



## LOOKING BACK, MOVING FORWARD

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# wildcare NEWS

HELPING YOU LIVE WELL WITH WILDLIFE WINTER 2024

### FEATURES:

- 2024 PHOTO CONTEST WINNERS
- ESTIVATION: A WINTER WAKE-UP
- VOLUNTEER OPPORTUNITIES
- MEET RECENT WILDLIFE PATIENTS



## DEAR FRIENDS,

As we embrace the winter season, I'm thrilled to share some exciting updates about WildCare's journey toward a brighter future. First, I'm delighted to report that we have settled into our transition location, allowing us to continue our vital work while constructing our new facility at Albert Park. This temporary space will allow us to maintain our high standards for wildlife care and environmental education without interruption.

The following pages describe our home for the next two years. Our staff and volunteers worked tirelessly to make this move possible. We are also very grateful for the support of our partner organizations who took our wildlife patients while we settled into our temporary home.

Even more exciting is the progress on our new facility construction project and

our Elevate WildCare Capital Campaign. This ambitious undertaking will provide WildCare with a state-of-the-art wildlife hospital and education center. The new facility will feature advanced medical care, better rehabilitation spaces, and enhanced educational areas to inspire the next generation of wildlife advocates and environmental stewards.

The project is currently in the final planning stages, with construction set to begin in the spring. We anticipate the new facility will be ready to welcome wildlife patients and visitors by late 2026.

As we move forward with these transformative changes, we remain committed to advocating for wildlife through rescue, rehabilitation, and education.

Your continued support is crucial to make this vision a reality. We have reached 70% of our Capital Campaign goal, but we still have much work to do. Together, we're creating a lasting legacy for wildlife and environmental education in our community. Thank you for being an essential part of the WildCare family.

We look forward to sharing more updates as our exciting journey unfolds.

With gratitude,

# WILDCARE NEWS

WINTER 2024

WILDCARE 415.456.7283

WEBSITE [discoverwildcare.org](http://discoverwildcare.org)

Email [info@discoverwildcare.org](mailto:info@discoverwildcare.org)

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### LIVE WELL WITH WILDLIFE.

**Cover photo** Gull Reflection - Susie Kelly

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We are proud to be recognized  
for our strong leadership,  
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# SAVE THE DATE!

## WILDCARE'S UPCOMING 2025 EVENTS



### FAMILY NATURE DAY

SATURDAY, APRIL 26

**Learn about wildlife “Mrs. T style”  
at WildCare’s Family Nature Day on  
Saturday, April 26, 2025.**

Birdwatch, join a naturalist hike, meet our Wildlife Ambassador animals and more at the beautiful Richardson Bay Audubon Center and Sanctuary in Tiburon, CA.

Details at [discoverwildcare.org/family-nature-day](https://discoverwildcare.org/family-nature-day)

### TALONS & FRIENDS DATE TBA

WildCare’s popular Talons & Friends event will take place this summer at the beautiful Cavallo Point Lodge in Sausalito.

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

The event will also feature fascinating nature exhibits, hands-on owl-themed activities and more.

Guests will enjoy live music while gathering for a delicious vegetarian and vegan lunch, featuring a menu prepared especially for the event by the chef at Cavallo Point.



Details at [discoverwildcare.org/talons](https://discoverwildcare.org/talons)

Save the date for the

✦ | wildcare | ✨

## Gala

**SATURDAY, SEPTEMBER 6!**

The WildCare Gala is our most elegant event of the year! Join us for a spectacular evening of wildlife and wonder. This glamorous event will feature a delicious vegan dinner, live and silent auctions, close-up moments with our Wildlife Ambassador animals and much more!

Sponsorship opportunities and other details at [discoverwildcare.org/gala](https://discoverwildcare.org/gala).





# WILDCARE TRANSITION

PREPARING FOR AN EXCITING FUTURE!

*WildCare is thrilled to have completed our move out of our venerable Albert Park Lane facility and into our temporary location off North San Pedro Road in San Rafael. This epic move is the most tangible step yet of WildCare's exciting plans for the future.*

With all of WildCare's operations fully functional at "WildCare Transition," we can begin building our new facility on Albert Park Lane. This beautiful new WildCare center will upgrade and expand all of our programs, improve the care we provide to wildlife, and enhance the organization's value to our communities, both people and animals.

## The Move

Moving all of WildCare's programs, including our entire Wildlife Hospital and our Terwilliger Nature Education Programs, out of the facility we've occupied since the early 1950s, was an organizational marvel.

