Dear Members,

We recently rescued a severely injured mother raccoon with two babies. As I saw what she was going through, I was reminded of another mother raccoon we took in many years ago. Their stories are important because humans so often choose to believe that wild animals operate on something we call instinct and, beyond that, there is little that motivates them. The fact is that all animals possess deep-seated emotions and complex intellects and are caring beings.

The call came in late one rainy night. A young woman had just hit a raccoon who was crossing a city street with her four dependent youngsters in tow. The mom had held back, waiting for the smallest baby to safely get out of the road, and as a result she was hit. The young woman did her best to try to help the injured animal but the raccoon was terrified and in pain and wanted only to pull herself off the road and disappear into the night. To her credit the driver did not simply abandon the animal but took the time to find a pay phone and called WRR.

She agreed to wait for me and, since it seemed worth a try, I met her at the site of the accident and we searched for three hours hoping to find the family.

Our efforts were in vain so the following day I posted flyers throughout the neighborhood asking anyone who saw an injured raccoon or her babies to please call WRR. Time was of the essence if we were to save the mother and her young. We waited for any calls telling us the raccoon had been seen but none came and when several days passed it seemed we had lost the opportunity to help this family.

But finally, over a week later, Wildlife Rescue received a call from an elderly gentleman who had for years been leaving leftovers in his yard for the wildlife. He was accustomed to seeing foxes and skunks, raccoons and opossums meander through, enjoy a small treat, and move on. He could not help but notice that one of the raccoons was behaving oddly. He watched her struggle to crawl through his yard and put various bits of food
As we take the time during the holiday season to reflect on 2018, we have so many things to be thankful for this past year. With your help, Wildlife Rescue & Rehabilitation has cared for approximately 10,000 native and nonnative wild animals and continued to provide sanctuary to another 600. Thank you for saving their lives and dignity.

This year we built several new animal enclosures and made improvements to others to provide even better and more spacious living environments for the animals in rehabilitation and in sanctuary. In our efforts to educate and advocate for wild animals we kicked off our Young Friends of Wildlife Rescue Club and held 12 educational workshops, over 60 volunteer orientations, and led over 25 off-site educational presentations at various schools and organizations.

Wildlife Rescue is committed to providing the best care possible to every animal who enters our doors. Thanks to you, no animal in need of rehabilitation is ever turned away. Your generous spirit and ongoing commitment inspire us all. You make what we do possible and we are so grateful.

As the end of 2018 approaches, I hope you will consider making a year-end tax-deductible contribution to help us get started on next year’s work.

Diana Reyes, CFRE
Chief Executive & Development Officer

OUR MISSION
To rescue, rehabilitate, and release native wildlife, and to provide sanctuary, individualized care, and a voice for other animals in need.

Preparing for Winter

As leaves begin to turn from shades of green to bright reds and yellows, human and non-human animals alike begin to stir in preparation for winter.

Flower beds once colored with vibrant hues now lie dormant as falling temperatures put a chill in the air and the all-familiar rustling of falling leaves is heard every time the wind blows. It can feel quite natural at this time of year to trim those bare stems and do away with those seemingly dead flowers, but leaving them just as they are can provide warmth, respite and life-saving food to wildlife.

Caterpillars, for example will attach themselves to a sturdy stem while they await their transformation, blending with the natural colors of twigs and waiting there for warmer weather until finally emerging as fully developed butterflies. Native bees also find homes in the hollow stems of withered plants and birds benefit greatly from the energy-packed seeds that are produced in dying flowers.

By leaving plants in your garden undisturbed this winter you are allowing Nature to run her course and helping protect and support some of our less recognized Texas residents through the colder months. As you get the urge to “clean up” your yard, think about building a brush pile with the trimmings. Brush piles provide places for butterflies and others to overwinter and are important habitats for birds and lizards.

In your home, various measures can be taken to help prepare you for winter while being mindful of others who call this area home. One important thing to do is to cap your chimney in preparation for winter use. There are several reasons why this makes your chimney safer. Downdrafts commonly occur in winter and a chimney cap will prevent cold air from blasting down your chimney. Chimney caps also help prevent wild birds or mammals who are seeking warmth from getting in and becoming trapped in your chimney.

What to do in the event that an animal is trapped in your chimney:

Raccoons and/or squirrels: Music and ammonia-soaked rags in the fireplace may encourage the animal to leave more quickly if they are able to do so under their own power. If they are trapped, you can take several sheets tied together or a thick knotted rope, weigh them down with a heavy object and put it into the chimney anchoring the sheet or rope at the top. The animal should be able to climb out. Once you are certain the animals are out, be sure to get the chimney capped to prevent further occurrences.

Birds: Close all the exits from the fireplace room to other areas of the house. Open windows and doors that lead to the outside, and remove any window screens. Open the damper so that the bird can get out of the chimney. She can then fly outside.

#GivingTuesday
November 27, 2018
A global day of giving
Learn more at Wildlife-Rescue.org

CONTACT US
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info@wildlife-rescue.org
P.O. Box 369 Kendalia, Texas 78127
Phone: 830-336-2725
Fax: 830-336-3733
WRR Sherman Animal Care Complex
1354 Basse Rd. San Antonio, TX 78212

Search WRRTX on:

Wildlife Rescue & Rehabilitation is a 501(c)(3) non-profit organization. We rely on contributions from individuals and foundations. Donate today at Wildlife-Rescue.org
in her mouth, but she would never chew and swallow them; she would crawl away to his garage, leave the food, and then return for more. Worried that she was not getting enough to eat, he made a point of chopping juicy apples, pears and bananas and placing these in his yard. The injured raccoon took bite after bite, vanished into his garage, and repeated her ritual until all the food was gone. Being concerned, he called and asked if we could help.

