

Wildlife Tales

2019/2020 VOL. XXV No 1
Written by: Carol Kerr Hardee



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Center News

Our Dear Friends and Members:

I have not been able to produce other issues of the newsletter this year. Regrettably, the workload of admitting and caring for so many patients has taken all of my time, leaving none for extra tasks such as writing my beloved newsletter. I do hope that our members understand that I had no choice in the matter.

Nevertheless, it has been an exciting and challenging year with a variety of animal species requiring ongoing care. I want to thank the volunteers, veterinarians, and our loyal members who make it all possible. No single individual can successfully handle the tremendous workload that exists, and with that said, please enjoy reading about some of the interesting wild animal patients that we have helped this year. The photo here is of one of the many baby eastern gray squirrels admitted for care in the fall of 2019.



A Publication of the **Wildlife Rehabilitation Center of Central Florida**
Please visit us at our website: www.wildlifecenterflorida.org

Arrivals and Releases

River Otters



Photo above: Ron Hardee held a feisty otter baby prior to giving him a bottle. Spring of 2019

A total of five baby river otters were admitted in 2019 between February and March. After rehydrating them, we gave them bottles of a special formula for otters made by “Fox Valley.” Four of them progressed very well and after several weeks of care were transferred to the Florida Wildlife Hospital in Melbourne for their ongoing rehabilitation and eventual release. The fifth baby otter was admitted after the first four, and he had a problem which worsened despite my efforts. I thought that his respiration was abnormal, but he did not improve on antibiotics. When he would no longer eat his fresh fish, I asked my friends at Disney’s Animal Kingdom to take him for a diagnosis. Although he passed away, the veterinarians performed a necropsy to find an answer. They found a lesion in his lung which caused his death and said that there was nothing that I could have done to save him. It gave me great comfort to know this.

Photo below: A baby river otter curled up for a nap after being fed his dinner.



Photo right: Carol Hardee bottle feeding one of the baby otters in care- Spring of 2019



Arrivals and Releases

White Tail Deer



In 2019, the Wildlife Center admitted twelve fawns requiring our help. Volunteer Lindy Williams assisted with the rescues and immediate care of these vulnerable babies. Some of the babies were observed near a deceased doe, some were seen wandering alone and crying for their mom, and some were too weak to stand up when found. All were given life saving care when provided with warmth, subcutaneous fluids, and medications as needed. It was truly heart warming to know that these lives were granted a second chance.

More Rescues

This Brazilian Free Tailed bat was released after a week of R & R at the Center.



Ron Hardee released a water turtle after I repaired its shell.

A barred owl was admitted to the WRC at night after colliding with a car.



Arrivals and Releases

Raccoons

During 2019, we admitted more than 150 infant and juvenile raccoons. Some were orphaned, some were found alone in a yard or on a roadway, some were found in attics after mother raccoons were trapped and taken from their babies.

We purchase “Fox Valley” raccoon formula for the nursing infants and later wean them on Purina Puppy Chow and grapes. When they are nearly two pounds in weight, we administer canine distemper, parvo, and feline panleukopenia vaccinations and a killed rabies vaccine when they are older. They receive the sets of inoculations three times so that they are fully protected. We also deworm all raccoons in care.



Arrivals and Releases

Eastern Gray Squirrels



We were pleasantly surprised to have received a beautiful baby gray squirrel whose fur was blonde. In more than 30 years of raising gray squirrels, we had never received one of this color. She was raised with others and when old enough, the group was released on our property. Of course, we named her “Blondie.” In 2019, we received more than 250 gray squirrel patients.

Southern Flying Squirrels



Above: Two 6 gram baby flying squirrels with a larger one weighing 9 grams.

Below: Photo of one of the 6 gram babies



By the end of September, eight baby flying squirrels had arrived for care. The first two only weighed 6 grams apiece, and the next one was 9 grams. I fed them every 3 hours and used my special formula for very tiny squirrels. All of the babies gained weight and developed well over their months in care.

Due to their diminutive size and the skill and time required to feed the tiny babies, I think that they are one of the most difficult of all species to raise successfully but well worth the effort.

Photo taken as the babies grew fur.



Arrivals and Releases

Coyotes



Coyote pup “Castle” was admitted on April 2, when only five days of age. I bottle fed him with “Fox Valley” coyote formula.



“Castle” opened his eyes at twelve days of age.



After bottle feeding, I gave the pup some mandatory cuddling.

Arrivals and Releases

We received a male coyote pup, “Castle”, on April 2, from a Florida Fish and Wildlife officer, Naomi Tye, who responded to a call. People had seen the startled mother coyote drop the pup that she had been carrying. They waited four hours, but when the mother failed to return, they were afraid to leave the helpless baby any longer. Officer Tye retrieved the newborn and kindly brought him to us for assistance. He took to bottle feeding with no problems whatsoever. At first, he was housed in a small pet carrier on a heating pad, later to a larger pet carrier, and then to a large wire dog crate. After he was eating some solid foods as well as his coyote formula by bottle and had received his first vaccinations, he was housed in the large outdoor coyote pen.

