Dear Members,

The first time I met Stella—well, to be honest, she was not yet called that—she was accompanied by her five sisters. Since there were six girls I could not resist naming them after my father’s six sisters. I often reminisce about those strong-willed ladies as they were a memorable part of my childhood, and now here before me were six more sisters each with their distinguishing personalities, quirks and appearances, just like my aunts. It is important to note an essential difference between the two is that the more recent sisters are chickens. Lovely buff Orpington girls, all in need of rescue and someone to appreciate their beauty. So I welcomed home Frances, Lena, Viola, Marguerite, Kitty, and Stella.

The girls took little time in settling in and making their new digs comfy. Large bowls of fresh, mixed vegetables along with grains and seeds were a new treat after years of deprivation. Being able to roam freely proved to be great fun and quite stimulating. As I learned the traits of each bright yellow hen they seemed to assume the personalities of their namesakes. Sweet and agreeable, fussy and particular, difficult to get along with and often eccentric. Stella, though sweet and agreeable, was also a tad eccentric. She was one of those rare chickens who enjoys a good foot soaking in the water bowl, always faced with the curiosity of her sisters. But Stella knew what she liked and be it water or mud, peanuts or...
What it Means to be a Member of the Founder’s Circle

Forty-one years ago (1977), Lynn Cuny founded Wildlife Rescue & Rehabilitation in her San Antonio backyard. Initially supported by her early morning paper route, the organization had a long way to go before it would reach her goal of an expansive sanctuary in the Hill Country that could provide secluded and high-quality care to the many animals who needed it. Perhaps if she had known what it would take to make WRR what it is today, she would have hesitated in taking on such a daunting task. But Lynn was nothing if not determined and it was that unflinching attitude that has brought Wildlife Rescue to where it is today.

Over the years, Wildlife Rescue grew both in the number of supporters and the number of animals who came through our doors. At first hundreds, then thousands, and now (2018) close to ten thousand ill, injured, or orphaned animals are brought to Wildlife Rescue each year for a second chance at life. And as WRR rose to the demands of the increasing need, faithful supporters like you provided the resources necessary to purchase animal food and medications, expand services, build and renovate animal living environments, and do whatever was necessary to give every animal the best care.

Now in our 41st year of saving lives together, some of Wildlife Rescue’s most committed supporters are ready to elevate their level of assistance to ensure that the work being done on behalf of Nature and wildlife continues. For this reason we established the Founder’s Circle.

Members of the Circle commit to a minimum contribution of $3,000 annually and/or include Wildlife Rescue in their estate planning, usually through their will. You may be assured that these dollars are critical to WRR’s long-term financial stability, particularly during difficult economic times.

Founder’s Circle members will be proud to help fund an organization with a staff that does exemplary work for which they and Wildlife Rescue have come to be known and respected nationwide and that will continue to be the primary Central Texas provider of rehabilitative care and sanctuary for wild animals in this state and far beyond.

For more information or to join the Founder’s Circle, call Diana Reyes at (830) 336-2725 ext. 315 or visit Wildlife-Rescue.org/Support.

DIANA REYES, CFRE
CHIEF EXECUTIVE & DEVELOPMENT OFFICER

Founder’s Circle Member Benefits

Founder’s Circle members will enjoy:
• Recognition as a member of the Founder’s Circle on a permanent display at the WRR Sherman Animal Care Complex in San Antonio
• Your name listed on Wildlife-Rescue.org and WRR’s Annual Report
• Acknowledgment at all Wildlife Rescue & Rehabilitation special events
• Invitation to annual Founder’s Circle event & Exclusive Tour of the Lynn Marie Cuny Animal Sanctuary in Kendalia, Texas
• Founder’s Circle Quarterly Update with behind-the-scenes information

Founder’s Circle

Join At
Wildlife-Rescue.org

ARTISTIC ANIMALS
FRIDAY, NOVEMBER 30
WRR Sherman Animal Care Complex
San Antonio
6PM

Animal Playtime Creates Art

Artistic Animals is Wildlife Rescue’s annual event in which you can enjoy the artistic results of animals having playtime or enrichment activities at Wildlife Rescue.

The idea came about 12 years ago when we noticed that wild animals, particularly primates, were drawn to enrichment items that were brighter in color. It was then that we decided to provide the animals with items that let them decide what they would create.

When provided with a blank canvas and blobs of non-toxic paint, some animals reject it and others engage in a playtime activity creating colorful art.

One of the animals who seems to enjoy this activity is a capuchin who arrived at WRR in December of 2006 after having spent much of his life performing tricks in order to collect money from passersby in California. He now lives in WRR’s Capuchin Retirement Community and was the creator of the larger painted canvas you see on the left.