Imagine all the equipment a veterinary hospital needs to operate. Then consider the myriad supplies, specimens and collections required by a vibrant environmental education program. Add 70+ years of other stuff, lovingly squirreled away by thoughtful people who appreciate that both wildlife medicine and nature education require creativity and the use of unusual materials, and you'll have an idea of what had to be sorted and packed to make the move to WildCare Transition possible.



BEFORE



AFTER



BEFORE



AFTER

*Before and after shots of the hospital wards.*



WildCare's Education Department moved first, using the first weeks of August to set up our Wildlife Ambassador animals in their bright and cheerful new enclosures, while keeping our Wildlife Camps and Terwilliger Nature Education programs running the whole time.

Then, the Wildlife Hospital completed the move over the last two weeks of September.

Both moves took extraordinary effort! Thanks to our partner organizations in the region, our incredibly resilient staff, and our wonderful volunteers, we moved the entire organization with minimal disruption to our education programs and our ongoing wildlife care services.

### WildCare Transition Up and Running

WildCare has been fully operational at Transition since September 30th, and everyone – staff, volunteers, Ambassador animals, even our wildlife patients – is reveling in the sun-filled new site. Although office space is limited in the modular trailers set up to provide both desk space and wards for our Wildlife Hospital patients, the clean, modern and air-conditioned surroundings are a delight after the dilapidated conditions at the old WildCare facility.

The outside caging is the biggest highlight of WildCare Transition, for our Wildlife Hospital patients and our Wildlife Ambassador animals alike.

Our team designed the hospital caging for the very specific needs of WildCare's Wildlife Hospital. It is light, airy, and multifunctional. Each enclosure can accommodate a variety of animals, a necessity for a hospital that treats more than 200 different species. It is also rodent- and predator-proof, as demonstrated by a perplexed local Cooper's Hawk, a wild bird who has discovered our songbird aviaries but —fortunately— can't access the birds in care inside!

Donations of sod and potted plants by KB Homes help to make the enclosures at WildCare Transition even more natural and healing for our recovering patients and our Wildlife Ambassadors, and it's a delight for everyone to hear and see our animals exhibiting natural behaviors while in care. Additional volunteer hours were generously provided by Cahill Construction.

We are also excited to welcome the public to the "Wildlife Ambassador Zone," the Education side of WildCare Transition. Since November, we have been welcoming visitors during limited hours, and the response has been wonderful! Visit [discoverwildcare.org/transition](https://discoverwildcare.org/transition) for opening hours and more information.

While we won't be in this space forever, WildCare Transition feels like a breath of fresh air for the entire organization.

**CONTINUED ON NEXT PAGE**



1. WildCare's Courtyard on moving day; 2. Everything inside was brought outside for cleaning prior to the move; 3. It took eight moving trucks over two days to move everything!; 4. Transporting Wildlife Hospital patients on moving day; 5. Our Wildlife Ambassador Pool Birds enjoy their bright new space; 6. Raccoon patients in care at WildCare Transition.





*Wildlife Ambassador Sequoia  
in her Transition enclosure.*

Being here for two years will allow us to adjust our protocols and refine and streamline our operations in preparation for the larger, more mission-fulfilling facility to come.

### Looking Ahead: Our Vision for the Future

WildCare's move to our transition location is an exciting stepping stone toward our long-term goal of building a permanent, world-class facility that will provide top-notch care for wildlife and also serve as a hub for environmental education and community engagement. We envision a space where visitors can learn about wildlife, where animals have room to recover in optimal conditions, and where we can inspire the next generation of wildlife advocates.

This journey wouldn't be possible without the unwavering support of our donors, volunteers, and community members. We are immensely grateful to all of you who have supported WildCare and continue to champion our mission. Together, we can ensure that WildCare remains a vital resource for both wildlife and people for many years to come.

Learn more about WildCare Transition at  
[discoverwildcare.org/transition](https://discoverwildcare.org/transition)



## Looking Back, Moving Forward

The WildCare building at 76 Albert Park Lane in San Rafael is full of memories. As we began packing up our dear old facility, all of us who love the history and ambiance of the place felt deeply nostalgic. Whether you've been part of WildCare for a year, or 20 years, or for much longer, this place holds a warm place in your heart.

The actual building was originally constructed in 1879 as a Guild Hall for St. Paul's Episcopal Church in San Rafael. In 1955, the Guild Hall was literally sawed off of the side of the church, broken into pieces, loaded onto a truck, and moved to Albert Park Lane, courtesy of the Optimist Club of San Rafael. It became the Junior Museum of Marin.

