for
Virginia Opossums,
Didelphis virginiana.

Didi came to us late last year after being caught by a cat. Although she didn't have any obvious wounds, an X-ray revealed she has hip dysplasia: her hips do not sit in their sockets like they should. This impacts her walking and climbing, and means she would not survive in the wild. It is also probably how she got caught by a cat in the first place!

Didi will live full-time at WildCare, and she'll travel to schools and meet groups of all sizes to help people learn to appreciate and admire Virginia Opossums.



NATURE EDUCATION PROGRAMS

Now accepting reservations for the 2024/2025 school year

Request a program today at discoverwildcare.org/education

Scholarships available for public schools! education@discoverwildcare.org 415-453-1000 x190



NATURE VAN (PRE-K – 8TH GRADE)

Available in English and/or Spanish.

Examine and touch fascinating taxidermy and biofacts.

1 hour presentations. \$240 for the first presentation, \$170 for each additional presentation. One class per presentation. Up to four classes per date.

NEW NATURE VAN PROGRAM!

Students will learn how wildlife is affected by rising temperatures, droughts, rising sea levels, ocean acidification, and how some animals can even help us to fight the effects of climate change.

WILDLIFE IN A WARMING WORLD (5TH - 12TH GRADES)



WILDLIFE AMBASSADORS (1ST – 8TH GRADE)

*Bring three live wild animals
into your classroom!*

1 hour presentations.
\$280 for the first presentation and
\$210 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.
\$325 per hike.
One class per hike.

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

“Teach children to love nature. People take care of what 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



Mark Decker

Brenda Bass

Enrique Mabe Stock

Chris Aulsebrook

California's 3,427 miles of beautiful coastline, home to many species of birds, is used as a migration stopover for many others.

Unfortunately, shorebirds in particular are threatened by habitat loss and fragmentation, environmental pollution, human disturbances, and the effects of climate change. While the warming Earth may not seem like it would be a huge problem for shorebirds, climate change can cause them significant harm. Audubon has highlighted 50 species of shorebirds as being "high risk" from climate change, including Short-Billed Dowitchers, Western Sandpipers, and Dunlins.

As coast-dwelling birds, shorebirds are particularly affected by sea level rise. Global sea levels have risen an average of 8-9 inches since 1880 and are continuing to rise at ever-increasing rates. According to predictions by the NOAA, if humans were able to reduce greenhouse gas emissions drastically,

sea levels would only rise around two feet by the year 2100. However, with continually increasing emissions of greenhouse gases, sea levels could rise 7.2 feet by 2100 and 13 feet by 2150.

Sea level rise impacts shorebirds in many ways: through the loss of habitat due to coastal flooding and erosion,

the loss of plant communities from salinization, and damage to habitats during storm surges. Over time, many beach and coastal wetland habitats will be permanently covered by rising ocean levels. Land ice melting contributes to something like 50% of all sea level rise; the rest is due to thermal expansion. When ocean temperatures increase, water molecules move faster and spread out, causing the overall volume of the ocean to expand.

Due to California's unique geology, the effects of sea level rise are exacerbated by the coast slowly sinking due to movement of tectonic plates. Because nearly 70% of Californians live near the coast, human development of

WILDLIFE IN A WARMING WORLD

BY CASEY PEARCE, NATURE EDUCATION AND CAMP MANAGER



coastal areas has limited the ability of impacted wildlife to shift their ranges inland as the beaches erode.

Not only will the encroaching sea ultimately reach the human-developed areas and impact the people who live and work there, but it will also lead to the total destruction of important beach and coastal wetland homes for shorebirds. Additionally, these coastal habitats are used as stopover points for migratory birds for food and rest. Losing this habitat will force migratory birds to stop in less suitable locations, making already dangerous migrations even more perilous.

Shorebirds' food sources are also impacted by climate change. For some

shorebirds, important, high-calorie fish like smelt and sardines will be more difficult to find; these fish need colder water to thrive and are already moving to accommodate warming ocean temperatures. For birds like the Short-Billed Dowitcher, which probe muddy waters along the coast, the cost of losing their habitat to sea level rise is twofold: they are losing their homes and their food sources.

Climate change and its far-reaching effects have consequences for humans and wildlife alike. But we can all make choices to help by mitigating our carbon footprints, electing leaders who support using less fossil fuels, and helping everyone understand climate change. Many communities and

organizations are already preparing for a future impacted by climate change.

As WildCare rebuilds our facility, our site will be raised to meet the city of San Rafael's development requirements to be prepared for potential sea level changes. To help educate our future leaders, WildCare is offering a new climate change education program called "Wildlife in a Warming World" to help students understand climate change, how it impacts California wildlife, and what they can do to make a difference. Even the state of California has committed to carbon neutrality (not releasing more carbon emissions than they sequester) by 2045. What can you do to help mitigate climate change?

wildcare

Gala

Join us for the WildCare Gala
on **September 7, 2024**,
and please consider
sponsoring this elegant event!

