

Wildside Rehabilitation

Rescue ♡ Rehabilitate ♡ Release ♡ Respect

NEWSLETTER

September 2015 Issue number five ~ Chapter one

Wildside Rehabilitation is a non-profit organization dedicated to provide a safe-haven for wildlife in need of healing and advocacy in Central Oregon. This rehabilitation includes fawns, raccoons, squirrels, rabbits, chipmunks, elk, skunks and many other mammals. Wildside caregivers strive to heal or nurture and prepare wildlife for a return to their native environment.

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In this Issue

Presidents Message
Wildside Rehabitators

Who Did What
New Squirrel Facility

6 Baby Raccoons
2015 Coon Release

F A Q
Wildlife Contacts





President's Message

Tracy Leonhardy is the President of Wildside Rehabilitation, Inc. She is a licensed Rehabilitator and a licensed Veterinary Technician. Tracy and Valerie McKie founded Wildside Rehabilitation. Tracy's knowledge and experience is incredibly far reaching! Each species has unique dietary needs and must be handled and housed according to their specific needs. She is a dedicated, educated, patient and persevering caregiver and teacher. She takes calls for help at any time of day or night and responds to whatever is necessary to place an orphaned or injured animal in a situation that will facilitate and meet the animal's needs.

Greetings!

Several weeks ago, a friend of mine asked me, "Why is it that you do wildlife rehab?" It's hard work with NO days off. The money we put out for food, supplies and vet bills is astronomical. Then, when all is said and done, we release the animals that we've spent so much time, money and energy to save. She felt it was hardly worth it. Who in their right mind would do all that? The answers vary for some, but to me, the answer is easy. It's my calling. It's what I love. My thirst for learning is satisfied because every season presents new situations which require a study. Always with wildlife, you have to be quiet and listen and watch closely. They have wondrous things to teach us.

Every year, I learn something new; something that makes me better at my job. This year, we learned something new in the realm of veterinary medicine and the spread of disease. Sadly, we lost a fawn and had no idea as to why. His name was Charlie and he died before we could identify the problem and treat him. Charlie's body was sent to the Oregon State Veterinarian in Corvallis for a necropsy to determine the cause of death. The results concluded that he had Yersiniosis (*Yersinia pseudo-tuberculosis*).

In the 15 years that I personally have been rehabbing fawns, this was my first encounter with Yersiniosis. Charlie gave us no hint that he was unwell. In hindsight, He had not taken as much milk as usual for two days before he died but this was not alarming because all the fawns his age were eating more solid food and consuming less milk. It was a complete surprise to find him dead, curled up in the place and the posture in which he usually slept.

The good news is that it did not spread to us or to the other fawns Charlie was living with at the time. *Yersinia* is a known Zoonotic disease (*diseases caused by infectious agents that can be transmitted between animals and humans*). It is unusual to find it here in Central Oregon. Organisms like *Giardia* and *Yersinia* thrive in damp environments. They are more commonly found on the west side of the Cascades. With our ever changing weather patterns, and human encroachment into wildlife habitat, we are more and more likely to discover things that we hadn't heard of before.

There is always a risk of contracting a disease or infection from working with wild animals. Bites & scratches are a common concern. We minimize the risk as much as possible by wearing protective gloves and washing our hands religiously after handling the animals. Typically, *Yersinia* is found in farm animals, especially pigs. Currently it is often infecting farmed deer. It's a bacterial disease that affects the intestines and in bad cases, can spread to other organs. In people, it causes fever, diarrhea (sometimes bloody, from mild to life threatening) and stomach pain. To prevent getting the disease, avoid eating raw meat (especially pork) and wash your hands before and after preparing meat for eating. If you're camping, be careful of drinking untreated water. Contamination is spread through feces. As with so many other organisms, like *Giardia*, it's out there in nature; found in lakes and streams and soil. A healthy animal that comes in contact with *Yersinia* might have some diarrhea associated with it but a healthy immune system will keep the disease in check. With the very young and very old, the immune system might be compromised and the disease can become fatal.