The Junior Museum had exhibits pertaining to local natural history, a small zoo of exotic and native wildlife, and a lending library of live animals from which you could "rent" animals like a rabbit or tortoise, or even a goat.

In 1961, the name was changed to The Louise A. Boyd Marin Museum of Science to honor San Rafael's local Arctic explorer. It was during this time that

*The Marin Junior Museum on Albert Park Lane ©WildCare Archives; Below: Longtime WildCare staff members bug in WildCare's doorway at the staff and volunteer farewell party.*







*Left to right: The Marin Junior Museum viewed from Mariposa Road; Cleaning the site at St. Paul's Episcopal Church after the building was moved. ©WildCare Archives; Moving the Guild Hall ©Anne T. Kent California Room, Marin County Free Library*

the center acquired Teddy the Black Bear. He was found as a young cub, but at the time little was known about preparing orphaned bear cubs to survive in the wild, so Teddy could never be set free. Teddy lived at the center until his death in 1989. The collection also featured rescued Harbor Seals, including one named Easter, that helped inspire a team of people to create The Marine Mammal Center, a hospital and visitor center dedicated to advancing ocean health through marine mammal rescue and rehabilitation, research and education.

In the 1970s, as the Bay Area expanded and wildlife conflicts increased, residents began bringing increasing numbers of injured wildlife to the Museum for care. The focus of the organization shifted to include wildlife rehabilitation, a newly-emerging field at the time, in addition to wildlife education. The name was changed to the Marin Wildlife Center, and the goal of the center's expanded animal care facilities became to release healthy wildlife back to the wild.

In 1990, the now fully equipped wildlife hospital renamed itself the California Center for Wildlife, which merged in 1996 with the Terwilliger Nature Education Center to become WildCare as we know it today.

During every step of this history, what remained consistent was the museum, courtyard, and labyrinthine behind-the-scenes rooms, aviaries, and enclosures at Albert Park Lane.

*"Easter" the Harbor Seal in an ad for the Museum; Teddy the Black Bear. ©WildCare Archives*

In the WildCare building, we've had summer camp attendees who became hospital volunteers and eventually staff members. Children who visited Vladimir, our Wildlife Ambassador Turkey Vulture, as toddlers came back as college graduates, having been inspired to become wildlife biologists or teachers by their experiences at WildCare. Volunteers and staff members staying for 20 or more years isn't unusual.

For everyone who loved the funky, old, cramped and crowded WildCare facility, saying goodbye has been bittersweet, but our hearts are lightened by the thought that the historic museum, the old Guild Hall, is being integrated into the new WildCare, so much of what is familiar will remain.

We also feel uplifted by the bright future of WildCare and the vision of this vibrant organization returning to its Albert Park Lane home.



*"A Screech Owl in the Classroom" Marin Independent Journal's Marin Magazine, January 24, 1970; Louise A. Boyd meets a fawn at the museum that graces her name. Marin Independent Journal, August 19, 1966; "Breathing Room for Teddy & Friends" Pacific Sun, September 30, 1970; Logos from the various organizations.*





# LIVING WITH WILDLIFE

2024 PHOTO CONTEST WINNERS



**BEST IN SHOW**

**American Kestrels Mating**  
PARHAM POURAHMAD



**WildCare's 17<sup>th</sup> annual Living with Wildlife Photography Contest received over 200 entries from throughout California.**

Each photo offers glimpses into the wide diversity of California wildlife and the stunning places wild animals call home.

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

The top photographs in each category are shown here and online at [discoverwildcare.org/photo](https://discoverwildcare.org/photo).



**PEOPLE'S CHOICE**

**Jaxon Admires the Bobcat**  
ROB WILEY



**BEST GENERAL NATURE**

**Oceanscape Deer**  
CINDY DAVIS



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

**Gull Reflection**  
SUSIE KELLY



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

**Whales Feeding in Monterey**  
ROBERT DEAN

# 2024 FINALISTS



**Nesting Bald Eagles**  
RICK LEWIS



**Succulent**  
SUE KLAPHOLZ



**Least Bittern**  
RICK LEWIS



**Bobcat Hunting from Atop a Pole**  
RYAN HOPPER



**Coyote in Golden Gate Park Tree**  
JACQUES FORTIER





**Gray Fox in West Marin**  
RYAN HOPPER

---



**Burrowing Owl in Oakland**  
ROXANE CHICOINE

---



**San Francisco from Mt. Tam**  
MARTHA TURE

---



**Coyote - Pups Tease Dad**  
JANET KESSLER

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**Gull Chick**  
MARK DECKER