SPONSORSHIP LEVELS AND BENEFITS

	PRESENTING SPONSOR \$25,000	PEREGRINE FALCON SPONSOR \$15,000	SWAINSON'S HAWK SPONSOR \$10,000	RED-SHOULDERED HAWK SPONSOR \$5,000	NORTHERN HARRIER SPONSOR \$2,500	AMERICAN KESTREL SPONSOR \$1,500
GUESTS	2 Premium Tables For 10	1 Premium Table For 10	1 Premium Table For 10	Preferred Seating (10 Tickets)	Preferred Seating (6 Tickets)	Preferred Seating (2 Tickets)
RECOGNITION IN PRE- AND POST-EVENT MATERIALS						
SIGNAGE AT THE EVENT						
LIVE PROGRAM RECOGNITION						

VISIBILITY & IMPRESSIONS

- WildCare will market the event through our website and to an extensive and engaged online WildCare community, which includes: Over 328,000 followers on social media platforms - Instagram, X, Facebook and LinkedIn as well as 50,000+ email subscribers.
- 1,500+ community members will receive a print invitation
- The event will draw the attention of the 250 guests, including an array of animal advocates, nature enthusiasts, and members of the regional business community who will view your signage and celebrate your support of WildCare and wildlife



Sponsorship opportunities for WildCare's Talons & Friends event, happening on **July 14, 2024** at the beautiful Cavallo Point Lodge, are also available! Please scan the QR code for more information.



| wildcare |

ANNUAL REPORT 2023

Dear WildCare Supporters,

What a year 2023 turned out to be! Over 8,700 students experienced our education programs and almost 3,200 patients were treated in WildCare's Wildlife Hospital, which also continued to face challenges from the ongoing HPAI (avian influenza) epidemic. This work happened while we began raising funds for the Elevate WildCare capital campaign and coordinating a transition site so we can remain open as we build WildCare's beautiful new home. Whew! We sure keep things pretty busy around here!

The staff and volunteers at WildCare are the lifeblood of this organization, and you can see it in every detail of what is done here. Their dedication, enthusiasm, and care are the reason we have an incredible 79% survival rate* of patients brought in. They are the reason our outreach and advocacy has helped thousands of people live well with wildlife, while also helping pass legislation to keep our local wildlife thriving. I am honored to work side by side with this amazing group of people week after week.

Introducing children to the world of nature and wildlife is also a key aspect of WildCare's programming. Our annual Family Nature Day along with our renowned Wildlife Camps, Terwilliger Nature Hikes, and new programs teaching about wildlife in a warming world, have all been instrumental in expanding our message.

Another group of people I want to thank is you! Without you, our wonderful community of supporters, WildCare wouldn't be able to do all the critical work that we do. Reading through this issue, you will see just how your support translates to actual, tangible action. We (the Board, staff, and volunteers) are wholly dedicated to ensuring WildCare will continue being a pillar of the community for generations to come.

On behalf of the entire Board of Directors at WildCare – Thank you!

Sincerely,


Veronica Geczi,
WildCare Board President

*after the first 24hrs



2023 ENGAGEMENT STATISTICS

SOCIAL MEDIA & WEBSITE

219,236

WEBSITE VISITORS

277,293

TWITTER FOLLOWERS

49,515

EMAIL SUBSCRIBERS

31,293

FACEBOOK FOLLOWERS

7,049

INSTAGRAM FOLLOWERS



ADVOCACY IN 2023



- WildCare worked with advocates to help implement **bans on the sale and use of cruel and inhumane glue traps** at the city, state, and national levels.
- WildCare supported **AB 1322 the California Ecosystems Protection Act of 2023** which extended the existing moratorium on dangerous second generation anticoagulant rodenticides and strengthened future restrictions on anticoagulant rodenticides, including the first generation anticoagulant diphacinone, to better protect wildlife. This bill was signed into law on October 13, 2023.
- WildCare supported **AB 99—Integrated Pest Management for State Roads and Highways** which would implement integrated pest management (IPM) practices for state roads and highways.
- WildCare relaunched our **“Respect the Nest” campaign** to help protect nesting wildlife from the nest destruction, and injuries to baby wildlife, resulting from tree trimming and gardening during the spring and summer.
- WildCare provided data and support to a citizen advocate to get **“watch for wildlife” signs** posted on Olive Avenue in Novato, adjacent to the Simmons Slough Wildlife Corridor. The Marin County Department of Public Works confirmed that signs would be posted.
- WildCare worked with fellow community and wildlife organizations including Project Coyote, Animal Help Now, and Marin Humane to work out a **program of humane coexistence with coyotes on Belvedere Island** in Marin County.
- WildCare helped raise **awareness of what to do, and what not to do, with Black Bears in Marin County** after several sightings brought intensive media attention to the animals presence in the county. A petition, press release, and other communications helped make Bay Area residents “bear aware.”

