Every time I sit down to plan what I will say in this letter about the work carried out over the past year, I struggle with giving either too much or too little detail. Everything we do here at WRR is important to many lives. Over 9,000 animals were brought to our doors in 2018 and each one of these arrived with a story, a history.

Singling out one or two of these as more striking than others can be challenging. I will tell you that the animals who arrive with the most severe injuries and the tiny, helpless orphans are some of those who make the most lasting impressions on those of us in this field. Watching these animals as they stoically endure their circumstances can test every aspect of your being. Wanting and needing to help them is a given but being touched by the depth of their personal strength is life-altering. Every one of us at WRR must draw on our own strengths daily. This work requires us, while holding and feeding a tiny baby, to accept that we may lose that life no matter our valiant efforts. When we rescue an animal who’s been hit by a car or spent hours caught in a fence, we know the odds are against his or her surviving but this simply deepens our resolve to save that precious life. There is so very much about this work that is beyond our control. The animals rarely want or welcome our help and they are terrified in our company. They want only to be left alone, set free and allowed to live their lives. So we must always remember that we are working on their behalf without their approval. But even in this they manage to maintain their grace, dignity and innate ability to accept their circumstances.

So looking back on the year we have just left behind I can tell you that, as it has been for over 40 years, Wildlife Rescue was here answering our hotline, responding to calls for help for the injured, orphaned and ill, taking them in, giving them our best, and when possible, setting them free. This can sound repetitive, and it is, but then all the kinds of work and relationship that we are most committed to are repetitive—we give them our best over and over again because these are the parts of being human that offer the deepest meaning. I suspect that the feeling of care and the offering of compassion may be among the most central things that we can do. The year 2018 represented the 41st year that Wildlife Rescue served as a place where human and nonhuman came together and where care and need met for the benefit of each.

Lynn Cuny
Founder/President

In 2018, 321 volunteers contributed more than 6,615 service hours. In addition, WRR’s internationally known apprenticeship program accepted 19 college graduates who worked over 19,700 hours learning the natural history, diets, enclosure set-ups, and care protocols of native species and nonnative permanent residents at Wildlife Rescue. These fine students will go on to become the next generation of wildlife rehabilitators, veterinary technicians, conservationists, and environmental educators.
ANIMALS RESCUED

- 4,637 MAMMALS
- 4,623 AVIAN
- 224 REPTILES
- 23 AMPHIBIANS

ANIMALS IN SANCTUARY

- 206 MAMMALS
  - 141 PRIMATES
    - 152 MAMMALS
    - 71 AVIAN
  - 28 NONNATIVE
  - 37 NATIVE
- 223 FARMED ANIMALS
  - 152 MAMMALS
  - 71 AVIAN
- 97 AVIAN
  - 54 NATIVE
  - 43 NONNATIVE
- 67 COMPANION
- 32 REPTILES

GROWTH AND EXPANSION

Thanks to several major donors, we were able to construct a new enclosure for our eight resident marmosets in March of 2018. Because of their diminutive size, the enclosure for these tiny primates had to be fully topped over so that they cannot escape or be seen as food by an owl or hawk. In addition to their new home being larger, it also includes a 30-ft oak tree that provides these upper canopy dwellers a space similar to their natural habitat.

Due to the unfortunately expanding wildlife “pet” trade, there are increasing numbers of coatimundi and other nonnative animals in desperate need of sanctuary.

WRR currently provides care to twelve of these South American mammals and with more requests for sanctuary received every day, an expansion was in order. The addition was completed in July and adds about 2,300 square feet to the coati enclosure.

WRR is home to more than 60 rescued pigs, from pot-bellied pigs found roaming the streets, to pigs rescued from the slaughterhouse, to feral pigs who have been trapped or orphaned. WRR is often their last hope. In order to provide all of these animals with more than ample space, a new pasture was added to WRR in April. It consists of several acres and includes a pig pond with cabana and two spacious shelters.
The Founder’s Circle brings together Wildlife Rescue’s most committed supporters who are ready to elevate their level of assistance to ensure the work being done on behalf of wildlife and Nature continues.

2018 Founder’s Circle Members
Thank you to our most faithful supporters. Your assistance is a vital part of ensuring WRR’s financial stability.

