Dear Members,

From nearby to across the country Wildlife Rescue has always done its utmost to aid animals in distress. Because the concept of rescuing wildlife and of providing sanctuary when necessary was new in 1977, it seemed to me the best structure for WRR was to help any and every animal we could. What we were doing had not been done before and I wanted to limit the range of our work as little as possible. This motivated us to spread the word of what we were doing as far afield as we could. This was easily done as the media found WRR a story worth telling. Soon, local rescue stories were picked up by the national news services and WRR was on its way to becoming nationally known.

Even though we have always taken in wild animals from across the country when called upon, the vast majority of calls from outside of Texas required that we give counseling and information more often than rescuing an animal. Recently, however, one of those calls involved a peacock who needed rescue and sanctuary.

I received an email from a couple in Chicago who were watching over a peacock who had taken up residence in a nearby cemetery. The bird had no flock; he was the only peacock for miles around, hence his shrieking cries remained unanswered as they echoed among the headstones. There were
From the beginning, Wildlife Rescue & Rehabilitation has been fortunate to have so many loyal donors. Individuals like you who are committed to saving wild lives have made WRR possible and as a result hundreds of thousands of animals have been provided with rehabilitative care and sanctuary. What we have accomplished together is a wonder and we thank you for helping us sustain this important work.

Often times in conversation, donors and volunteers will ask, “Is there anything else I can help with?” This question prompts me to think about our Charitable Giving Partner program launched last year. Through this initiative, we ask local businesses and corporations to make a commitment to support our mission by offering wildlife education workshops to their employees, establishing volunteer groups that could help WRR in times of need, and to consider Wildlife Rescue in their charitable giving plans.

As a committed member and friend to WRR, you understand our need is BIG. So, my questions are, “Do we know who you know?” Do you own a business that would like to partner with WRR? Is there a business or corporation you can connect us with that would be interested in making a difference and save wild lives? I ask you to take a moment to reflect on this and if the answer is yes, then please contact me at 830-336-2725, ext. 315 so that we may discuss this potential partnership. You can also learn more about this program on our website at wildlife-rescue.org/charitable-giving-partners.

Please know your commitment to WRR is highly valued. Animals are innocent beings who are often in need of our help. They live on this Earth with grace and dignity and, thanks to you, we can alleviate suffering and provide comfort to many of the animals we all cherish.

Sincerely,

Diana Reyes, CFRE
Chief Executive & Development Officer
Wildlife Rescue and Rehabilitation Inc. expects to rescue thousands of animals in 2020. Many of these animals will be brought to our wildlife hospital by a member of the public, but many more animals need to be physically rescued by trained animal care personnel. These rescues are coordinated and completed by a team of dedicated volunteers and supported by full-time WRR staff.

Almost all rescues are initiated by a call to WRR’s 24-hr emergency hotline and then organized by the WRR Rescue Coordinator who contacts and dispatches trained rescue volunteers to the location of the animal.

WRR relies on over 100 dedicated volunteers to conduct rescues throughout San Antonio and the outlying areas and hosts four different levels of training each month so that volunteers can progress at their own pace and be confident in their skills.

Rescues can range from simply transporting orphaned baby birds to our wildlife rehabilitation hospital all the way up to rescuing deer trapped in fencing. In addition to the extensive training, rescue volunteers are issued uniforms and have access to special rescue tool kits available at the Sherman Animal Care Complex on Basse Rd.

If you are interested in joining our intrepid team of rescue volunteers please visit our website at Wildlife-Rescue.org/Volunteer.

WRR relies on people of all backgrounds to carry out our mission and you could be the person we call next to help us save a wild life.

Be An Animal Rescue Volunteer

Deer, opossum and armadillos are just a few of the animals we rehabilitate at WRR. Join our volunteers to rescue and support the return of these beautiful creatures to their natural habitat.
two adjacent cemeteries; one quite old had been there since the 1800’s and the other was more recent. Of the two, the peacock preferred the timeworn setting. Here the landscape was punctuated with lichen and moss-covered headstones embellished with angels and carved roses that had seen countless seasons come and go. The ancient trees that lived in this cemetery spread their leafy limbs providing shade and cover for the local peacock as well as the recumbent residents. It was here that he could be found scavenging for food while waiting for his rescuer to return with a nutritious meal.

As winter approached and the temperatures dipped the natural food became scarce as the ground froze solid. Our rescuers were concerned he would not be able to survive. It was the usual story—calls had been placed to several local groups and others who might be able to help but no one could assist either in capturing the beautiful bird or in providing him a quality place to live if someone else caught him.

The husband decided he was going to save this bird, no matter what was required of him. We discussed terrain, the bird’s behavior, and what was most likely to lure him in as well as the pros and cons of countless capture methods. Being a determined man, he was willing to go to great lengths to invent and construct whatever was needed to tempt the bird from his home amongst the headstones.