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 \$3.7 million in our fiscal year that ended on September 30, 2023 to make our work possible.

WILDLIFE HOSPITAL STATISTICS 2023

SURVIVAL RATES AND NUMBER OF ANIMALS TREATED BY CLASS



	TOTAL NUMBER BY CLASS	DIFFERENT SPECIES	SURVIVAL RATE (AFTER 24 HOURS)
MAMMALS	759	33	88.25%
BIRDS	2,372	129	75.82%
REPTILES	45	8	87.5%
AMPHIBIANS	2	2	100%
TOTAL NUMBER OF ANIMALS & OVERALL SURVIVAL RATE <small>(based on all admissions, after 24 hours)</small>	3,185		78.82%

TOTAL ANIMALS TREATED 3,185



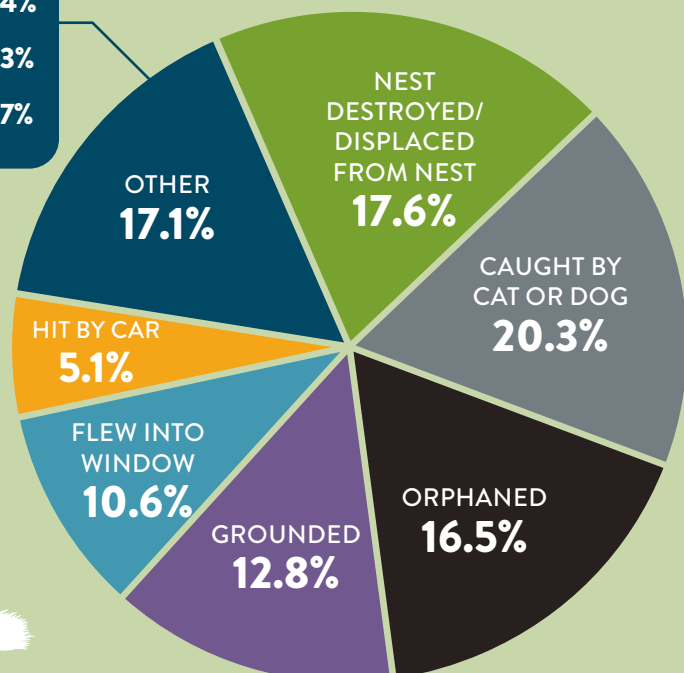
67
BABIES
REUNITED
WITH PARENTS

FAWNS	4
HAWKS	8
OWLS	9
RACCOONS	15
SONGBIRDS	19
SQUIRRELS	12

OTHER REASONS INCLUDE

TRAPPED IN STORM DRAIN/SEWER	1.4%
STRANDED/ BEACHED	1.4%
ENTANGLED IN WIRE/ NETTING/STRING	1.3%
TRAPPED IN GLUE TRAP	1.7%

MOST FREQUENT REASONS FOR ADMISSION:



EDUCATION STATISTICS 2023

EDUCATIONAL PROGRAM REACH:

TOTAL number of children served by WildCare's Terwilliger Nature Education Programs: 9,642

Number of youth served on scholarship: 3,388 (38.6%)

Number of programs in Spanish: 37

TOTAL number of programs: 424

NUMBER OF OF PRESENTATIONS BY PROGRAM:

Nature Hike Programs: 55

Wildlife Encounter Hour
Presentations at WildCare: 6

Wildlife Ambassador Programs: 77

Nature Van Programs: 273

Wildlife Camps: 9

Family Adventures /
Aventuras Familiares: 4

Number of students served by program:

Nature Hike Programs: 1314

Wildlife Encounter Hour
Presentations
at WildCare: 122

Wildlife Ambassador Programs: 1835

Nature Van Programs: 5516

Wildlife Camps: 109

Family Adventures / Aventuras
Familiares: 103

Educational events attended by WildCare: 11

* not including Wildlife Encounter Hours

Number of participants served: 1510

110
SCHOOLS AND
ORGANIZATIONS
RECEIVED WILDCARE
PROGRAMS
**19 NEW
SCHOOLS!**

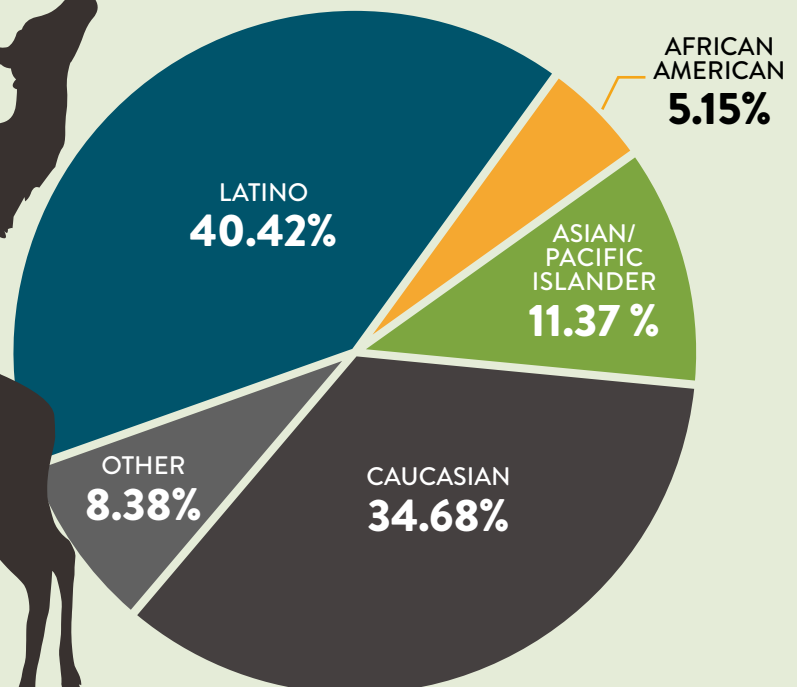
15
WILDLIFE
AMBASSADOR
ANIMALS

38.6%
OF PROGRAM PARTICIPANTS
RECEIVED SCHOLARSHIP
SUPPORT

**(3,388
STUDENTS)**

8,774
TOTAL STUDENTS
SERVED IN
10
COUNTIES

STUDENT DEMOGRAPHICS



OUR VOLUNTEERS IN 2023

THANK YOU FOR HELPING WILDLIFE!

Wilson Adkins	Tracy Christensen	Sofia Guagenti	Frances Michener	Toni Pinsky	Maggie Rufo	Christina Swindlehurst Chan
Arielle Andreis	Davina Chu	Sarah Guehring	Iliana Milan	Lauren Pixler	Kendall Rusillo	Liz Thawley
Francesca Angelo	Conner Cimmiyotti	Yanet Gutierrez	Sandy Miller	Vanessa Potter	Judy Ryan	Cythnia Theobald
Vincent Anibale	Luca Cirese	Erin Hankins	Sharon Miranda	Barbara Pritchard	Linda Saint Amant	Charlotte Towle
Dianne Arancibia	Natalie Clark	Christine Hansel	Suzanne Mirviss	Renee Reed	Marjorie Scarborough	Nicole Trautsch
Anne Ardillo	Claire Colvin	Tara Harris	Jill Mistretta	James Reed	David Scheck	Aldona Valaitis
Debra Armstrong	Jalayah Cook	Brynn Hassan	Ruth-Louise Moran	David Reinstein	Lyanne Schuster	Larry Van Cantfort
Francesca Austin	Kiera Cooper	Lynn Haug	Steve Morreale	Spencer Rennerfeldt	Deb Scott	Angela Vella Hazard
Trish Axsom	Yulia Cornwell	Alison Hermance	Brittany Morse	Traevor Revai	Stephen Shaw	Monica Villa
Deb Babe	Scarlett Cortez	Janell Hobart	Deirdre Moy	Janill Richards	Chris Silva	Diane Vogeley
Beth Baird	Elizabeth Costa	Marie Hoffman	Brittany Munoz	Sofia Ridgeway	Gina Silvestri	Leif Waage-Pickle
Shayla Baird	Lynne Coulson	Paula Holman	Eileen Munroe	Beth Ridout	Sarah Slaymaker	Marisa Walker
Dale Ball	Mariah A. Cribben	Kendra Jabin	Mia Murdock	Willa Riedy	Judy Smith	Julia Walsh
Alix Barbey	Becky Dahlstrom	Eileen Jones	Robyn Newkirk	Marianna Riser	Julia Smith	Fran Wang
Nancy Barbour	Terri Dailey	Amy Junker	Jody Newman	Declan Rising	Rochelle Somers	Andrew Watry
Anne Barker	Leah Davis	Shanthi Kalpat	Tracy Novick	Faith Rivers	Juliana Sorem, DVM	Shereen Welling
Lindsay Bartsh	Libby DeBattista	Susie Kelly	Carol Nyhoff	Teri Rockas	Joshua Soriano	Nancy West
Steve Beatty	Carla DeMaestri	Eulia Keomany	Erin O'Brien	Skyler Rockwell	Loretta Stec	Grace Whitty
Doug Begle	Sandy Edinger	Elizabeth King	Ian O'Dell	Nicole Rodney	Jocelynn Stone	Natalie Williams
Lauren Bettino	Piper Egan	Rachel Klyce	Emily Ohman	Jessica Rolle	Rick Stone	Lisa Wojcik
Nancy Bisio	Suzanne Egan	Nikki Knight	Kristin Olson	Lucy Romero	Jessie Sun	Alexander Yaitanes
Brianna Bjarnson	Alice Elegant	Linda Knight	Karen Ortiz	Brittany Rosario	Chloe Sundara	Cait Youngquist
Kahsaia Bjarnson	Alfonso Faustino	Mayu Ko	Sam Osborn	Shelly Ross	Anna Sweeney	Amy Zech
Emma Blakely	Fabio Ferreira	Krystal Koop	Alexis Pacelli	Anne Ross		
Victoria Bloom	Zhanna Filatova	Susan Krausz	Patty Page			
Andre Borgman	Debbie Fisher	Susan Kreibich	Tricia Parrish			
Steve Bosque	Cythnia Folkman	Veronique Krenitsky	Lynda Pearson			
Grace Bottomley	Jennifer Ford	Laakea Laano	Carrie Peters			
Janeko Bower	Dallas Forsheve	Rebecca LaMotte	Katya Petratis			
Akhila Brahmandam	Bill Foxall	Kristen Lang	Emma Petrus			
Akira Bratti	Brianna Frade	Jenean LaRoche	Melanie Piazza			
Terry Bremer	Caitlin Fried	Liz Lazich	Manuela Piha			
Gina Brewer	Susy Friedman	Deborah Lennon				
Jan Bricca	Heather Gamberg	Jess Lester				
Mare Brixie	Veronica Geczi	Jacqueline Lewis				
Jenn Brown	Lily Gee	Anne Libbin				
Grace Buck	Chloe Gehm	Josh Logan				
Lucy Burlingham	Peggy Ghertner	Robert Lundstrom				
Sue Burrell	Terry Gibbens	Emma Lynch				
Jake Butler	Dylan Gibson	Kate Lynch				
Ashlyn Byous	Audrey Girona	Holly Maassen				
Katharine Cagney	Susan Girtler	Gail MacMillian				
Jim Cairnes	Vanessa Glidden	Kati Malabed				
Dion Campbell	Alex Godbe	Kara - Marsh				
Sally Campbell	David Goodman	Armstrong				
Erica Canino	Emily Goodwin	Holly McArthur				
Zazil Chacon	Laura Graham	Megan McChesney				
Ching-Hsu "Mariko" Chang	Susie Graven	Elaine McHugh				
Renee Charnas	Natalie Gray	Ben McKinley				
Valerie Chavez	Shannon Gray	Barbara McNamer				
Oliver Chesley	Jeff Greendorfer	Leslie Michel				
	Rachel Griffiths	Karen Michels				

