Dear Members,

Animal bonds exist in a world all their own. We humans cannot fully understand them but, if we are wise, we observe, learn, respect, and appreciate these unique relationships. Over the many years of WRR I have watched what some would consider odd unions between diverse species. The domestic cat who adopted the wild ring-tail cat, the dog who babysat the young monkey, the chicken who hatched, cared for, and raised a clutch of ducklings, and on and on. Human animals tend to be more demanding when it comes to their choice of companions, but the non-humans of this world clearly look beyond appearance and into the heart and soul of their chosen friends.

It was a cold, grey, blustery day when he arrived at our gates. His name was Manfred; his rescuer, a young woman, had named him after her grandfather. She had seen him tethered to a rotting wooden fence in a “petting zoo” and told me, “I just could not leave him there.” She offered the disreputable owner twenty-five dollars and Manfred walked out to a brighter future.

Being a Barbados ram, Manfred was a hardy fellow but he had been through a rough time and every unpleasant event in his life showed on his black and brown mottled fur. One of his horns had been partially ripped off giving his head an odd, crooked appearance; he walked with a bit of a limp and his neck was raw and void of all fur where the old rope had irritated his skin.

There was no way of knowing how long he had been tied up; his fur was matted and he needed a few good meals to bring him back to a healthy weight. This was not a difficult part of his rehabilitation as he had an enthusiastic attitude when it came to eating. The large pastures at WRR were his new home, but since the ram had not kept company with others of his own kind he was hesitant to approach the cows, goats and other sheep in the pasture. This introduction would have to proceed slowly. And it was just as well for there was another new arrival soon to come our way.

She was one of twins born just outside the small town where I lived at the time. She and her sister came into this world on a wintry February day. Since I lived nearby I always watched these sheep and the day I heard the bleating lamb I went to take a closer look. It was obvious that every time she would try to nurse, her sister would nudge her out of the way. She was just too tiny to fight for her food, her very survival.
A Note From the Chief Executive & Development Officer
DIANA REYES, CFRE
CHIEF EXECUTIVE & DEVELOPMENT OFFICER

Thank you for making 2017, our 40th anniversary, a remarkable year for Wildlife Rescue! I joined Wildlife Rescue sixteen months ago and it has been quite the experience since day one. From the beginning, I have worked to learn as much as possible about the organization, people that work here and the animals in our care. What I have learned is that I am blessed beyond measure to come to work every day at WRR, that our Founder/President Lynn Cuny sees the world in a way that I can only hope to catch a glimpse of every now and then, that we have the hardest working staff, dedicated volunteers, and passionate donors, and that animals at WRR are treated with dignity and respect and are given every chance possible to live their lives as intended.

In the last year, we opened a new location in San Antonio and thanks to several meaningful bequests and donors like you we have been able to invest over $1 million in animal enclosures and living environments. We have made many changes in processes, procedures and protocols to improve the efficiency of how WRR operates and cares for animals. From new payroll and accounting systems to updated animal protocols and increased training, WRR is dedicated to being good stewards of donor dollars and is committed to continuously strengthening our programs and services. Our ongoing goal is to keep administrative costs as low as possible so that the majority of our resources directly support our important mission. In 2017 alone we received over 9,000 native and non-native animals, provided sanctuary for over 600 and received over 11,300 calls for assistance. Our committed volunteers and apprentices provided close to 15,000 hours of service and our donor database increased by 3%. We are now enhancing our outreach and educational programs and are committed more than ever to being a strong advocate and voice for animals in need. 2017 was a memorable year, and with donors like you by our side we are looking forward to 2018. Thank you for being a part of Wildlife Rescue and for saving lives. We could not do it without you!

March 15, 2018
6PM - 10PM
Witte Museum
3801 Broadway

Each $250 patron ticket includes:
• admission for two
• vegetarian fare • drinks • live music
• silent and live auction
• one entry to win a 2018 Audi A3

Event-only tickets available for $50
Buy tickets at Wildlife-Rescue.org or 830-336-2725 ext. 307

If you were among those who tried to reach us by email during the week of January 22nd, we want to apologize for being unreachable. Our email was hacked and as a result experienced severe technical problems.