So, it's the mystery of wildlife - even the micro wildlife - that keeps me engaged in this job. It's what I love. It is my calling in life. It always has been from childhood. I am one of the lucky few who have always known what they were meant to do with their life and are lucky enough to be doing it.

Tracy Leonhardy

Wildside has three licensed Rehabilitators.

Wildside has three facilities with three rehabilitators coordinating and cooperating in the best interest of each individual critter. One of us might have the best housing while another might have the time or expertise to best provide care. We work together to nurture and protect them...we are a team!



Tracy

License #1522

Tracy is the President of Wildside Rehabilitation, Inc. She and Val McKie founded Wildside Rehabilitation.

Tracy is a licensed Veterinary Technician. She mentored under Bill and Jane Stevens and has more than 40 years experience in wildlife rehabilitation.

Tracy is a walking encyclopedia when it comes to the feeding and care of a vast list of species, which qualifies her to be our valued advisor.



Judy

License #1583

Judy and her husband, Andy, owned and managed a horse breeding farm until they moved to Bend 25 years ago.

Judy organized and ran the foster program for the Humane Society of Central Oregon for 6 years and still participates in the program. Judy's background in photography, journalism, graphic design and her organizational skills bring order, public education and communication in the form of Wildside's Newsletter.



Sandy

License #1584

Sandy has a Bachelors Degree. She is presently employed by a local veterinarian as a vet assistant.

She started volunteering with Bill and Jane Stevens when she was 10 years old.

Sandy volunteered at Chintimini Wildlife Center.

Wildside critters benefit from Sandy's education, work experience and the vast knowledge she brings to us from the Stevens and Chintimini.

Licensed Rehabilitator

It is against the law to contain a wild animal unless you have a license granted by O.D.F.W. (Oregon Department of Fish & Wildlife) To obtain a license we must pass a test. Twice a year a licensed rehabilitator is required to report to O.D.F.W. on the status of every animal, where it came from, why it is kept and where it is released. We are also required to attend educational conferences or seminars every year.

Who's done what so far this year:



Tracy

Tracy is our neonate specialist! Most of the time she takes the orphans first and nurtures them until they are well on their way. To make room for more neonates, she transfers her well started babies to Judy, sometimes to Sandy.

She started 5 tiny raccoons that we dug out of a Dentist office basement. She also cared for an older raccoon that had been hit by a car but did not survive.

So far this year, she has been mama to 14 orphaned fawns. One set of twins (Itty and Bitty) were only 3 days old when she got them on the 16th of June. Itty weighed 4.6 pounds and Bitty weighed 5.2 pounds. Itty had lung problems from the get-go and finally succumbed to pneumonia on the 20th of July.

Tracy nurtured Scotty fawn from newborn, still wet from his untimely birth (see story in chapter 2) He is now a big strapping young buck!

Tracy raised two of the Gray Squirrels we have already released and is currently bottle feeding two more.

Currently she is caring for a Golden Mantel Squirrel with a broken leg.



Judy

So far this year, Judy has housed and cared for 47 wild animals but this number is deceiving because most of the babies that Tracy and Sandy nurture through their infancy come to Judy when they are weaned or near weaning.

Our 6 raccoons will spend the winter at Judy's facility (referred to as "The Nezervation").

Eight teenage fawns are currently at the Nezervation where they will mature until they are released in October. Two remain with Tracy for a very rare reason (see story in Chapter 2).

Five of our 16 fawns were bottle fed at the Nezervation for another few weeks after Tracy's great start.

Judy bottle fed all but two of the 12 Western Gray Squirrels that have been released so far this year. Four more are currently in the house being bottle fed.

Judy bottle fed two chipmunks and a Douglas Squirrel that were released from the Nezervation in May.

Lucille, a baby chipmunk that has been with Judy since she was 3 weeks old is now 3.5 months old and weaned. She has moved from the house to the squirrel building.



Sandy

Sandy works a full time job which makes it difficult to handle an every three hour feeding schedule. Consequently, Sandy does mostly rabbits, squirrels and chipmunks or baby raccoons that are old enough for a less rigid feeding schedule.

She packs up her tiny wards and takes them to work with her so she can meet their feeding needs.