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](https://www.discoverwildcare.org/volunteer)

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!



BABY NORTHERN RACCOON #23-3103

WildCare's Medical Staff was more than a little surprised when a rescuer brought in an infant raccoon halfway through December, way outside our normal "Baby Season."

When raising orphaned wildlife in managed care, our #1 priority is to ensure that they don't habituate to humans, and one of the major ways we achieve this is to always raise babies with conspecifics — others of the same species — to learn from as they grow together. Because it was so late in the year, the raccoons we already had in care were months older and scheduled to be released! We reached out to neighboring wildlife hospitals but no one had a match.

After putting out a call to wildlife hospitals across the entire state, hoping that maybe, just maybe, down south where it's warmer they might still have babies, Project Wildlife Ramona (PWR) in San Diego confirmed they had a group of three similarly aged kits in care and were willing to include this one! Through a coordinated effort between a dedicated member of our Raccoon Team and an official from the California Department of Fish and Wildlife, this little road trip raccoon was shuttled over 500 miles for the invaluable opportunity to grow up with raccoon siblings.



PIGEON WITH INVERTED BEAK #23-3082

This beautiful pigeon was spotted hopelessly trying to forage alongside his flock-mates for three days before the rescuer was able to get him to WildCare for help.

His top beak appeared to have been forcibly folded inward and tucked down past the bottom beak by an unknown trauma—probably a collision—becoming painfully lodged inside the pigeon's throat. This situation was dire, not only because it completely prevented the helpless bird from eating or drinking, but also because a dangerous abscess was already growing where the hard tip of the beak pushed against the tissue inside the throat.

As expected, this pigeon was exhausted, underweight, and severely dehydrated. With the bird fully sedated, WildCare's Veterinarian, Dr. Sorem was able to safely dislodge the upper beak section from the oral cavity. She and the team then provided supportive care while the bird regained consciousness.

As soon as the pigeon woke up in the ICU, seeds were flying! Much to our delight, this brave and hungry bird was devouring food with gusto, quickly making up for many days without a single bite to eat.



VIRGINIA OPOSSUM

#23-0518

While a homeowner was making some repairs around their property, they were surprised to find a lethargic little opossum alone in the basement. She was freezing cold, dehydrated, pale, and infested with mites! No mom or siblings could be seen anywhere nearby and, judging by her state, she'd likely been alone for many days.