I only say what you already know when I lament that the technology which is ordinarily such a benefit in our communications and in our ability to do the work that we do is also, when it becomes unavailable for whatever reason, an Achilles heel. Figuratively speaking, our staff’s world went quiet for that week except that phones still worked and staff was still ready whenever someone needing help with an animal showed up in person.

This episode has distressed us all, mainly in knowing how confused people must have been at what seemed our unresponsiveness, for we put great emphasis on and take pride in responding promptly to the needs of both animals and people. We hope that this incident didn’t prevent any of you or the general public eventually getting what you needed from Wildlife Rescue & Rehabilitation.

WIN A 2018 Audi A3
Need not be present to win
I thought it best to alert the farmer so he could care for the struggling baby. Little did I know that his approach to situations like this was to do nothing. He told me point blank that she would die and “that was just the way it was.” I stormed out into the field, furious, picked up the lamb and took her home.

Wrapped in a large, pink blanket the little one enjoyed her first full meal. The warmed formula was a welcomed relief to her cold and trembling damp body. As her tummy filled her blue eyes brightened, her hooves, purple from the chill, regained a healthy color, and in what seemed like one graceful movement, she shook, fluffed out her woolly coat, curled into a tight ball and fell into a deep sleep.

Being still so young it was in her best interest to have other sheep as her family; bonding with me would not serve her well when it came time to introduce her to the WRR herd. Fortunately, spring was chasing winter out of the Hill Country early that year. Though the nights held tight to their cooler temperatures, the days welcomed the comforting sun as it reinvigorated the world-weary ram, could be found at her gate. He would wander into the far side of the pasture munching on the moist grass but he always made his way back to the little lamb. Manfred was nothing if not persistent and as the days passed Mia realized she had found a friend and protector; Manfred could not have been more pleased for he too had found a friend.

Now it was time to let the two sheep come together. As we opened the shelter gate, Manfred stood aside and waited for Mia to emerge. She did not budge so he continued to wait and wait until finally, hours later, she had summoned all her courage and her tiny, white hooves brought her out into the welcoming grass and Manfred’s patient presence. What he thought was a gentle nudge, with his cold, black and scarred nose, was enough to topple Mia. You could see his distress as he tried to nudge her upright but all was well as the young lamb took to standing once more. The noble ram baaed in his deep, bass voice, calling the youngster to follow him out into his world. It was there that something we humans would call magical happened, but that for the animals was simply being who they are.

Manfred ushered Mia into the main pasture and guided her to the gate. He took her there because on the other side of that opened gate was another pasture where the cows, goats and other resident sheep were contentedly grazing. In a moment of immediate recognition and acceptance the herd of many beings looked up, saw Mia and Manfred and in that moment they formed a loosely structured line and began their procession towards the waiting twosome.

Mia baaed, her baby voice barely audible from where I stood, but the others heard her and were drawn to her side. As each magnificent, stately cow, each spirited goat and every noble and gentle sheep passed in front of Mia there was a nod, a look, a sign that said, you are home, you are safe with us. I stood speechless and watched as Mia joined the last sheep through the gate and then looked back and called Manfred to join them. From that day on the elder ram and young lamb were part of the herd. They grazed in the midst of their fellows, they slept under the stars and shared the shade provided by the large oak trees, and always they were together.

It would be years before we lost Manfred. He came to us old and broken and though we mended his wounds, it was little Mia who restored his very life. She stayed with that old fellow and was there the day he died; out in that same pasture where he had rescued her, she now had to say her farewell to him. Manfred died with grace and dignity; these he had never lost, these were never taken from him, these he left as his gift to Mia, the grace and dignity that dwells in every animal had served him well and would remain in her for the rest of her life.
When you stop to think about it (or Google it, which is often the modern substitute), it is astonishing how many similes, idioms, and common expressions involve animals. We should hold our horses and let sleeping dogs lie. I am sometimes like a fish out of water and at other times have ants in my pants. I wouldn’t hurt a fly even when mad as a hornet. There is an elephant in the room while the people present are distracted by a one-trick pony. And so on. We can also think about how many sports teams are named after animals, but that’s a subject for another time.

