Here I sit looking back at the last 40 years. Surely those years would not feel or look the same if in 1977 I had not decided to start Wildlife Rescue & Rehabilitation. But this is not a time to think or write about what might have been; this is a time to write about what was, and fortunately still is.

As I write I will do my best to answer some of the questions I am often asked about WRR and its history. The month was March and after a lifetime of caring about and wanting to find some way to assist wild animals, it seemed right to stop wanting and hoping and to start doing. I was 26 years old, determined and singularly focused. I doubt there are many other equally energizing elements in one’s life than finally knowing precisely what you want to do and deciding to do it and, for me, this was such a time.

After deciding on a name and having a few hundred business cards printed it was time to let the community know that WRR was now in existence and was there to help. I took on an early morning paper route, from 2:00 a.m. to 6:00 a.m.; this would provide some income and free me during the day and most of the night to conduct rescues, garner media attention and care for any animals who needed ongoing care. I lived in a small rented house so being creative, and very discreet, was critical to making my plans work. I knew I would need more space but first I had to know if my plans were well received. But I had no reason to doubt…once my cards were in the hands of police and fire departments, veterinarians, chimney sweeps, “pest” control companies, to name a few, the work began in earnest.

Understandably, many often ask me who was my first rescue. The answer to this must be given in two parts. There was the first animal who simply needed an hour of my time and there was the one who would need WRR for another 18 years.

The first call concerned a skunk who had a mayonnaise jar stuck on her head and had been bumping her way into obstacle after obstacle in a quiet neighborhood where no one was willing to approach for fear of being sprayed. Though this was not a situation I had often envisioned, it would be one that would recur in the world of WRR for the next 40 years. So off I go, hammer and one large nail in hand, to free this poor skunk. I had no trouble finding her; at one end of the street the crowds had assembled, handkerchiefs firmly placed over noses the length of the entire block. Interestingly, amidst all the
Planned Giving Today
What is your legacy? How can you ensure the animals’ future?

DIANA REYES, CFRE
CHIEF EXECUTIVE & DEVELOPMENT OFFICER

For 40 years, Wildlife Rescue & Rehabilitation (WRR) has worked to provide the best care possible to nearly 200,000 native and non-native animals. Together, we have helped WRR grow and prosper. We have relieved suffering, saved lives, educated people and have truly made a difference. This is something to celebrate and build upon.

You have continuously and unselfishly expressed your values through your generous support of Wildlife Rescue. Perhaps you have wished you could do even more? A planned gift to WRR’s Endowment Fund in your will or trust, or by beneficiary designation, can ensure the future for all the animals provided with compassionate care by Wildlife Rescue. Your planned gift will ensure that WRR is always here, always accepting native and non-native wildlife in need and always doing everything we can to return them to health and their natural habitats when possible.

Your planned gift will help build substantial resources that will be invested and preserved, creating financial stability while also supporting necessary capital improvements and new initiatives to protect and care for animals. WRR’s Endowment Fund guarantees that animals will receive the best of care through good and bad times and we invite you to be a part of this commitment to the animals we serve and protect.

How can you save lives for many years to come? There are several meaningful ways to invest in Wildlife Rescue & Rehabilitation’s future that are simple, flexible and can meet the needs of your overall financial and estate planning goals:

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Giving Types</th>
<th>Description</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Immediate gifts</td>
<td>Your gifts can provide immediate benefits to the animals. Cash goes directly into the Endowment Fund, and stocks, bonds, property, art works and other such assets are sold and the proceeds go into the fund where they will remain providing annual income for Wildlife Rescue &amp; Rehabilitation services.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>A Bequest</td>
<td>You designate WRR as the beneficiary of your assets by will, trust or beneficiary designation form.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Retirement Plan or Insurance Policy Beneficiaries</td>
<td>You name WRR as a beneficiary of your retirement plan or insurance policy.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Create a Charitable Remainder Trust</td>
<td>You contribute cash, stocks or real estate to a charitable trust and receive the immediate income tax deduction, a tax-free bypass of capital gains and income for life.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Establish a Named Fund at WRR</td>
<td>You and WRR write a letter of agreement creating an endowed fund. You receive immediate dollar-for-dollar tax deduction when funded. The fund becomes a permanent resource producing income for WRR.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Take Out a Charitable Gift Annuity</td>
<td>You can create a simple contract that offers the same benefits of a charitable remainder trust. The payments to you are fixed, guaranteed and potentially tax-free.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Give Your House and Keep It, too!</td>
<td>You can donate your home to WRR and retain the right to live there for the remainder of your life. The residence will go to WRR at the time of your death. You receive a tax deduction for the full fair market value of the home.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Arrange a Charitable Bargain Sale</td>
<td>Will you consider leaving a planned gift to Wildlife Rescue &amp; Rehabilitation? To be a part of WRR’s long term viability and to learn more about the best way for you to benefit while saving more lives, call Diana Reyes, Chief Executive &amp; Development Officer at 830.336.2725, ext. 315 or email <a href="mailto:dreyes@wildlife-rescue.org">dreyes@wildlife-rescue.org</a>.</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

