Dear WRR Members,

We often hear the term “family” these days, usually referring to the human family. What I believe tends to be overlooked is the family bond that exists in the worlds of many nonhumans. I can assure you it can be equally strong, or stronger, as devoted and caring as in our families. Though I could tell you hundreds of stories where I have witnessed this bond among nonhumans, I will limit myself to one…at least for now.

WRR began rescuing primates in 1990. I made the decision to do so because there were few primate rescue organizations in existence at the time and those were full and turning away animals, especially primates of a certain species. Word quickly spread that WRR was willing and able to help monkeys who had been held captive as “pets,” used in laboratories, or kept in zoos.

In the mid 1990’s when we received a call from a small mid-western zoo to take a family of capuchin monkeys, I said “yes.” The group was occupying an area that was due to be demolished and the family was to be killed. I only knew this because the person who called WRR had been their “keeper” and could not bear to see this happen. She had done all in her power to save the family but the decision had been made and the monkeys had to go…or else. At this time we had constructed only a few primate enclosures; one in particular had a small oak tree growing in the center and seemed the ideal place. This capuchin family included a mother, father, and young female. Since we agreed to take them all, it never occurred to me that, when they arrived, the crate would only contain the little daughter. My worst fear was that we had been too late and the parents had either been sent elsewhere or put to death.

As WRR staff worked diligently to get the young female monkey settled I contacted the woman who had called me. The story was not as grim as feared but it was not much better. Though no one could learn why, the zoo administrators had decided to keep the
This year started out much like every other year at WRR. The hospital was quiet with the presence only of the few animals who had over-wintered with us and a handful of adults who had come in more recently with injuries or illness for rehabilitation. The babies we knew the spring would bring had not yet started to arrive but our days were filled with cleaning chores and projects to prepare for them. The sanctuary was calm as the residents went about their days in the crisp air, foraging for the food we had scattered, and then settling back down in the warm hay we had placed in their houses. The sense of peace and rejuvenation that often accompanies winter could be felt throughout.

As February approached, the anticipation of spring was undeniable as we anxiously awaited the arrival of the first baby squirrel, the tell-tale sign that baby season had started. When he arrived on January 20th, we knew this year would be unlike any other, but we had no idea the number of animals we would soon see pouring into our rehabilitation hospital.

As I write to you now, in the heart of baby season, I cannot help but think of how many lives we’ve been able to save. Just barely past the half year mark, we have already rescued nearly 8,000 animals.

In June, we sent you an appeal asking the question, “What does a life saved look like?” A question that has many answers that come in many forms. The cockatoo who sings as I walk by, never again subject to the confines of a cage where he was once unable to experience the freedom of flight. The skunk who quickly scurries off to freedom as soon as the crate door is opened and his new home is presented to him for the first time. The bear, who should have never been confined to a concrete slab, taking his leisurely afternoon swim under the shady tree in his grassy enclosure.

The examples are endless and already this year too numerous to list. It is in these saved lives that I find the inspiration, day after day, to continue this challenging work. Even so, as I watch the clutch of 14 black-bellied whistling ducks clamber around their temporary home, I know these ducklings will never experience the fierce care and commitment of their parents. It will be months before they are free to swim about in a pond, perch in a tree, or look up and see the big sky above them, if they ever get to experience that at all. Black-bellied whistling ducks are one of the most difficult species to raise in captivity and as a result suffer greatly from the loss of their parents. A fate that is often sealed by the hands of humans separating babies from parents before they arrived at Wildlife Rescue. In the meantime, we will do our best to provide for them, knowing we will never be able to fully replicate the care they would have received in the wild.

Companionship from other ducklings, a warm safe place to grow, fresh food and water, and a shallow pool to swim in—A life we hope will be enough before they are once again given the freedom every wild animal deserves. Although our hope is that all wild animals are able to remain free from human interference, I know that these black-bellied whistling ducks, along with the thousands of other animals who come through our doors every year, would have had no chance at all without WRR.
Our biennial event exclusively for Wildlife Rescue members is back. Enjoy time with Founder/President Lynn Cuny, a delicious vegan lunch and music, and see how far we’ve come from the early days of rescuing wildlife 42 years ago.

**Saturday, October 5, 2019**
Wildlife Sanctuary
335 Old Blanco Rd. Kendalia, TX 78027
10:00am – 3:00pm

**Donations:**
- Couple – $75.00
- Individual – $40.00
- Child – $15.00

**Wish List Needs**
As you know the animals are in constant need of many items to make their lives at WRR clean, comfortable and healthy. Please consider bringing some of our Wish List needs with you. We will have a truck at the gate ready to receive them when you arrive.