---



**Coyote - Claiming the Putting Green**  
JANET KESSLER

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**Tule Elk in Point Reyes**  
JACQUES FORTIER

---



**Raccoon Finding a Snack**  
JANET KESSLER

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**Coyote in Golden Gate Park**  
JACQUES FORTIER

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**Monarch Butterflies**  
MARY PIEPER-WARREN



**Dahlia Close-up**  
JEFF GREENDORFER

# ESTIVATION:

## *A Winter Wake-Up*

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*As rainy season returns to the Bay Area, so begins the perfect time to spot amphibians as they take advantage of the cooler, wetter conditions and many wake up from estivation.*

Estivation is a dormant state similar to hibernation, but it occurs during the hot, dry summer months and is “lighter” than winter hibernation — estivating animals wake up more quickly and easily. When amphibians estivate, they find a damp, hidden spot to slow down all their bodily processes, allowing them to conserve energy and moisture.

Estivation is an important strategy for many species when it comes to surviving summer in the Bay Area. Amphibians’ skin is permeable, allowing them to breathe and absorb water through it, but this also puts them in danger of easily drying out. Locally, species like the Ensatina and the Western Spadefoot Toad use estivation to survive hot and dry conditions. Other species - like the California Tiger Salamander - are known to go into rodent burrows. Scientists suspect they estivate in these burrows, but no studies have provided conclusive proof of this. There is proof to suggest that the Red-Legged Frog, California’s official state amphibian, will estivate if summer conditions are too extreme. Other amphibians do not estivate at all but have different adaptations to survive, like staying closer to water or finding damp areas to hide during the day and only coming out to feed at night.

Even in winter, amphibians travel in the dark and hide in damp areas during the day to conserve water, which is why salamanders and toads are

often found hiding in leaf litter, rocks, and logs during the day. The best time to spot amphibians is after rain or in foggy conditions after dusk. If you are looking for amphibians, be mindful to protect their health and avoid handling them. Due to their permeable skin, amphibians readily absorb chemicals - like soap, sunscreen, and sanitizer - from human skin. This is also one of the reasons amphibians are especially sensitive to environmental pollution.

### HIBERNATION, TORPOR, AND BRUMATION: A WINTER REPOSE

The Bay Area’s mild winters allow most animals to stay active year-round, but in colder and more snowy areas, many have to enter a kind of dormancy to survive the winter. The most well known (and perhaps most misunderstood) type of dormancy is hibernation. When many people hear the word “hibernation” they imagine bears asleep in their dens, but bears’ winter behaviors differ from that of other hibernators. True hibernation puts the body in a near-death state: the animal’s body is close to freezing, they take very few breaths, and their heart slows dramatically. While hibernation can last months, most animals awaken mid-hibernation and eat stored food before re-entering dormancy for several more weeks.

Bears do enter a phase of dormancy in the winter, but it is not considered a true hibernation. Unlike other species, the colder temperatures are not a major threat to bears’ survival, and this period of dormancy is mostly necessary because of the lack of available food during the winter. Scientists use the word “torpor” to describe this state of decreased metabolic activity that helps animals, not just bears, conserve energy, often outside of winter. Torpor is distinct from hibernation because it can be a short or a long period of decreased activity, depending on the animals’ unique needs.







*Hummingbirds, for instance, have such fast metabolisms that they need to eat near-constantly to survive, so they enter torpor every night. If their metabolism continued at the normal rate while they rested, they could starve overnight!*

When cold-blooded animals enter winter dormancy, it's called brumation. As outside temperatures get lower, so do the body temperatures of cold-blooded animals, which means they do not need to down-regulate their metabolism as much as other creatures. To find relatively stable temperatures, they may enter another animal's burrow, dig their own, bury themselves in mud, or even hunker at the bottom of ponds. Often, reptiles are found brumating together in one hibernaculum, or den.

Dormancy is a complex adaptation in wildlife, and each species adapts to the changing conditions of winter differently. Thankfully, with the mild Bay Area weather, adapting to winter conditions for us humans just means extra layers and maybe some rain gear!