Amplify Austin is Austin’s annual community-wide day of online giving. The 24-hour period provides an easy and fun way for the entire community of Greater Austin to give together while helping local nonprofits. Over the past four years, Amplify Austin has raised over $24.7M for hundreds of local organizations.

In 2016, this day of giving raised almost $5,000 for Wildlife Rescue and the animals who are in our care. This year, we have set out to double this, with a $10,000 goal for 2017. Whether you are a resident of Austin, or not, consider giving to Wildlife Rescue through the 2017 Amplify Austin “I Live Here, I Give Here” campaign.

amplifyatx.livehereigivehere.org/WildlifeRescue
uproot of the humans, the skunk had not sprayed.

She was a young female; clearly she had a litter of youngsters in the area and the temptation of the rich, creamy mayonnaise was too much to pass up. The jar was pint-sized and so was she but her head was firmly wedged and now that she had licked it quite clean, she could see where she was going but the jar prohibited her from getting up over curbs. She was stuck in more ways than one. If you ever want to quickly clear a crowd of onlookers standing around curious and concerned about a skunk, all you need do is to approach the skunk. It seemed like moments after I had cleared my way through the masses, I was now quite alone with the skunk and the mayonnaise jar.

As I would learn in the years to come, nonhuman animals are often quite calm and gracious about their circumstances, while humans are considerably less so. As I approached the diminutive mother she immediately stopped; she could see me and knew I was coming her way hammer and nail in hand. There is no way of a lingering scent of skunk. Needless to say, they learned two valuable lessons that day. I like to think their appreciation for skunks and the abilities of young women were heightened.

The second “first” rescue was tinged with considerably more sadness, though I would be grateful for the happiest possible ending. Many of you have read the account of the female bobcat kitten who was rescued by a caring family; they had seen her in a pet shop window. I had been rescuing skunks, opossums, birds and others, when this call came in I knew that it would require all I had to give and for a long, long time. The female bobcat was only a few months old. It was clear that she had been stolen from her mother, who was most likely shot and killed, and now she had been declawed without the use of surgical tools and was bleeding to death. As we have written about all these years, predators receive little to no protection in Texas and are all too often the victims of this and similar cruelties—to this very day such practices persist.

The caring folks who rescued this kitten wanted help now that they had saved her life. I brought her home and dedicated one room of the house to her. The furniture was replaced with large oak limbs, wooden boxes now served as small dens and a former coffee table became a leaf-laden feeding station. My intention was to create a representation of her den and the outdoors thereby alleviating some of her fear. It was obvious that this young cat was a survivor; she had lost her family, faced death at the hands of humans and now found herself in this odd, make-believe setting. But being a survivor she managed to take what life had thrown at her.

In only days she was eating; her small, swollen paws began to heal and as they did she began to hone her climbing skills. The first day I knew she was making real progress was when I found her perched at the very top of an oak limb; a small portion of meat clung to the bark, shredded by her tiny teeth, and she was swallowing it as I entered the room. From that day on she began to grow in size and determination. She was a wild animal and though much had been stolen from her, it was her wildness she would never relinquish.

Only a short time later I was contacted by Animal Control. An “ex-pet” bobcat had been left at their gates, a young male, and had been brought in by a concerned citizen. He arrived in a large, wooden crate, accompanied only by his favorite toy; a bright red sock. I didn’t hesitate to introduce him to the frightened female cat. Their personalities differed considerably. He wanted to play and romp about, she wanted to sit and be left alone. I firmly believe that we cannot know the minds and hearts of animals; we can but observe and interpret, often wrongly, what we see. What I saw was a young male bobcat doing everything in his power to cajole, charm and encourage the young female to respond to him and the more he approached the more she growled and ignored his advances—until one day when she didn’t. It was that day when she accepted the offering of his cherished red sock as he placed it, oh so carefully, on her oak limb, that the abused little female bobcat and the persistent young male became lifelong companions. The young female bobcat was the first rescue of an animal who would be a permanent resident at WRR.