Although many of these expressions are neutral in their depiction of animals, they are hardly ever positive and often negative. Dog eat dog is not flattering to our best friends and killing two birds with one stone does not speak respectfully about the value of a bird’s life (of whom we receive several thousand every year at Wildlife Rescue who aren’t killed but need care). With empathy we may find that being stubborn as a mule is, from his perspective, merely methodical.

What does all this mean? And what might the value of a bird’s life (of whom we receive several thousand every year at Wildlife Rescue who aren’t killed but need care). With empathy we may find that being stubborn as a mule is, from his perspective, merely methodical.

Language is powerful and we should be more respectful and careful in how we use it when referring to animals, even in what seem like harmless expressions. Becoming more conscious of which ones we choose and avoiding those that are negative (such as pig-headed and weaseling out of something) might, in a small way, help set a better verbal tone in our communications, and simply becoming more aware of what we are doing or saying has its own rewards.

Craig Brestrup, Ph.D.

**LETTING THE CAT out of the bag**

Kelly McCoy
**DIRECTOR OF ANIMAL OPERATIONS**

Over the last several years, Wildlife Rescue and Rehabilitation has seen a steady increase in the number of animals brought to our rehabilitation hospital. In 2016, we took in just over 8,000 animals, a 12% increase from 2015. In 2017, we took in an even greater number of animals, totaling over 9,200 animals received. We must prepare for yet another increase this year. With less and less predictable weather patterns, wild animals change their behavior. As this occurs, more of them are vulnerable to encounters with humans, and this translates into more illness and injuries for the native wildlife.

With these changes in mind, WRR staff has been busy updating protocols and stockpiling up supplies to ensure the best possible care is given to each animal. “Baby Season,” the time of year when WRR takes in the majority of injured or orphaned native wildlife for rehabilitation, is quickly approaching. Historically, babies start arriving in late March, however we now have to prepare for them as early as late January.

During baby season caretakers are washing as many as 700 dishes, running over 60 loads of laundry and preparing diets for close to 900 animals every day. Baby mammals are fed 5-7 times a day and each baby bird as many as 30 times. Our hospital makes use of hundreds of bottles, syringes, nipples and feeding tubes each year in order to properly feed all of the animals in our care. We are constantly restocking laundry detergent, dish soap, and feeding implements. WRR makes use of every item in our inventory. Many things like fleece blankets and plush animals are important to keep all of the babies warm and cozy in place of their mother and siblings. Pillow cases make excellent bedding for birds, providing a nice flat surface where their tiny, thin nails do not get caught.

Incubators, hot plates, crates and enclosures are thoroughly inspected each winter in preparation for spring and the influx of animals it brings with it. Because this work can be tedious and detail focused the more people carrying it out, the better. To meet this goal we are working harder than ever to expand our apprentice program. Apprentices work day and night alongside our animal care staff feeding, doing laundry, preparing diets, and cleaning cages. Each year, Wildlife Rescue trains three apprentice classes, each class having three or more new apprentices, to work in our rehabilitation hospital and sanctuary. We have spring, summer and fall classes open to recent graduates who are interested in learning more about wildlife rehabilitation. If you are interested in the apprentice program or would like to donate items please visit our website at wildlife-rescue.org or call our main line, 830-336-2725 for more information.

**I LIVE HERE, I GIVE HERE’S AMPLIFY AUSTIN IS MARCH 1-2, 2018**

**GIVE AT:** amplifytx.ilivehereigivehere.org/WildlifeRescue

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.

Last year, WRR raised $7,000. We hope you’ll help us reach $10,000 in 2018.
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: $ __________________

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

- [ ] 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)

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