As the weeks passed and winter descended our clever rescuer concocted various contraptions to entice the big bird into safety. Finally his labors paid off and the peacock was captured. Now to deal with the new challenge of what to do with him. There was a “peacock farm” who would take him, and there were small zoos who would love to add this beauty to their “collection,” but our rescuer had something more important in mind. He wanted only what was truly best for this bird, not just easy or nearby and convenient for him. Since I had committed early on to taking the peacock, we agreed that WRR was where he needed to be. The fact that
celebrated and enjoys the status as the National Bird. But even with this protection they are killed by poachers so their feathers and flesh can be collected and used. Here in the U.S. the bird’s feathers are often yanked, instead of being allowed to simply shed as they do yearly, and used for home décor. Though they have been seen roaming their grounds for generations, many zoos are deciding to remove peacocks claiming they are not always friendly to visitors and they quickly overpopulate.

This former solitary resident of a cemetery was now being visited by members of his new flock. It is customary at WRR to confine new residents until we can give them a full medical check and time to grow accustomed to the sights, sounds and smells of their new surroundings.

Peacocks are often misunderstood as being stupid, vain, noisy and messy birds. For eons they have been revered for their beauty while being exploited for the very same reason. In India the colorful bird is could see roosters, hens and the resident turkeys as well as birds who looked a lot like him. As the other peacocks stared and scrutinized the new arrival, vocal expressions and other means of communication far beyond our understanding were taking place. Peacocks often stand and stare deeply into each other’s eyes; I have witnessed this time after time over the years. On one occasion, two peahens did so for over 15 minutes before one sauntered off, squatted comfortably under a giant oak tree and quietly died. I could only guess that they had been saying their good-byes and I was the fortunate onlooker who was allowed to witness this private and important moment.

In time the new blue and jade green bird joined the free-roaming flock. He enjoyed a warmer climate, plenty of fresh food, companions and a place he would never again have to leave. All of this thanks to the dedication and determination of a man, over a thousand miles away, who would not give up until he rescued the lone peacock whose only home was the solitude of a cemetery.

Lynn Curry
Arbor Day is known for being a designated occasion to celebrate Nature and encourage people to plant trees. Here at the WRR sanctuary we honor this day by planting fruit trees that will blossom and eventually feed the animals in our care.

You can participate by purchasing trees that grow well in our Hill Country environment from the list below. Trees in 5-gallon buckets cost $30-$50 and those in 15-gallon buckets cost $200-$300. WRR will pick them up at your home or the nursery where you buy them. If you prefer, you can designate a donation to purchase a tree of your choice from our list.

Pomegranate: Cloud, Eversweet  
Fig: Banana, Celeste  
Peach: Floridaking, Rio Grande, Tex King  
Pear: Ayers, Southern Bartlett, Warren  
Plum: Golden Chickasaw, St. Luke, Segundo  
Pecan: Oconee, Sumner

Your donation of a tree or for purchasing a tree is greatly appreciated and we will let you know once it has been planted.
Animal Care

Usually Wildlife Rescue’s goal is to release animals back to the wild as soon as possible and keep them in treatment for only the time required for their recovery. Sometimes, however, this is not possible. When animals are rescued during the late fall it is not safe to release them until spring. With the cold winter months behind us, it is finally time for those patients who have stayed in our care since the fall to be released back to the wild. This year there were turtles, tortoises, raccoons, and bobcats who arrived at our doors in November. Since medical intervention was necessary for these wild animals during a time of year when they would normally be preparing for winter, it was not safe to release them until the temperatures remained above freezing.

In the months leading up to December, tortoises begin to slow down their metabolisms in preparation for hibernation. They begin to bury themselves underground where they will be safe from predators and inclement weather and essentially sleep for weeks at a time, emerging only occasionally on the warmest days.

Bobcats and raccoons do not hibernate in this way, but they do reinforce their den spaces with additional leaves and grasses for insulation, eat more food to prepare for the leaner months, and grow a thicker coat of fur. When living in our hospital in Kendalia during their treatment, these animals are not able to undergo these important physiological and behavioral processes so they cannot be released back to the wild until the cold winter months have passed. While at Wildlife Rescue they were each provided with species-specific enclosures, enrichment, nutrition, and medical attention, but now it is finally time for them to return to their lives in the wild.

Leading up to December, tortoises slow their metabolism in preparation for hibernation, while bobcats and raccoons insulate their dens with leaves and grasses, eat more food to prepare for leaner months, and grow a thicker coat of fur.
A Wildlife & Conservation Education Club for Ages 8-12

**Young Friends of Wildlife Rescue**

Members explore different topics within wildlife rehabilitation, advocacy and conservation and complete group volunteer activities each month.

**Upcoming Exploration Sessions**

WRR Sherman Animal Care Complex  
Wednesdays, 6-8 pm

**March 25:** Wildlife in Your Backyard  
**April 22:** Animals in Springtime Baby Season  
**May 20:** Where is Nature?

**Upcoming Volunteer Trainings**

WRR Sherman Animal Care Complex, San Antonio  
or WRR, Kendalia as noted.

**Wednesday, April 8, 6–7:30**  
Introductory Orientation

**Saturday, April 25, 10:30–12**  
Introductory Orientation Kendalia

**Friday, May 1, 10–11:30**  
Introductory Orientation

**Saturday, May 9, 10:30–12**  
Introductory Orientation Kendalia

Register today for Young Friends events or Volunteer Trainings

Wildlife-Rescue.org/services/wildlife-education • (830) 336-2725  
or Wildlife-Rescue.org/get-involved/volunteer