It was not until 1981 that WRR had our initial, tiny sanctuary. It was 4 acres near Leon Springs and it was here that the two bobcats, along with many other rescued animals, were given more spacious and natural living quarters outside my house. In 1987, five years and one devastating flood later, we purchased 21 acres, 6 miles east of Boerne. It was here that the two bobcats were introduced into a ¾ acre enclosure; it was thick with hackberry, oak and juniper trees and dense underbrush and was home to several other non-releasable bobcats. It was the closest thing they had to a free and wild setting. It was in this enclosure many years later, that the female and male bobcat died, with only a few days of each other. They were 18 years old and had never ventured farther than a few feet apart, even in the midst of their outdoor home.

As you can imagine, the work of rescuing wild animals can take only a few hours...or it can take a lifetime. The lifetime of the animals and the lifetime of the people who dedicate their lives to carrying out this work. It has been my life’s work for 40 years now. It has been rewarding, gut-wrenching, heart-breaking, fulfilling and heartbreaking, all at once. I have chosen to give it. WRR is 40 years old and I am a bit older, but no matter our ages, what matters most is that lives have been saved, certainly many have been lost. But all have been given respect, kindness and a chance for something better than what they had. I’d like to hope and believe that giving each of them something better has helped, healed and shown the world that compassion makes us all better beings and that no life is too small, too smelly or too alien to be denied compassion.
WILDLIFE SERVICES EXPOSED

3.2 Million Animals Killed by Federal Wildlife-Destruction Program in 2015

Ignoring Calls for Reform, Wildlife Services Kills Half-million More Coyotes, Bears, Wolves, Foxes, Other Animals Than Previous Year

WASHINGTON—The highly secretive arm of the U.S. Department of Agriculture known as Wildlife Services killed more than 3.2 million animals during fiscal year 2015, according to new data released by the agency. The total number of wolves, coyotes, bears, mountain lions, beavers, foxes, eagles and other animals killed largely at the behest of the livestock industry and other agribusinesses represents a half-million-animal increase over the 2.7 million animals the agency killed in 2014.

Despite increasing calls for reform a century after the federal wildlife-killing program began in 1915, the latest kill report indicates that the program’s reckless slaughter continues, including 385 gray wolves, 68,905 coyotes (plus an unknown number of pups in 492 destroyed dens), 480 black bears, 284 mountain lions, 731 bobcats, 492 river otters (all but 83 killed “unintentionally”), 3,437 foxes, two bald eagles and 21,559 beavers. The program also killed 20,777 prairie dogs outright, plus an unknown number killed in more than 59,000 burrows that were destroyed or fumigated.

“Despite mounting public outcry and calls from Congress to reform these barbaric, outdated tactics, Wildlife Services continues its slaughter of America’s wildlife with no public oversight,” said Michael Robinson of the Center for Biological Diversity. “There’s simply no scientific basis for continuing to shoot, poison or fumigate to protect livestock and crops from animals the agency’s own science says are not, or can never be, a substantial threat to them. The public has long since given up on the agency’s goal. Nevertheless it proceeds to exterminate wolves, grizzly bears, black-footed ferrets and other animals from most of their remaining ranges in the years to follow. The agency was blocked in 1928 from exterminating wolves, which it then kills off their prey — like prairie dogs — in an absurd, pointless cycle of violence.”

Background - USDA’s Wildlife Services program began in 1915 when Congress appropriated $125,000 to the Bureau of Biological Survey for “destroying wolves, coyotes, and other animals injurious to agriculture and animal husbandry” on national forests and other public lands.

By the 1920s scientists and fur trappers were robustly criticizing the Biological Survey’s massive poisoning of wildlife, and in response in 1928 the agency officially renounced “extermination” as its goal. Nevertheless it proceeded to exterminate wolves, grizzly bears, black-footed ferrets and other animals from most of their remaining ranges in the years to follow. The agency was blocked from completely exterminating these species through the 1973 passage of the Endangered Species Act.