*Photos from top: Ensatina Salamander. Photo ©Ivan Parr  
Western Spadefoot Toad. Photo ©Elise Ignatius  
Anna's Hummingbird. Photo ©Christopher Whittier  
Pacific Tree Frog. Photo ©Jake Deardorff  
Flower and rain droplets. Photo ©Christopher Whittier  
Waterfall. Photo ©Richard Stern*





# WILDCARE'S NATURE VAN

[discoverwildcare.org/naturevan](https://discoverwildcare.org/naturevan)

*Let us bring the wild to you with a visit from our Nature Van full of taxidermy, skeletons, bio-facts, and more!*

Have you ever touched a skunk's fur or felt a rattlesnake's scales?

This interactive presentation provides students with the opportunity to be hands-on with animals they wouldn't otherwise be able to experience up close, leaving them with a strengthened sense of responsibility toward preserving our planet.

All of WildCare's Nature Van programs are now offered in Spanish and aligned with the Next Generation Science Standards (NGSS)! Learn more at [discoverwildcare.org/ngss](https://discoverwildcare.org/ngss)

## REQUEST YOUR DATE TODAY AT

[discoverwildcare.org/naturevan](https://discoverwildcare.org/naturevan)

**LENGTH:** 45-60 minutes

**AGES:** 3 to adult

**GROUP LIMIT:** 30 person maximum per presentation (25 person limit for Pre-K and K)

**PRICE:**

- \$240 for the 1<sup>st</sup> presentation
- \$170 for each additional presentation
- \$1 per mile travel fee (\$10 minimum)

**MAXIMUM DRIVE  
TIME:** 45 minutes

*Scholarships are available for all public schools based on FRPM stats.*







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2024

# Gala

## A STELLAR SUCCESS

WildCare's 2024 Gala was a memorable celebration of community and generosity, *raising nearly \$600,000 to support our Wildlife Hospital, advocacy work, and Terwilliger Nature Education programs.* Held at the Osher Marin JCC, the event brought together 265 supporters who share a passion for Northern California's wildlife.

The evening began with a festive cocktail reception featuring live music, WildCare's Wildlife Ambassadors, a silent auction, custom photo portraits, and a delightful wine tasting by Thirty-Seven Wines. From the start, the atmosphere was filled with laughter, meaningful connections, and a joyful celebration of WildCare's mission.

As the reception transitioned into dinner, the elegance of the evening truly stood out. The upscale dining experience was made possible by the generosity of an anonymous WildCare supporter, with a menu thoughtfully crafted to emphasize sustainability and embody WildCare's commitment to protecting both wildlife and the environment.

The evening continued with inspiring speakers, live animal presentations, and an exciting live auction, driving the night's fundraising to new heights.

Save the date for next year's Gala on September 6, 2025—we look forward to another extraordinary celebration with you!

*Photos from top, clockwise: Gala audience meeting the owl and tortoise; Veronica Geczi, Mark Cavage and Nicole Trautsch; Sylvia Singh, Ellyn Weisel and Charan Singh; Trent Michaels and Debbie Lewis; Ramona Mays and John Oppenheimer; Guests at the Gala Reception including Magda Sarkissian and Luke Masefeld.*  
Photos ©WildCare







## WildCare's Family Nature Day

in Honor of Elizabeth Terwilliger

**Saturday, April 26, 2025**  
10:00am - 2:00pm

**Richardson Bay Audubon Center  
& Sanctuary in Tiburon**

Learn about our local wildlife "Mrs. T-style!" Go on a naturalist-led hike, create a wildlife themed craft, take the scavenger hunt challenge, use spotting scopes to watch birds from the patio of the historic Lyford House, meet live non-releasable wildlife, and much more. Bring a picnic to enjoy overlooking the bay, and interact with fun and fascinating exhibits brought by our partner organizations.

Elizabeth Terwilliger, known best as "Mrs. T," was an inspiration for generations of Marin County residents. Her multi-sensory approach to teaching children about nature engendered a lifelong love of the natural world, and a desire to protect it in the hearts of people throughout the Bay Area and beyond. The children that went on hikes with Mrs. T grew up to be the environmental advocates overseeing the protection of Bay Area wildlands today.

Marin County is a better place thanks to Mrs. T, and both her legacy and her creative and compelling teaching methods live on at WildCare. This event is in her honor.