- Purina Complete dry dog food
- Purina Complete dry cat food
- Kitten and Puppy Chow
- Wild Bird Seed
- Honey
- Rice
- Paper Towels
- Pillow Cases & Sheets
- Towels
- Sponges
- Bleach
- Dried Beans
- Cotton Balls
- Baby pools

Register online at https://wildlife-rescue.org/membersday/

Questions?
Email at events@wildlife-rescue.org or call Ashton Kuhn at 830-336-2725, ext. 308
two parents. Perhaps the thinking was that they would produce another baby, but this pair, who had now lost their beloved daughter, was old and they were not likely to have another.

Though we may think wild animals are utterly resilient and able to withstand all manner of adversity, the fact is that they are also emotional beings whose bonds to family and other companions run deep. Of course, the capuchin girl was no exception. Few have ever heard a monkey cry; it is an expression of pure grief that you cannot misread or ever forget. Though we provided her all manner of stuffed animal toys and soft comforters and dolls, the deserted daughter was almost inconsolable. She took a little solace in a small mirror which she held to her face and stared into for hours on end. To say the will to live had abandoned her would not be an exaggeration. This young monkey who had never spent a day away from her caring parents had now found herself in a strange setting. The fact that there was a tree and green grass, rocks and earth to explore and an absence of cement floor and bars was no substitute for loving parents who had held her, disciplined her, groomed and loved her. This new world was not what she wanted. And a world without her was not what suited her parents; they too had stopped eating and were so depressed that they had been placed in a back room away from public viewing.

While working to convince the zoo to send us her parents, we spent hours every day trying to coax the youngster to eat but she chose to pass the days perched in a high corner of the enclosure with no one but the image in her little mirror to keep her company. As she dropped weight she also lost her strength. After two interminable weeks we had no choice but to catch the capuchin and bring her indoors. Once there we began giving her injectable fluids in addition to a liquid diet, none of which she liked; the little orphan only grew more disheartened. Since we did not want to send her back to the zoo, which was moot as they did not want her, we were running out of options and hope. But, as is so often true, just when things look their worst something occurs to turn things around. I had been in close contact with the keeper at the zoo and between getting the news of the female capuchin's condition and her parents starving themselves, the administrators had agreed to send the mother and father to WRR.

There was little time to lose; we had to act fast, arrange for transportation, and reunite this monkey family before a tragedy, which we could not reverse, occurred. Being older, and now in poor health, flying the parents came with serious risks but it was the fastest way for them to reach WRR, so they were placed in a crate and set aboard a plane with a direct flight to San Antonio.

It was late on an early autumn evening when they arrived. The oppressive heat of summer had finally yielded and the air was cool and welcoming to the monkey couple. As we carried them into the building they were absolutely quiet as they sat side by side peering out of the crate. The stillness that surrounded them was that of rescued orphans sleeping, but in only moments there was the tiniest of voices emerging from an inner room. It was here that we positioned the two monkeys, only inches from the cage that held their lost daughter, and it was here that the tiny voice was no longer subdued but grew strong and would not be restrained as the young capuchin girl called out to her parents. In only moments the room, the entire building, was filled with the joyous, welcoming calls of parents and child whose voices were now united in joy and relief.

The cage holding the capuchin girl was barely large enough for three monkeys but we were not about to keep them apart and as we let the parents join their little girl, the small space was filled with three, furry bodies looking very much like one large monkey. They spent the night in each other's arms and when daybreak brought the merest hint of light we released the family into their enclosure. Immediately this area that so recently held one despondent primate was filled with the leaping and climbing, the exploring and calling of a mother, father, and daughter who had been through the darkest of times but were now inseparable. Now they could leave behind those horrible days of separation; they had room to move about, their very own tree, endless fresh fruits and vegetables and best of all, they had each other.

When I looked into the cage where we kept the young capuchin indoors, I found something she had decided to leave behind. The little mirror was lying there on the floor. She did not need it any more for now when she looked around her she would find the two beings she loved most, her parents.
THANK YOU TO OUR EVENT SPONSORS

JOIN US FOR AN EVENING OF:

- Delicious vegetarian foods
- Fine wine and beer
- Live music
- Live & silent auctions
- Grand prize drawing of a 2019 Audi A3

All for the express benefit of WRR's life-saving work with animals!

Thursday | September 19, 2019
6:00 pm – 10:00 pm

Witte Museum
3801 Broadway St, San Antonio, TX 78209

Cost of tickets are $250 (only selling 350)
Ticket cost includes admission for 2 and a chance to win the car.

Event only tickets available at $50.

BUY YOUR TICKETS NOW
for your chance to win a 2019 Audi A3
Wildlife-Rescue.org/WildRide

THANK YOU TO OUR EVENT SPONSORS
ABOUT ANIMAL CARE

The act of feeding wild animals may seem straightforward and uncomplicated, but the fact is that it is quite involved, requiring research and a deep understanding of the needs and wants of the diverse species we care for at WRR.