Wildcare's Medical Staff warmed her using soft microwaved towels before administering subcutaneous fluids and electrolytes to stabilize her. By the end of the day she was eating, vocalizing, and trying to bite her caretakers, showing us she was well on the way to making a full recovery!



NORTHERN SAW-WHET OWL

#24-0048

This 72-gram Northern Saw-whet owl was admitted to WildCare after being found grounded in the mud following a big rain storm that blew through the Bay Area. Although radiographs revealed that the owl had not sustained any major injuries, he couldn't stay upright unassisted, and WildCare's experienced Medical Staff concluded he was most likely suffering from head trauma.

On intake, the owl was given subcutaneous fluids for hydration and anti-inflammatory medications to help begin to address the head trauma. From there, good nutrition and plenty of time to rest and recover were next up in this little owl's continuing treatment plan!



CEDAR WAXWING

#23-0006

Yep, that questionable looking pile is exactly what you think it is: poop! This Cedar Waxwing had an incredible appetite and, after enjoying some of the fresh pyracantha berries our team provided for him, produced an astonishing amount of excrement within just a few hours!

On intake, an exam and x-rays did not reveal any injuries, but his labored breathing, fatigue, and quiet demeanor indicated that he'd probably flown into a window or other structure and was too stunned to fly away.

WildCare's Medical Staff administered subcutaneous fluids before placing him in an incubator with supplemental oxygen to help him rest and recover. By the next day, he'd shown enough improvement to graduate to a net-covered basket in which we offered him a variety of berries—which he readily devoured—to mimic his natural diet.



DONOR SPOTLIGHT

MARY LOVE

Mary Love, a WildCare supporter for more than a decade, has provided a very generous match of \$1M in support of the \$24M Elevate WildCare capital campaign, which is making it possible to build a new, world-class facility for WildCare. Mary and her husband, David, moved to Marin County in 2006, each with a love of wildlife and the incredible habitat we share. David, the renowned vintage racecar driver, passed away in 2013 and, on behalf of them both, Mary has continued to be an active champion for wildlife through her generous support of WildCare's work. She maintains close ties to the organization and has a keen understanding of its potential and the impact that a new facility will make possible.

The David and Mary Love Foundation generously provided the Elevate WildCare capital campaign's lead gift to kick off the fundraising drive for our new facility. Now, with just under \$8M to go, the additional \$1M match Mary Love and the Foundation have provided will support new momentum of the organization's fundraising. This new match will inspire gifts to help achieve the goal to fund the construction of the new facility, and secure WildCare's future.

WILDCARE IN TRANSITION

When WildCare first made the decision to rebuild a new state-of-the-art wildlife hospital and nature education center at our current location on Albert Park Lane, we recognized that this would require us to move to a transition location for a period of time while the construction of the new facility was completed.

Finding a site for Transition (as we're calling it) was the first hurdle, and WildCare is very grateful to the San Rafael City School District for leasing us a parcel of land at 251 North San Pedro Road, just ten minutes up the highway from WildCare's current location.

The challenge was to construct a temporary but fully-functional wildlife hospital and nature education center, able to treat and care for 3,500+ ill, injured, and orphaned animals from over 200 different species, and provide appropriate housing for educational Wildlife Ambassador animals as diverse as our pelicans, opossum, and vulture.

How do you create all of that on a flat, empty piece of land? In typical WildCare style, of course... with much creative thinking, a dash of daring, a lot of heavy lifting, and the help of some wonderful community friends.

Our Wildlife Hospital team, headed



by Director of Animal Care, Melanie Piazza and Assistant Director of Animal Care, Brittany Morse, needed to design caging that could work at Transition, but would also integrate into WildCare's new state-of-the-art Wildlife Hospital.

After much research, we found a company, Corners Limited, that could create and build the very specific designs we needed. It took many hours of design collaboration and logistical planning, but our staff came up with caging designs that would meet our needs and that Corners Limited could construct first at Transition and then return to disassemble and reconstruct at the new Wildlife Hospital when the time came. This saves WildCare thousands of dollars and gives the team the opportunity to use the caging for the 24 months of construction and make any changes or alterations before everything is brought back and installed at the new hospital.

The caging has to safely accommodate and provide adequate space for an astonishing array of animal species from raccoons and coyotes to squirrels, and from hawks and owls to tiny songbirds. It also has to be lightweight and well-constructed to last through many years.

The design process was arduous, but when Corners Limited finally arrived to build the cages our team had designed, they were as thrilled as we were! Melanie, Brittany, and the team implemented some quite revolutionary aspects to the cages to make them as multi-species functional as possible. In particular, the massive sliding doors that will allow the team to create bigger or smaller enclosures at will were something Corners Limited had never attempted before at that scale. The installers said they weren't even sure they would work, but they did!