*Photos ©Hannah Menthe*

Learn more at  
[discoverwildcare.org/family-nature-day](https://discoverwildcare.org/family-nature-day)



*Simon Jeffery and his wife Prital, Desolation Island in Antarctica, 2023*

## DONOR SPOTLIGHT SIMON JEFFERY

For Simon Jeffery, wildlife has always been a source of fascination and joy. A former WildCare volunteer and a major supporter of the Elevate WildCare Capital Campaign, Simon's love for nature began with his childhood passion for birding. After moving to Marin 25 years ago, Simon quickly fell in love with the region's wildlife. "Just seeing bobcats and foxes, and mountain lions a couple of times up in the hills beyond Nicasio, really excited me about the difference between being in Marin and being in the city," he recalls.

In 2015, Simon joined WildCare after learning about the organization through a friend. He volunteered at the Wildlife Hospital for two and a half years, where he worked closely with our wildlife patients. One of his most vivid memories was caring for five incubators of orphaned baby quail. "Baby quail are so fast and so agile that they can shoot out through the tiniest little gap when you're cleaning," Simon recalls. These experiences gave Simon a deeper understanding of the effort required to protect even the smallest creatures, enhancing his respect for WildCare's commitment to animal care.

Simon was also impressed by the impact of WildCare's educational

programs on children. He recalled a young girl who would visit regularly, rain or shine, just to spend time with Vladimir, WildCare's Wildlife Ambassador Turkey Vulture. Simon was able to witness the power of WildCare's efforts to foster a love for wildlife in the next generation.

Though he stepped away from volunteering, Simon's commitment to WildCare remains strong. *When the Elevate WildCare campaign launched, he became a major supporter. "If I can help WildCare get a bit closer to the finish line, then I'd like to do that," he says.* Having experienced the old facility's challenges—extreme heat, winter flooding, outdated infrastructure—Simon knows firsthand how the new facility will greatly improve conditions for animals, staff and volunteers.

Looking ahead, Simon hopes to return as a volunteer next year, this time in the Birdroom. "It seems like things are on a great track right now. My hope and dream is that it continues in the direction it's going, and I encourage everybody to contribute to that," he says.

We are enormously grateful for Simon's generosity and dedication to WildCare's mission.



# FLY HIGH WITH TAX SMART GIVING



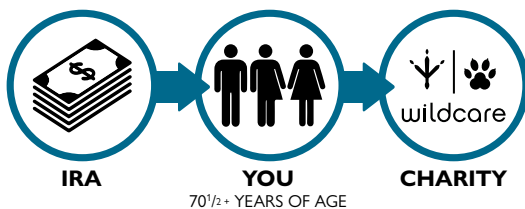
Photo © Ron Rosano

Did you know that if you are 70½ or older and have an IRA, you can make a tax-efficient gift to WildCare through a Qualified Charitable Distribution (QCD)?

By donating directly from your IRA, you can “soar” past tax burdens without the distribution being counted as taxable income. Once you turn 73, it can even satisfy your Required Minimum Distribution (RMD). It’s a chance to spread your wings, lower your tax burden, and make a meaningful difference for wildlife.

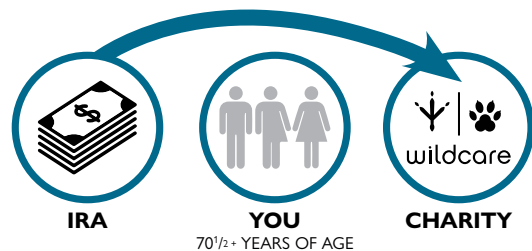
QCDs are a win-win: lower taxes for you and increased support for WildCare’s critical work in wildlife medical care, education, and advocacy. Contact your IRA administrator to get started!

## SCENARIO A: Taxable



If you withdraw funds from your IRA and then donate them to WildCare, the amount is included in your taxable income, potentially increasing your tax liability.

## SCENARIO B: Non-Taxable



If you instruct your IRA administrator to donate directly to WildCare, the donated amount is not included in your taxable income, thus reducing your tax burden.



## VOLUNTEER SPOTLIGHT JAN BRICCA

Jan Bricca has enthusiastically served as a WildCare volunteer for the past decade. She cares deeply about wildlife and has many various roles at WildCare: Wildlife Hospital Volunteer Supervisor, leading a team of hospital volunteers to care for our wild patients; Nature Guide, facilitating educational hikes for school children; Transport Driver, driving patients and releasing them back into nature; and Foster Care Volunteer, bottle-feeding infant wild animals needing constant care, including raccoons, squirrels, and bats. She has even released adult skunks as they were spraying in her car!