In mid June, we admitted two more coyote pups which were about 6 weeks younger than Castle. They were also males, named “Crunchy” and “Vernon” by volunteers. Since the two pups came from rehabilitators in the panhandle of Florida, volunteers helped to transport them on the long trip to us. Our volunteer, Jennifer Odom, was so kind to help with such a huge undertaking. “Vernon” received his inoculations immediately and joined Castle three days after his arrival.

Crunchy had a bad case of mange when admitted so he received treatment for that and was housed with Jennifer Odom for two weeks. He also was given his vaccinations prior to joining the other two in the coyote pen.

On September 27, two Florida Wildlife officers brought in a female coyote which had been seen in a pond with a plastic jar firmly stuck on her head. She was rescued from the life-threatening situation and housed in one of our barns for recuperation. We administered the routine vaccinations and worm medication immediately and let her rest from her frightening ordeal. The next morning, I was relieved to see that she had eaten every bit of the food that had been provided in a large bowl. She was released after a complete recovery. The three males were also released when they were ready for freedom on October 24, on safe, protected property well away from humans and roadways. It was very hard to say goodbye to my “Castle” boy.

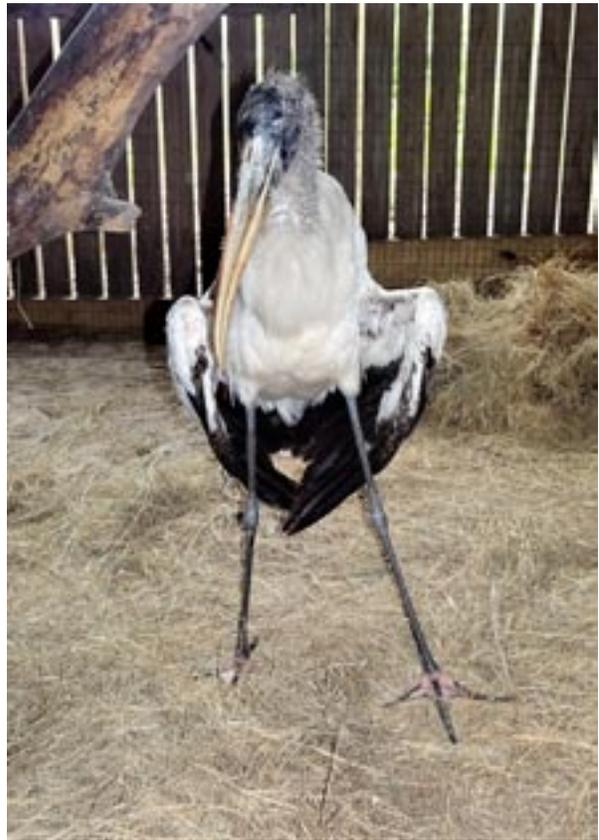
In this photo, Castle was in the foreground with the other two coyote pups behind him in the coyote pen. They all adapted well to each other, and it was important for them to be raised in a group of their own species for proper socialization. They were released together in a protected area.



Arrivals and Releases



Juvenile Barn Owl



Endangered Wood Stork



Neonate Nine-Banded Armadillos



Baby Virginia Opossums



Juvenile Cottontail Rabbit



Ruby Throated Hummingbird

Wish List

Foods: Dry Pedigree, Purina, or Science Diet Puppy food, unsalted, roasted peanuts, shelled pecans, any unshelled nuts, wild bird and sunflower seeds, any brands of dry dog or cat foods. We can really use lots of fresh acorns for the many squirrels in care.

Supplies for baby animal care: We use lots of newspapers. Also needed are infant “receiving blankets”, fleece fabric (can be purchased at Joanne’s Fabrics), which is used to make sleeping hammocks. Electric cup warmers keep formulas warm.

Cleaning supplies: paper towels, especially Bounty and Viva brands, unscented laundry detergent and dryer softener sheets, black, heavy-duty trash bags with ties, Charmin bathroom tissue, liquid dish soap, liquid hand soap, Ziplock gallon sized freezer bags with zipper closures and other sizes as well, spray cleaners such as 409 or Lysol, and Pine-Sol cleaner for floors.

Monetary Donations are always appreciated to supply the vaccines, foods, formulas, and equipment required to “do the job.” We are so grateful to all of our wonderful members who have supported this work; without you, we could not succeed in rehabilitating so many lives.