Another innovation was a series of hinged panels that, when open, will allow a large bird like a hawk to fly unimpeded in a complete circuit around the bank of cages. This is valuable exercise for a recovering raptor and our team's design will



make it possible!

Building the enclosures for WildCare's Wildlife Ambassadors brought its own set of challenges. Because our Wildlife Ambassador animals are educational, we wanted to have them on display, allowing the public to visit and learn about

CONTINUED ON NEXT PAGE



them while we are at the Transition location. Our two large pelicans and gull also require a pool for swimming.

Thank goodness for the boundless generosity of Dan Hendrickson and Robyn Newkirk from Hendrickson Pools of Sausalito! Hendrickson Pools designed and built the current pool our pool birds have enjoyed for many years, along with the impressive pump system it requires. They've provided free maintenance for that system too, and even replaced the electronic pump last year when it acted up.

For Transition, they've done even more! They purchased, stored, and installed the 10' stock tank that is the pool in our pool birds' Transition enclosure. They also made the adjustments to turn the stock tank into a pool, installed and connected the water lines from the pool to the filter, and donated both the pool filter and pump. They will help us



get the pool up and running when the time comes, and they are so helpful and generous with answering questions and training our staff on pool care. To top it all off, Hendrickson Pools will be donating the Wildlife Ambassador pool and pumps at the new WildCare facility, which will be kidney-shaped and will feature a beach entrance. Very fancy!

WildCare will begin construction on our new facility at Albert Park Lane later this year, and we anticipate moving our entire operation to Transition in September 2024. Watch for alerts that we have relocated temporarily to Transition so you know where to bring the injured or orphaned animals you rescue, and keep your eyes peeled for updates on the construction of the gorgeous new WildCare!



BIG THANK YOU TO



HENDRICKSON POOLS, INC.

**FOR THEIR DONATION OF TIME,
EQUIPMENT AND EXPERTISE.**



Photos ©Eileen Jones, Melanie Piazza and Elyn Weisel



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.

**Scan to
learn more
and apply
now!**



QUESTIONS?

Contact Brianna Bjarnson,
Volunteer Manager
brianna@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

Dion Campbell

VOLUNTEER SPOTLIGHT

RACHEL GRIFFITHS

A Montana native and Marin transplant since 1965, Rachel Griffiths has been a WildCare volunteer for nearly a decade, doing important work in both the Wildlife Hospital and on WildCare's Foster Care teams, ensuring some of our most challenging patients are cared for properly and ready to be released back into their natural habitats.

As a child, Rachel used to visit the museum at Albert Park Lane while her mother cleaned oiled birds alongside Elizabeth Terwilliger. For thirty-one years, Rachel worked as a firefighter in both Marin and Sonoma counties before returning to WildCare to become a volunteer.

Rachel is one of WildCare's most devoted foster care volunteers, taking home fifty or more injured and orphaned animals every year and providing highly specialized round-the-clock care. Many of the orphaned patients, from skunks and squirrels to rodents and bats, require feedings throughout the night!

Animal care is not all Rachel does for WildCare! During our recent transition site preparation, she helped Medical Staff build turkey and quail enclosures and assisted with the patient and ambassador cage caging project for two full days. She even brought sandwiches for everyone on the work crew!

Speaking of her years of service, Rachel says: "In volunteering at WildCare I have met many wonderful, dedicated, interesting and caring staff and volunteers. I can call many of the people I've worked with friends that I hope to keep close for the rest of my life."

Thank you Rachel, for all your years of dedicated service as a WildCare Volunteer!



Highlights from WildCare's Living with Wildlife Hotline

WILDLIFE EMERGENCY? CALL US! 415.456.7283



“ A woman in Southern California spotted these hummingbird babies moments after their nest tipped over in a windstorm. The caller was already warming them in her hands while she called WildCare! Mama bird was present so we talked through steps to reattach the nest to a sturdy branch. Checked in later and Mama was on the nest. ”

~ Libby D



“ A teenager on a scooter found three tiny baby birds on the ground, bruised and cold. With no car, she decided to take Uber. The rescuer was in tears the majority of the call and couldn't afford the ride, but she did everything possible to get them to WildCare from the East Bay. When she arrived, balancing her scooter and the birds, our team was outside to greet her. She called back later and told me she had suffered a recent death in her family, and would have done everything in her power to keep these babies alive. ”

~ Patricia P



“ A woman called from Tennessee, complaining that hundreds of hummingbirds had taken over her backyard. She'd been continuously adding new feeders as the population increased over the years. She had ended up with at least 15 feeders and was baffled about why there were so many hummingbirds! We discussed gradually removing a couple feeders at a time until she was down to just one or two, and explained that the birds will be able to find enough natural food sources on their own. Exhausted from constantly cleaning and replenishing them, she was relieved to have a solution. ”