- Leslie Alexander
- Bill & Jo Anna Been
- Susan Cage
- Paula & James Callaway
- C.E. Karen Center
- Rebecca Clausen
- Katherine Frank
- Judy & Darrell Holick
- Anne Kasserman
- Casey C. Kocurek

- Shirley Lawrence
- Barbara Long
- Jane & Bruce McLagan
- Charlotte Rose
- Phyllis & Roger Sherman
- Pamela Stanton
- Anne & Robert Wright
- Mike & Sharon Talbert
- David & Jamie Weyman
EDUCATION AND ADVOCACY

WRR partners with advocacy organizations across the country (e.g., Animal Legal Defense Fund [ALDF], Humane Society of the United States, All Species Kinship, Houston SPCA, Austin Animal Center, Jungle Friends Primate Sanctuary, Peaceable Primates, The Oklahoma Primate Sanctuary, Cleveland Amory Black Beauty Ranch, San Antonio Animal Control Services, and others) to provide assistance to animals in need and promote the importance of protecting wildlife.

In June, six arctic foxes were brought to WRR after being rescued from a small zoo in Maryland where they had been living in a 10 x 10 ft. cement-floored, chain-link-fenced cage for their entire lives. The ALDF was able to remove the foxes, an adult bobcat, and a coatimundi from these deplorable conditions and bring them to WRR to live out their lives in large, natural spaces, with the respect and specialized care they need.

In 2018, WRR expanded our education and outreach program to include Young Friends of Wildlife Rescue Club. This interactive monthly club engages children ages 8 - 12 in different topics about wildlife rehabilitation, animal advocacy, conservation, and volunteerism. Last year 20 students and their parents participated in the club and have returned to join more students this year.

OUR STAFF & BOARD OF DIRECTORS

ADMINISTRATION, FUNDRAISING, FACILITIES
Lynn Cuny, Founder/President
Diana Reyes, CFRE, Chief Executive & Development Officer
Lisa Harris, Director of Administration
Craig Brestrup, Ph D., Development Associate
Aleida Fuentes Boles, Donor Engagement Manager
Robert Burns, Volunteer & Outreach Coordinator
Carolina Perez, Administrative & Development Coordinator
Belinda Childers, Administrative Assistant
Art Gonzales, Facilities Supervisor
Randall Smith, Facilities Technician
Jarrett Lee, Facilities Technician

ANIMAL CARE & MEDICAL STAFF
Kelly McCoy, Director of Animal Operations
Amanda Kittrell, Below Gate Supervisor
Ariana Shorts, Hospital Supervisor

Ava Donaldson, Hospital Coordinator
Cheryl Huddleston, Above Gate Supervisor
Kimberly Stephens, SACC Manager
Leon Ruttle, Apprentice Supervisor
Marissa Lamb, Training Coordinator
Mason Payne, DVM, Staff Veterinarian
Stephanie Hardin, SACC Coordinator
Diane Thorson, Lead Veterinary Technician

Emily Potter, Veterinary Technician
Molly Parent, Veterinary Technician
Ashley Morales, Lead Animal Caretaker
Katie LaManna, Lead Animal Caretaker
Casey Spano, Animal Caretaker

Delaney Vail, Animal Caretaker
Jenna Stratford, Animal Caretaker
Katie Kenney, Animal Caretaker

Kyrsten Holle, Animal Caretaker
Mitch Deskovick, Animal Caretaker
Peighton Hagemeyer, Animal Caretaker
Rachelle Cleveland, Animal Caretaker
David Bassi, Hotline Specialist
Amber Garza, Hotline Specialist
Tiffany Beel, Program Support Technician

BOARD OF DIRECTORS
Lynn Cuny, WRR Founder/President
Jim Graham, Chair
Victoria Castellanos
Gen. Ret. Chris Divich
Shari St. Clair
Tanya Suttles

In 2018 we provided wildlife education through classroom presentations, community outreach programs, and workshops to over 2,300 adults and children.
OUR MISSION

TO RESCUE, REHABILITATE, AND RELEASE NATIVE WILDLIFE, AND TO PROVIDE SANCTUARY, INDIVIDUALIZED CARE, AND A VOICE FOR OTHER ANIMALS IN NEED.