The Wildlife Rehabilitation Center of Central Florida is an IRS registered 501(c)3 organization. All donations are tax deductible. A copy of the official registration and financial information may be obtained from the Division of Consumer Services by calling toll free within the state, 1-800-435-7352.. This does not imply endorsement or approval by The State of Florida. Tax exempt # 59-3130779

If you include the Wildlife Rehabilitation Center of Central Florida in your will, please be sure to use the legal name and address of our Center as listed in this newsletter.

When ordering from Amazon online, you can designate the Wildlife Rehabilitation Center of Central Florida as your charity through Amazon Smile. We receive a donation from Amazon, and it doesn’t cost you anything.



IN MEMORY

We were sorry to hear that Dr. Greg Murray, formerly of Aloma-Jancy Animal Hospital, passed away in September, 2019. Dr. Murray helped us with some very special cases and was so kind to do so.

Thank You To The Following:

We wish to thank dear friends of the wildlife, Wayne and Linda Boyd, for their kind and generous support over many years. They have helped us to save countless lives.

We thank the dedicated staff of Disney's Animal Kingdom-Hospital Manager, Lori Grady, and all of the DAK animal keepers and interns who assist the wildlife. Our friends at DAK have done so much to support the care of many injured and orphaned wild animals.

Thank you to the staff of Sea World, Orlando, for their assistance in accepting injured water birds, cranes, and turtles for treatment.

Thanks, Publix on Alafaya Trail at Eastwood for the donated fresh produce and pet foods for our animals and bakery goodies for our volunteers. A thanks also goes to the Publix at Orange and Michigan Avenues, Orlando, for the dry dog and cat foods for the raccoons. Mr. and Mrs. Hunter have been so kind to collect it for us.

A thanks goes to the following vets and their staff: Countryside Vet Clinic-Dr. Amy Charlton; East Orlando Animal Hospital-Dr. Kerry Jackson; and Mayfair Animal Hospital-Dr. Whaley. All of these dedicated veterinarians and their wonderful staff have assisted the Wildlife Center in many ways; thank you for caring.

Thank you to the staff of Back To Nature Wildlife Refuge who accepted numerous animal transfers this year as I was unable to care for the overwhelming numbers being admitted. I so greatly appreciate their generous assistance in saving lives.

I am so pleased that rehabilitator, Wyn Burns of Fort Pierce, FL, could accept fawns from us this year. She has a great place for their care and eventual release as well.

The Florida Wildlife Hospital of Melbourne also helped us out this year by accepting some transfer animals from our facility. We are grateful that they could assist our Center with its overwhelming workload.

I would like to thank Shirley Cannan of Fallen Pines Critter Rescue in Christmas, FL, for accepting many infant squirrels this year at her facility as she does every year.

A thank you goes out to the officers of the Florida Fish and Wildlife Conservation Commission for their care and concern in protecting the wild animals that we love.

A Big Thank You to Seminole County Animal Control staff who have gone above and beyond in saving the lives of so many injured and orphaned wildlife. They have worked very closely with our volunteers, and we appreciate all that they have done for us and for the animals.

We wish to thank the nice folks at Elizabeth Morse Genius Foundation for their support over the years.

We want to thank all of our supporters and hope that you will continue to donate to the Wildlife Rehab Center so that we can continue to save lives.

Thank You To The Following:

A special thank you goes to Dr. David Jourdenais, Geneva Oaks Animal Hospital, for examinations, radiographs, and treatment of our patients requiring his expertise. He and his staff have helped many of the injured animals admitted for care.



Carol Hardee & Dr. Jourdenais



Dr. Jane Fishman Leon

Wildlife Center Volunteers

Thanks to Dr. Jane Fishman Leon for her assistance and support.

Thank you, Marshall Wolfe, for building climbing cages and bed boxes for the squirrels and raccoons, as well as completing various repairs at the center. He recently helped to rewire the floors of the big squirrel house - a really big job!

Thank you, Critter Guys, Craig and Kenny, for volunteering to help out with several big projects. It was so very kind of you to donate your time on behalf of the wildlife. Critter Guys is a humane wildlife control service in central Florida, phone : 321-203-6628.

Our volunteers who field phone calls, are vaccinated for rabies prevention, care for a wide variety of species, and transport as needed: Leslie Johnson, Lindy and Lindsay Williams, Jennifer Rosenfeldt, Stacy Russo, Terri White, Nathalie Barnhart, Jennifer Fletcher Odom, Thressa Jones, and Esther & Wallace Plummer. Thanks!

Onsite volunteer helper Tom Capellini.

A big THANKS also to the volunteer transporters: Wayne Koladey, Frankie Thompson, Valerie Jenkins Clarke, Jack & Sandy Juba, Lou Ann Smith, Lee Day, Valerie and Gary Martin

We wish to thank Ron's brother, Jack Hardee for helping us with many hours of work on the website. Jack also is our "computer guy" who fixes all of the problems that occur with the computer.

Wildlife Rehabilitation Center
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