In 1997, after several name changes, the deceptive name “Wildlife Services” was inaugurated in place of “Biological Survey.”

The Center for Biological Diversity is a national, nonprofit conservation organization with more than 1 million members and online activists dedicated to the protection of endangered species and wild places.

Here Comes Baby Season!
How you can help:

REBECCA MICHELIN
DIRECTOR OF ANIMAL OPERATIONS

Every year, the cycles of native Texas wildlife entering and being released from care at Wildlife Rescue have centered around “Baby Season,” our busiest months when the majority of the injured and orphaned newborn and infant mammals and hatching and nesting songbirds arrive for rehabilitative care. This past year, 2016, was named the warmest year on record in Texas and the world as a whole. Increased temperatures earlier in the spring and lasting longer into the fall, higher spring floods, and the increase of human activity destroying wildlife habitat have caused the numbers of animals brought into care at WRR to grow by leaps and bounds. While in years past we could plan for baby opossums to start arriving in early March, we now anticipate that we will start receiving opossums in February, or even late January! Wildlife Rescue can no longer rely on having as much of a rest period between baby seasons.

Our hospital is a temporary home to animals young and old, injured and orphaned, all year long. We currently have over 150 animals in rehabilitative care, as well as three times that number of animals in sanctuary. While we previously had been able to use the winter months to deep clean the hospital, stock up on supplies, and repair and enhance enclosures, we now have to arrange those activities and preparations around caring for more animals than ever before at this time of year. We are already well underway with conducting a thorough inventory of hospital supplies; we are stocking up on laundry detergent, scrub brushes, and dish soap for all the baby blankets and food dishes that will need cleaning. Did you know that on an average day in spring, we will wash between 500 and 700 food dishes and run over 60 loads of laundry? We also need to ensure we have enough feeding bottles, syringes, nipples, and feeding tubes for every animal to receive his or her daily nutrition. That equals 5-7 feedings per day for every baby mammal, and 20-30 feedings per day for each baby bird.

Our caretakers are working hard to test every scale, hot plate, incubator, and heating pad to make sure that they are fully functioning; if not, they will have to be replaced to keep growing babies warm. If you are interested in helping Wildlife Rescue prepare for the influx of babies that will begin any day now, you can visit our Amazon Wish List; there you will find a list of items that are always needed to keep our animal patients comfortable, healthy and cared for whether they are with us for a day, a week, or a year.

Little Known Facts

About Wildlife Rescue & Rehabilitation, Inc.

1) The bobcat was not the first animal rescued in 1977 but she was the first permanent resident rescue. The first animal rescued was a skunk.
2) Founder Lynn Cuny’s plan from day one was to have a 40 acre sanctuary in the Texas Hill Country. Many folks think that WRR grew in scope and size as a matter of chance…not true, there was a dream and a plan!
3) From 1977 to 1981 the primary support base for WRR was a paper route.
4) WRR’s first 4 acre sanctuary was purchased with a check that was taped to the back of quiche recipe. The donor was very humble and didn’t want to make a fuss, but she was responsible for enabling us to secure our first bit of land.
Wildlife Rescue Donation Form

PLEASE SEND MORE INFORMATION
I would like to learn more about:

☐ WRR’s Planned Giving and Endowment Fund
☐ Volunteer Opportunities
☐ Co-existing with Wildlife

ONE-TIME GIFT DONATION

☐ $35  ☐ $50  ☐ $100  ☐ $250
☐ $500  ☐ $1,000  ☐ $________

WRR SUSTAINERS (minimum of $10/month)

☐ I want to be a WRR Sustainer and make a monthly gift of: $______________

Your card will be charged this amount on approximately the 5th of each month.

You may use the enclosed envelope by itself if only making a donation; if requesting more information, please fill in, clip and send this card.

Name ___________________________________________
Address _________________________________________
City ___________________________ State _______ Zip _________
Phone_____________________________________________
Email_____________________________________________

Payment Enclosed: ☐ Check ☐ Cash ☐ Charge (Check card type below)

☐ Visa ☐ Mastercard ☐ American Express
Card # ___________________________________________
Expiration Date ___________________________ *CW Code ____________

Signature _________________________________________

*3-4 digit security number on the back of the credit card (4 digit code on front for AMEX)