*During WildCare's recent relocation for our facility's rebuild, Jan's team also led efforts to organize items for the move and set up the Wildlife Hospital at our temporary site.*

Jan and her husband Tim have been married for 41 years, and they are blessed with two grown children and three grandchildren (soon to be four). Jan enjoys spending time with her family and doing agility training with her Australian Shepherd Kylie.

Of WildCare, Jan says, "I learn a lot through my volunteer work here and have the privilege of working with exemplary people. Each of the jobs I do for WildCare satisfies my interests and enriches my life."

We are truly grateful for Jan's heartfelt service to WildCare!



## JOIN THE WILDCARE VOLUNTEER TEAM!

Our Wildlife Hospital cares for approximately 3,500 wild animals a year, from more than 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](mailto: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





# VOLUNTEER AT wildcare

Nearly 200 volunteers help WildCare further its mission to offer world-class medical care to wildlife and exceptional environmental education to help people live well with wildlife. From our Emergency Line Volunteers taking after hours calls and our Raptor Reunite Team returning young hawks and owls to their nests, to our Wildlife Ambassador Volunteers who care for our educational wildlife, and our Foster Care Volunteers bottle feeding orphaned wildlife, our amazing volunteers fill countless roles essential to WildCare's daily functioning.

WildCare's Wildlife Hospital program will soon begin its 2025 volunteer recruitment of both youth and adults. Join our team of volunteers at our brand new temporary site while our state-of-the-art hospital is under construction. Learn to provide proper



nutrition and enrichment, safely handle and restrain, and release over 200 species of wild animals. Training is provided, and applicants must commit to ongoing Wildlife Hospital training. Adult and youth applications will open on December 15, 2024. All Hospital volunteer positions will take place at our temporary site located on Schmidt Lane, off North San Pedro Road in San Rafael.

## INTERESTED APPLICANTS MUST ATTEND OUR MANDATORY ORIENTATIONS IN FEBRUARY 2025.

Youth volunteers must be in high school, under age 18, and attend the mandatory in-person youth orientation in February 2025. Scan below for more details and to apply.

During this exciting time at WildCare, we anticipate a waitlist of volunteers interested in helping WildCare at our temporary site: Don't miss your chance to get your foot in the door before our brand-new facility is built! If you care deeply about our community and local wildlife and would like to help sick, injured, and orphaned animals return to the wild, please apply to be a Wildlife Hospital volunteer!



**YOUTH VOLUNTEERS  
(HIGH SCHOOL)  
WILDLIFE HOSPITAL**



**ADULT VOLUNTEERS  
(18+)  
WILDLIFE HOSPITAL**



**ADULT VOLUNTEERS  
(18+) WILDLIFE  
AMBASSADOR PROGRAM**

Visit our website at [discoverwildcare.org/hospitalvolunteer](https://discoverwildcare.org/hospitalvolunteer)  
for more details and to apply.

# 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!**



**CLINIC PATIENT**



### **BURROWING OWL #24-3016**

On October 16<sup>th</sup>, Emeryville residents spotted a small, injured owl. They contacted Bay Raptor Rescue, whose expert captured the owl and transported him to WildCare, where Medical Staff diagnosed a left-wing injury. Our team administered pain relief medications and fluids before taking X-rays.

The X-rays revealed fractures to the owl's radius and ulna. Fortunately, the breaks were clean and located in the middle of the bones, meaning the joints were unaffected. Additionally, the fractures had not broken through the skin, reducing the risk of infection. After a few days of stabilizing the bird, WildCare's Veterinarian, Dr. Sorem, successfully performed orthopedic surgery. She inserted a pin into the owl's ulna—the larger of the two bones—to ensure proper alignment and to support the healing of both bones. The wing was wrapped to restrict movement and promote optimal healing.

Burrowing Owls are a rare sight in the Bay Area. Their population has dramatically declined since the 1980s due to habitat loss.

While this owl faces a long road to recovery, WildCare is optimistic that he will be releasable later this year.



**CLINIC PATIENT**



### **STRIPED SKUNKS #24-1218 & #12-1219**

On May 27<sup>th</sup>, two orphaned Striped Skunks were rescued after being discovered under a shed next to their deceased mother. On intake at WildCare, the baby skunks were in critical condition—hypothermic, infested with parasites, and extremely ill. The medical team started by warming the fragile kits, administering subcutaneous fluids, and providing a small amount of oral dextrose to counteract their obvious malnourishment.

Their prognosis was uncertain, but a Medical Staff member took them into Foster Care. She worked around the clock to stabilize them, despite some less than enthusiastic feedback from her husband due to the smell, and both skunks slowly recovered.