~ Cate M



“ A caller was walking his dog when he noticed crows attacking something. He saw it was a small owl and called WildCare. Serendipitously, someone who was just leaving a birthday party was happy to provide a gift bag for the rescue! The finder walked a mile back home with his leashed dog and a screech owl in a gift bag. Marin Humane transported the owl to WildCare where he made a full recovery. ”

~ Amy Mac V

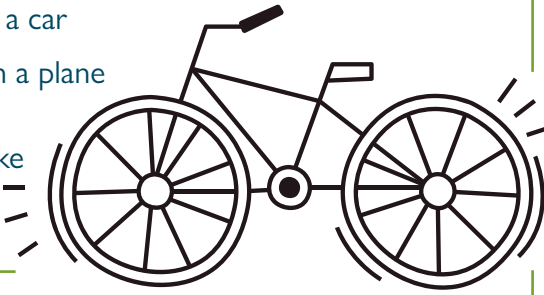


“ Caller had seen a raccoon and thought she'd noticed a baby in its mouth. Later, she came across a tiny baby raccoon on the sidewalk, alone and crying. It was getting dark and we knew mom was around, so I coached her on attempting to reunite baby with mom. She placed the still-warm little raccoon in a box in the area where mom had been spotted earlier. We hoped the mother would hear the baby's cries and return to retrieve her. Eureka! Within 30 minutes the mother had come and taken her baby. ”

~ Tracy N

1. What is the best choice of transportation?

- a Driving a car
- b Flying in a plane
- c Riding your bike



2. What is the best choice for dinner?

- a Steak
- b Chicken
- c Pasta and vegetables

3. What is the best water bottle to use?

- a Single-use plastic
- b Reusable bottle you already have
- c New reusable bottle



4. What are the best bags to use at the grocery store?

- a Reusable cloth
- b Plastic
- c Paper



5. What are the best ways to play?

- a Playing video games
- b Playing outside
- c Having a water balloon fight

6. Where is the best place to get groceries?

- a Buying groceries at a large chain
- b Ordering groceries online to be delivered
- c Buying groceries from farmers markets with locally grown food

7. What is the best choice?

- a Reduce
- b Reuse
- c Recycle

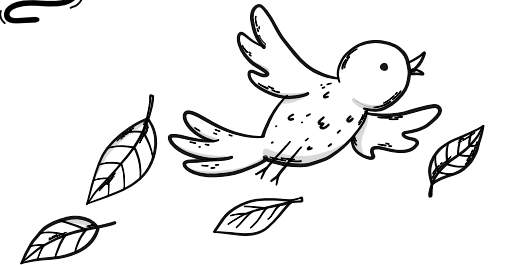
CLIMATE CHANGE CHOICES

To fight climate change, we all have to make choices to help reduce our carbon emissions. Take our quiz below to see if you know the best choices to fight climate change. Choose the option that creates the least amount of carbon emissions.

Answers: 1-c, 2-c, 3-b, 4-a, 5-b, 6-c, 7-a, 8-b, 9-c, 10-a

8. What is the best kind of packaging?

- a Covered in non-recyclable plastic
- b Recyclable or compostable container
- c Reusable container from home



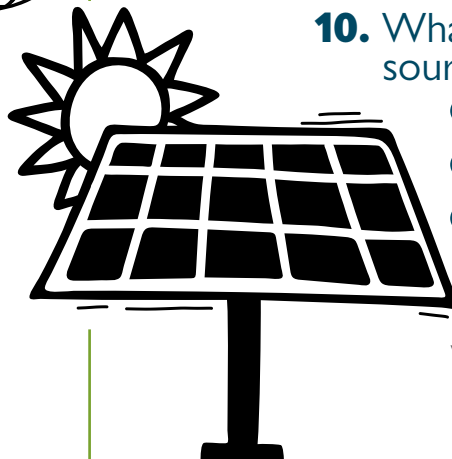
9. What are the best types of clothes?

- a The clothes you already have
- b Synthetic clothes made from oil
- c Natural fiber clothes



10. What is the best source of energy?

- a Solar
- b Fossil fuels
- c Nuclear





76 ALBERT PARK LANE
SAN RAFAEL, CA 94901
415.456.7283
DISCOVERWILDCARE.ORG

NON-PROFIT
ORGANIZATION
U. S. POSTAGE PAID
COLUMBUS, WI
PERMIT NO. 73



Don Pagano

Take care of the things that matter most!

Creating a will is a powerful way to support the people and causes you care about.

Including WildCare in your will ensures that our work to protect and care for wildlife continues for generations to come. Donors who have included WildCare in their estate plans are valued members of our Tomorrow Fund.

Start your will or let us know that WildCare is included in your estate plans at discoverwildcare.org/tomorrowfund.



SCAN THE QR CODE FOR MORE INFO