Enjoy wine & refreshments • Purchase “artwork” created by animals at wildlife rescue • Shop for holiday gifts
Find out more at wildlife-rescue.org or (830) 336-2725
Mother and chick had only days together before Marigold died that sad morning. Stella did all she could to raise her tiny, cold body; she clucked and called to her, she gently pecked at the soft downy body that no longer held any life. Nothing would bring back Marigold and nothing I or her sisters could do would console Stella. She spent each night in the nest box looking and calling for her baby. Each day she would rise with the sun and return to all the places she had taken her chick. The dense bushes, the soft, deep grass, she walked and clucked and called and cheeped in that plaintive voice that only a lost chick would respond to. But little Marigold was gone. Though many hens grieve and then go on with their lives in a matter of days, this was not true of Stella.

Each passing day she grew more frantic in her search for Marigold; her calls were heard from morning till dusk and it was easy to see that all the other chickens knew how upset she was. There was only one solution to her problem; if there were any orphaned chicks in need of a mother, they had to be found. Because chickens are all too often seen as either a food item or someone to simply sit and produce eggs, there are many who are exploited for these uses. Chicks are often discarded in this cruel process. Several phone calls and three days later I learned of two orphans who would love nothing more than to have a mother as theirs had been taken from them only days after they hatched.

The weather was cool and cloudy the day I brought them home. Still small enough to need the warmth found under a mother’s wings, these fluffy youngsters were frightened and vulnerable. As soon as chicks hatch they are met with the comforting clucks only a mother can provide. They hide under her soft, feathered breast and climb about under her wings where they peer out at an unknown world. Not having had a mother during those formative days they turned to each other for comfort and safety. Now they would have to meet and learn to communicate with a total stranger. Contrary to what most believe about chickens, like all other animals they form deep emotional ties; babies must learn from parents as instinct is only a small part of their knowledge, and they mourn the loss of loved ones.

Stella and her new family were perfect examples of each other, offering their assistance. Chickens are gregarious birds and when one member of their flock is having a traumatic experience, they all rally and offer their support. As Marquette, Viola, Kitty, Lena and Frances congregated on the outside of the yard, each anxious to get involved, Cecily and Cecilia became more alarmed. Who were all these females and what were they going to do? Maybe, just maybe they were better off with merely one pushy hen and not her five assertive sisters. If the six sister hens were anything like their namesakes, they had planned this all along. Stella knew what role she had to play and stood patiently waiting in a quiet corner of the yard as the two fluffy, yellow chicks pondered their options and made their choice. She was looking better and better in their young eyes and they were on the brink of deciding when Stella fluffed out her butter yellow feathers, scratched in the grass and spoke, as only a mother can, encouraging them to come to her. As Cecily and Cecilia stood beside Stella they knew they had made the right choice. By nightfall the chicks had vanished as they nestled warm, safe and no longer orphaned beneath Stella’s welcoming wings.

As soon as chicks hatch they are met with the comforting clucks only a mother can provide.

They hide under her soft, feathered breast and climb about under her wings where they peer out at an unknown world.

 CONTINUED FROM FRONT PAGE

PHOTO CREDIT: LYNN CUNY, WRR FOUNDER/PRESIDENT

I have known many hens and they are fiercely loving, caring mothers. Stella knew something was amiss with her baby but this only heightened her devotion to tiny Marigold. Mother and chick had only days together before Marigold died that sad morning. Stella did all she could to raise her tiny, cold body; she clucked and called to her, she gently pecked at the soft downy body that no longer held any life. Nothing would bring back Marigold and nothing I or her sisters could do would console Stella. She spent each night in the nest box looking and calling for her baby. Each day she would rise with the sun and return to all the places she had taken her chick. The dense bushes, the soft, deep grass, she walked and clucked and called and cheeped in that plaintive voice that only a lost chick would respond to. But little Marigold was gone. Though many hens grieve and then go on with their lives in a matter of days, this was not true of Stella.

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The weather was cool and cloudy the day I brought them home. Still small enough to need the warmth found under a mother’s wings, these fluffy youngsters were frightened and vulnerable. As soon as chicks hatch they are met with the comforting clucks only a mother can provide. They hide under her soft, feathered breast and climb about under her wings where they peer out at an unknown world. Not having had a mother during those formative days they turned to each other for comfort and safety. Now they would have to meet and learn to communicate with a total stranger. Contrary to what most believe about chickens, like all other animals they form deep emotional ties; babies must learn from parents as instinct is only a small part of their knowledge, and they mourn the loss of loved ones.

From this day on the two orphaned chicks would be part of a large and caring family of overbearing aunts and the most devoted mother they could have ever hoped for.
EXPANDED CLINIC ON BASSE ROAD COMPLETES ONE YEAR OF SERVICE

On September 29, 2017 the newly remodeled WRR Roger & Phyllis Sherman Animal Care Complex (SACC) opened its doors at 1354 Basse Road.