Once they were stable, an experienced volunteer on WildCare's Skunk Foster Care Team took over their rehabilitation, ensuring they completed courses of antibiotics and received regular checkups. They grew into beautiful, wild, and spraying sub-adults as they learned to catch bugs and forage in a large outdoor enclosure.

After nearly four months of care, the skunks made a full recovery, and both were successfully released back into the wild on September 15<sup>th</sup>.





BIRDROOM PATIENT

## GOLDEN-CROWNED SPARROW #24-3020

After being caught by a cat, this Golden-Crowned Sparrow was brought to WildCare for treatment. Missing all his tail feathers and nearly all the secondary flight feathers on his right wing, the bird was unable to fly.

Medical Staff started the bird on pain medication as well as antibiotics, as cats' mouths harbor harmful bacteria. A laceration was found on the underside of one wing, exposing a delicate tendon. Our Veterinarian, Dr. Sorem, was able to suture the skin back over the tendon to prevent it from drying out. The sparrow will need time in care to regrow his feathers, but he is one of the few caught-by-cat patients we care for who is expected to make a full recovery



BIRDROOM PATIENT

## HERMIT THRUSH #24-3021

Window strikes are a common reason for admission for our songbird patients. This Hermit Thrush became an unlucky victim of head trauma after hitting someone's window one afternoon. After being grounded for over an hour, the bird was brought to WildCare to receive medical care.

Once in our care, Medical Staff found that the bird was able to fly, although his ability to land gracefully was questionable. While no fractures were found on radiographs, this thrush did come in with a partially-closed eye. After starting him on pain medications, a full eye exam was done and both were found to be normal. For now, cage rest and time are just what the doctor ordered.

## COMMON GARTER SNAKE #24-452

This stunning blue Common Garter Snake was admitted to WildCare's Wildlife Hospital on March 31<sup>st</sup> after being found tangled in garden netting. This type of netting poses serious risks to local wildlife, particularly snakes. WildCare Medical Staff acted swiftly, carefully cutting away the netting that had dug deeply into the snake's scales.

Upon closer examination, they noticed that the tip of the snake's tail was infected, likely from an earlier incident unrelated to the netting. Dr. Sorem decided to amputate the tip of the tail to prevent the infection from spreading. Snakes have a unique healing process, so this one needed to stay at WildCare until she shed, revealing whether the tissue under the surgical site had healed properly.



CLINIC PATIENT

When the snake finally shed, our staff got a surprise—she had given birth to 13 babies! Garter snakes are viviparous, meaning they carry their young inside their bodies for 8-12 weeks before giving birth to live offspring. The shed also revealed a healthy, healed tail tip, so the mother snake and her newborns were safely released back to their habitat, minus the garden netting!



# Thank You to Our 2024 Event Sponsors!

Their support helps us further our mission — providing medical care for wildlife, along with environmental education, and wildlife advocacy — through WildCare's much-loved events.

# Gala



## PRESENTING

Saga & Frederick Perry, III

### PEREGRINE FALCON

Maureen Groper  
Kate Edwards & Kermit Kubitz

### SWAINSON'S HAWK

Veronica Geczi  
& Mark Cavage  
  
Holly Karmanocky  
  
Northern Trust -  
Kate Van Gytenbeek  
  
Rob & Denise Kline  
  
Charan & Sylvia Singh

### RED-SHOULDERED HAWK

AppLovin  
  
Campari  
  
Bobby Carlson & Katie Hatch  
  
Lycia Carmody

Glenda & Henry Corning  
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Maureen Groper  
Julie & Alan Kaye  
Dr. Rolf A. & Mrs. Darleen M. Trautsch

### COOPER'S HAWK

Susanne & Jeffrey Lyons

### RED-SHOULDERED HAWK

Valerie Chew & id8.org  
Anna Sweeney Crockett  
& Brett Crockett  
  
Ellie Ferrari  
Alice Weigel



# ARE YOU STOKED ABOUT OAKS?

Can you name these common trees? Do you recognize these leaves? Connect the names to the leaves!

2.



3.



1.



4.



## WORD BANK

Coast Live Oak  
Black Oak  
Blue Oak  
Valley Oak

I am not too picky, but my favorite acorns come from Black & Blue Oaks!

## Challenge:

Match the acorns with their leaves!

Answers:  
1. Valley Oak, D.  
2. Coast Live Oak, C.  
3. Black Oak, A.  
4. Blue Oak, B.

A.



B.



C.



D.





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