Let me give you one example. All pigs are not equal when it comes to dietary needs. The nutritional needs of pot-bellied and farmed pigs differ from the needs of feral pigs. Feral pigs had to adapt from being captive to living in the wild and their dietary needs adapted as well. Their need for protein is higher than their fully domesticated counterparts and when this need is not met they develop all manner of health problems that can take months to remedy.

When you provide for wild animals from around the globe, the challenge becomes even more complex. Brown lemurs may love raw sweet potatoes, but to eat this bright orange tuber uncooked would cause serious problems. Marmosets consume tree gum in the wild while here at WRR we substitute for this an unusual food item called “marmoset jelly.” Young skunks can become dangerously lethargic due to a decline in blood sugar if their diet does not include foods that respond to this susceptibility.

And like you and me, animals also prefer variety on their menus. No one wants to eat the same food day after day. Though less variety may not be critical when feeding carnivores, they too enjoy assortment over boring predictability.

As you can see, here at WRR the knowledge of animal nutrition is critical, as is our ability to access a wide variety of fresh fruits, vegetables, grains, seeds, nuts, greens and meats. Considering that literally tons of these are fed to the animals in our care it will not surprise you to know that WRR spends over $100,000 annually to provide the right food for those we have rescued.

When making your contribution to Wildlife Rescue you can rest assured that your gift is well spent purchasing precisely what the animals need, want, and enjoy as they work their way through the rehabilitation process or live their lives here in our sanctuary. Your donation provides the foods that are essential to their well-being.

Have you ever found a praying mantis or honey bee drowned in your dog's water bowl? Has a baby opossum wandered into your swimming pool and had no means of escape? When the temperatures rise and the foliage begins to dry, how do the tree frogs, butterflies and deer cope?

Do you want to assist native wildlife without habituating them to your help? Here are some simple acts of kindness you can perform that will lend them a hand.

• Float small sticks in all outside bowls of water; these can serve as rafts for insects who have fallen in and cannot swim and escape. Keep the water level at its highest so the brim is easily accessible.

• If you have a swimming pool make certain you provide a life-saving frog-log (https://froglog.us/). This clever, humane device enables mammals and reptiles to swim or float to the frog-log and immediately escape the threat of drowning.

• When foliage begins to dry many of the small animals living in trees suffer from the loss of necessary moisture. To help restore some of this use a gentle mist setting on your hose nozzle and point the spray up into the tree branches or gently mist low-lying shrubbery. Though we want to be careful about how much water we use, doing this in the early morning or early evening hours can provide some relief for tree and shrub residents. This also aids the deer when they are feeding on the leaves of trees and bushes.

• If you leave large pans or water or even a full wading pool out for wildlife be sure there are a couple of small branches in these larger containers of water. Birds have been known to fall into pools; they cannot swim but a branch may help them stay afloat until they are found and helped out of the water.

We all care deeply about wildlife and are distressed to see the ongoing destruction of their habitat. And we must all do what we can to provide them with appropriate help as they manage both the oppressive heat of summer and the increasing presence of humans in their world.
FOOD DRIVE
COMING UP SEPTEMBER 6th – 13th

Wildlife Rescue & Rehabilitation’s 2nd annual Food Drive!
It takes seven tons of food a month to prepare the hundreds of daily diets for wildlife in rehabilitation and sanctuary. From Friday, September 6th through Friday, September 13th you can help WRR by donating food items!

Here’s how it works:

Drop Off:
In San Antonio: 8AM - 8PM
Sherman Animal Care Complex
1354 Basse Rd. 78212

In Kendalia: 8AM - 8PM
WRR Lynn M. Cuny Animal Sanctuary
335 Old Blanco Rd. 78027

Call In An Order:
In San Antonio:
Locke Hill Feed, Pet & Lawn Supply
210-691-2351

In Spring Branch:
Strutty’s Feed & Pet
830-438-8998

Or Give Online:
WILDLIFE-RESCUE.ORG

Items Needed:
Layer Crumbles ($11.50/bag): These are used to feed more than 67 permanent resident chickens, ducks, and geese.

Fawn Pellets ($25.59/bag): This year, the sanctuary has received a total of 332 orphaned fawns and spent $6,208.40 on specialized infant formula. As the fawns grow and begin feeding independently, the need for fawn pellets increases.

Purina ProPlan Dog/Cat Food (any size): This is used to supplement natural diets of native wildlife.

If you call in an order at either Lock Hill Feed in San Antonio or Strutty’s Feed & Pet in Spring Branch Wildlife Rescue will pick it up!

Items needed are Wrangler All Stock Pellets 12% and Monkey Chow.
Upcoming Exploration Sessions:

Young Friends of Wildlife Rescue members will explore different topics within wildlife rehabilitation, advocacy and conservation and will complete group volunteer activities each month.

**September**: Why Do Animals Matter? Wednesday, September 18, 6PM – 8PM

**October**: Permanent Sanctuary Residents Wednesday, October 16, 6PM – 8PM

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

Summer 2019