By May of 2018, Wildlife Rescue had seen close to 5,000 animals and 80% of them had arrived and been assessed at the SACC. With the new building and an increase in space conducive to improving animal care capacities – an additional 7,000 sq. ft. – staff was able to provide care and increase intake numbers at a steady pace. In Kendalia, Dr. Payne and veterinary staff were able to focus more on specialized care for critically ill animals while staff at the SACC made use of the expanded aviary to nurse and rehabilitate many more small mammals and birds than ever before.

Another goal in acquiring the larger building and moving the Sherman Animal Care Complex was to provide an Education Center that would help expand wildlife and conservation education services for children and adults, enhance WRR’s volunteer training program, and serve as a space for other animal advocacy organizations to gather.

Now, more than 400 children, adolescents and adults have attended a wildlife education workshop or training and hundreds more have come through our doors with an animal in need.

As we near the end of one full year in operation at the new location, we are grateful for the countless hours volunteers have spent caring for the animals who find respite and care at WRR’s SACC, and the staff’s ongoing efforts to provide the best care to every animal.

Wildlife Rescue apprentices and animal caretakers along with veterinary staff and a dedicated volunteer base are busy all year caring for close to 10,000 animals who come through our doors needing help. But beginning in April and continuing through the summer and fall fawns are brought to WRR on a steady basis and sometimes in large numbers.

As we begin the 8th month of the year, WRR has already taken in a total of 332 fawns (313 white-tailed and 19 axis deer). That number nearly surpasses the number of fawns we received in all of 2017 making it a record year for fawns rescued.

The cause for the increase is partly urban sprawl and partly misinformation about feeding and/or trying to “save” a fawn who seems abandoned only to take him away from his mother, who will likely soon return, and habituate him to humans, thus jeopardizing his future as a wild animal. But no matter the reason why and how they make it here, Wildlife Rescue provides each of these wild animals with the nutrition and rehabilitative care they need until they are strong and old enough to run free in the wild.

How to determine if a fawn is orphaned or ill:

> Pacing, calling out or appears distressed: A fawn who is still being cared for by his mother will usually be calm and lying down. If the fawn is spooked he may get up and move but will lie back down a short distance away.

> Lying on his/her side: Deer are ruminants and so when healthy will lie in the sternal position. You will not find a healthy deer or fawn lying on his/her side.

> Covered in ants: If the fawn is lying on the ground and covered in ants, he is likely in trouble. A healthy fawn will move if ants begin to attack. Call the WRR Emergency Hotline: (830) 336-2725 for assistance.

Designate a contribution towards fawns in our care. Your gift would buy:

> Fawn pellets: As infant fawns begin to self-feed and ween from formula, the need for pellets increases. That need heightens in the months of Aug-Oct.

> Formula: During our peak fawn season, WRR will go through an entire bucket of specialized formula daily to feed fawns ($128.20/bucket).

> Bottles, special nipples, large crates, feeding tubes and hay and alfalfa for bedding.

FAWN FACTS

to help keep them safe

> A doe will leave her fawns for up to 14 hours at a time. She will hide the fawn in places she deems safe which may be under a car, or a more natural area such as tall grass, etc.

> Fawns do not emit the same odor as adult deer so they are safe from predators when the mother is not around.

> After an early-morning feeding the mother deer will leave for the day to find her own food, returning at dusk to feed and spend the night with her fawn.

> If you see a fawn on the side of the road or in another dangerous place move the fawn to a safe location nearby.

Join us for a 1 year anniversary update and tours of the SACC Thursday, Sep 27, 2018 from 5 - 7PM.
With the coming of Spring and into the month of April, WRR begins to see great white egrets, little blue herons, yellow-crowned night herons, and other migratory birds in need. This year was no different in the expectation that we’d need to help babies who would eventually fall out of their nests during April showers and storms and others who would tumble into the river in an attempt to fly. What we didn’t expect was to see an increase in adult birds received and a total of 268 egrets by early July.

With the birds who were rescued came news that a grapeseed extract was being sprayed by the City to “deter” the birds because droppings had “become a health concern.” Wildlife Rescue contacted US Fish & Wildlife and attempted to obtain a thorough examination of the bodies by their officers. After many attempts fell through and the bodies we’d sadly preserved for testing were never picked up, WRR formally contacted the City and launched efforts to raise public awareness of the attempts to disrupt the lives of these egrets and other federally protected birds doing their best to live in peace at Brackenridge Park.