I knew this had to be the mother who had been hit late on that rainy night. Equipped with a carrier and gloves, I made my way to the gentleman’s home. When I arrived he showed me to his garage and I knew I had my work cut out for me. The garage was floor to ceiling boxes, bins, holiday decorations, and cleaning supplies. Somewhere in that maze was an injured, terrified raccoon mother and, if my guess was correct, her youngsters. She was not about to welcome any help I had to offer. The last thing I wanted to do was add to her trauma so I placed a large carrier filled with soft blankets and some particularly tasty treats at the very back along with a large bowl of water. We closed the door with the agreed upon plan that he would check the carrier later and see if the food was gone. It was going to take some time but if she grew comfortable with the crate she would continue to go there for food and water. I did not want to use a big, metal havahart trap due to her delicate condition. I had seen too many raccoons panic once they were caught and cause all manner of injury to their paws and legs as they tried to escape. This poor girl could not afford to go through any more suffering.

I could not know for certain, for I had not seen the babies, but if they were of the age where mom would take breaks from nursing them, and as she and her babies came together all we could see was one, loving bundle of life that we knew had sacrificed her safety and who had persistently, while in great pain, stayed to care for them, protecting them, and to never leave their side. In only weeks the raccoon family was set free far from any busy city streets in a natural area with ponds and woods, the ideal home for the brave mother raccoon to continue raising her young.

It was a warm, sunny day when the raccoon mother and her babies were fully reunited. Their enclosure was filled with large limbs and a small pool; mother was still a bit stiff in her movements but she was healthy and strong. She climbed to the top of the enclosure to hide in a large, dark wooden box placed there for her privacy. But the very moment her four little ones were released into the enclosure she did not hesitate to gingerly climb down to meet them, and as she and her babies came together all we could see was one, loving bundle of babies, each calling, chirping, licking and welcoming their beloved mother. The mother who had sacrificed her safety and who had persistently, while in great pain, stayed to care for them, protecting them, and to never leave their side.

The mother raccoon underwent a lengthy surgery, her broken legs were successfully pinned, and all her wounds were cleaned and treated. Being a young female we knew her chances for a full recovery were excellent.

After two days of hauling boxes, bins and all manner of containers out of the garage our efforts were rewarded early one morning when we found the four baby raccoons stowed away at the very back of the garage. They were not lying on the cold concrete floor for somehow the mother had taken a blanket from the crate, something I had been too dim to even notice, and she made a comfortable bed for her youngsters before returning to rest in the carrier.

One by one the juvenile raccoons were gathered up and taken to the sanctuary. I placed them in a large cage next door to their mother. The moment she heard them she began to comfort them with her chirps and trills as they all fell exhausted into a restful sleep.

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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 animals with materials and let them choose what they would create.

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

One of the animals who clearly enjoys this activity is a capuchin who arrived at WRR after having spent much of his life forced into entertaining the public in order to collect money from passersby. He now lives in WRR’s Capuchin Retirement Community and was the creator of the larger painted canvas you see on the left.

Photo Credit: Aleidia Fuentez Boles

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.

Animal Enrichment Creates Art

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Free Admission. RSVP at Events@Wildlife-Rescue.org
This bobcat was returned to the wild in August of 2018. His release came 71 days after the initial call on May 30, 2018, which reported multiple sightings in a subdivision on the Northwest side of San Antonio. Neighbors had seen him wandering, sick and suffering from mange. When he arrived at Wildlife Rescue, he was emaciated, weighing only about 15 pounds and infested with roundworms and tapeworms. Entire sections of his head and face were void of the characteristic soft, spotted fur and all that remained was discolored, naked bone and muscle. After an intense regimen of staff veterinary care, he quickly returned to his normal weight. He was moved from the hospital to an outside rehabilitation area where the sounds of nature would help the recovery process. As that process progressed we observed that much of his facial fur had returned. Some weeks later, his appearance was once again that of a fully furred and healthy wild animal and he was ready for release. On the day we set him free he did not hesitate to return to his life in the wild and after only minutes of assessing the release area he disappeared into the dense underbrush of his new home. Far from humans and fully restored to good health this bobcat now has a bright future.

Rehabilitated & Released

Migratory birds at Brackenridge Park were forced out of their rookery when the City of San Antonio began to spray a grapeseed extract as a repellent. Finally, an old friend of WRR came to the rescue. KSAT-TV’s Jessie Degollado who had covered many animal-related stories over the years, sounded the alarm and we were able to place educational signs at the park to help people advocate for the birds.

A PREGNANT PIG RESCUED THIS SUMMER GAVE BIRTH TO FOUR BABIES AT WRR

As WRR staff was busily caring for hundreds of babies in the middle of summer, we were thrust into the media spotlight when a woman reported she had “mistaken” two bobcat kittens for domesticated cats and took them home.

The bobcats’ tragic story was shared on media channels around the country and allowed WRR to spread the message that wild animals are not pets.
Volunteer Training Calendar
WRR Sherman Animal Care Complex Education Center
1354 Basse Rd, San Antonio, TX 78212

NOVEMBER
8th: Intro Orientation; 6PM-7PM
10th: Intro Orientation Kendalia; 10AM-11:30AM

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

Upcoming Exploration Sessions:
Young Friends of Wildlife will explore different topics within wildlife rehabilitation, advocacy and conservation and will complete a group volunteer activity each month.

Monthly topics include:
November: Companion Animal Socialization
Saturday, Nov 10, 1PM - 3PM

December: Wildlife Behavior Through the Seasons
Wednesday, Dec 5, 6PM - 8PM

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