WRR was successful in installing temporary signage at the park after a story aired on KSAT-12 helping educate the public that migratory birds are federally protected and any injured or orphaned birds should be brought to Wildlife Rescue for help. Efforts to work with the city to protect the birds continue and developments will be shared on WRR’s Facebook Page: http://www.Facebook.com/wrrtx.

For those with a deep affection for wildlife and a healthy natural world for them (and us!) to survive and thrive in, it is difficult to maintain a positive attitude these days. No matter one’s political leanings, when we witness the oncoming devastation brought by climate change, the loss of land protected in Bear Ears National Monument, the “revision” of the Endangered Species Act and Migratory Bird Treaty Act, the Environmental Protection Agency’s rejection of environmental protection, oil and gas drilling proposed in once protected and still fragile habitats, relaxing of clean air and water protections, and defunding and de-emphasis of scientific research on environmental issues, you and I know that in all these areas and more things have gone backward and that the wild animals we cherish will pay much of the price.

And now, along with all these deliberate violations of a respectful human relationship with Nature and wildlife, we face the prospect of indirectly imposing harm on some of the most endangered species by building a high wall across the border between Mexico and the U.S. This wall would create an enormous impediment to wildlife who have moved through those borderlands for eons, threatening biodiversity in the process. And adding insult to injury, in the frenzied desire to build this wall the federal government proposes to suspend dozens of environmental rules that might slow them down. In response, over 2,500 scientists from around the world have signed on to a paper warning about the damage threatened by this wrong-headed project. It is hard for us to imagine the 1,900 mile barricading of this diverse landscape and the profound changes it will bring to those who have long traveled its pathways: pronghorn and wolf, jaguar and ocelot, bighorn sheep and many other species, dozens of whom are in jeopardy of extinction.

Picturing all this reminded me of a story I wrote some years ago after encountering a black bear as I hiked in Big Bend National Park on the Mexican border: “At the beginning of the twentieth century black bears were common there. But by about 1940 they had been hunted and trapped into extinction. And so it remained for forty years. But then a less predictable chapter began, one that astonishes and intrigues. Park literature describes it nicely: “Sometime during the 1980s, a female black bear from the Sierra del Carmen in Mexico started a journey. She descended from the mountain, crossed miles of desert, swam across the Rio Grande, and traversed more desert to reach the wooded slopes of the Chisos Mountains in Big Bend National Park.”

Why did she do that? How did she know where to go? Was it like that other mysterious Mexican traveler, the Monarch?
Thank You to Wildlife Sustainers

**Monthly Gifts Sustain Our Life-Saving Mission**

*Every effort has been made to include every Sustainer. If your name is not listed, we apologize and will correct this on our database immediately. Please call us at 830-336-2725 ext. 308.*

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- Monica Cookrell
- Vicki J. Colbert
- Cathleen Connor
- Susan Cooper
- Monica Dahlsuen
- Gordon Dale
- Deborah Dias
- Peggy Dayton
- Marjana De La Rosa
- Rosalinda DelCielito

- George Edwards
- Norma L. Egging
- Betty J. Ferguson
- Edith F. Fisher
- Brenda Frankart
- Peggy A. Fancher
- Mary Beth Gaston
- Gary L. Gaultze
- Terry Gear
- Samantha Gerwiss
- Sharon Goodman
- Clifford Griffton
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- Kathleen Green

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- Carolyn Sue Galledge
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- William Heffner
- Lori Hill
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- Charles Kimpton, Jr.
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- Kelli Jackson
- Karen Johnson
- Kristin Jones
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- Alice Jooste
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- Peggy Kelly
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- Lierzeth Kinney
- James Rolleston

- Calvin Kengel
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- Terry Lee
- Katie Lewis
- Laura Leyendecker
- Luci Leykum
- Martha Lajeunesse
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- Patricia Lopez
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- Victor Ma
- Manie McCann
- Mike Morse
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- Chante McLean

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- Suzanne Wilkerson
- Judith Wilkes
- Valin Woodard
- WRG
- Suzanne Yamamoto
- Cynthia Yost
- Tina Zeller
Volunteer Training Calendar
WRR Sherman Animal Care Complex Education Center
1354 Basse Rd, San Antonio, TX 78212

SEPTEMBER
6th: Information Session; 6PM-7:30PM
8th: Information Session: 10AM - 11:30AM
13th: Intro Orientation; 6PM-7PM
15th: Intro Orientation Kendalia; 10AM-11:30AM

OCTOBER
4th: Information Session; 6PM-7:30PM
6th: Information Session; 6PM-7:30PM
11th: Intro Orientation; 6PM-7PM
13th: Intro Orientation Kendalia; 10AM-11:30AM

REGISTER NOW:
Wildlife-Rescue.org/services/wildlife-education
(830) 336-2725