Sandy has become Wildside's neonate bunny expert. So far this year she has bottle fed 17 baby cottontail rabbits. Orphaned bunnies are difficult to get past their first month but Sandy has become very successful raising them up big enough to release.

Wildside had two fawns born too late in the year to be released before winter so Sandy wintered them over and they were released this spring.

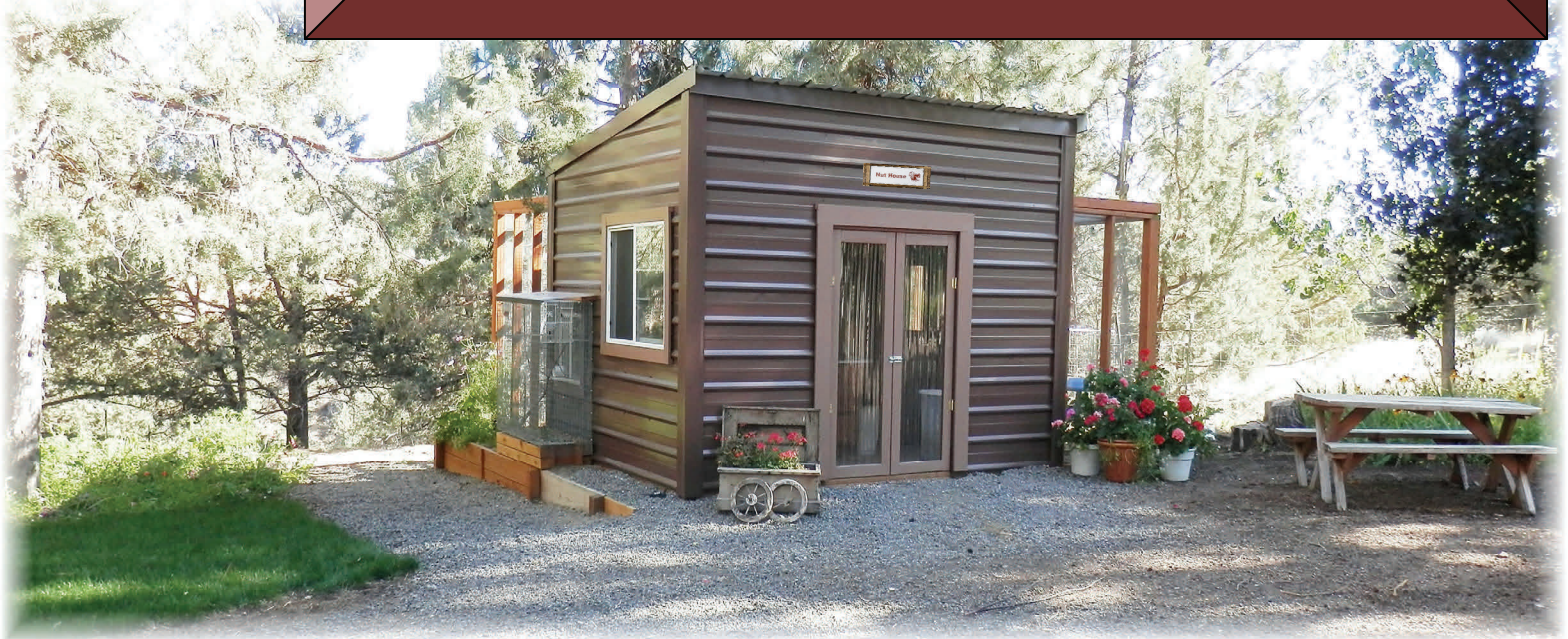
Sandy cared for 3 of our baby raccoons (after Tracy got them past the frequent feeding) until they were weaned and moved to Judy's facility.

She has also raised 2 baby chipmunks this year that have been released



It has taken two years to raise funds and construct the building but finally, this summer, baby squirrels and chipmunks were raised in and released from

THE NUT HOUSE



Kevin McKie built the retaining wall and both Kevin (L) and Keith (R) leveled the gravel.

Gravel for the foundation was donated and spread by KC Development LLC.

**Thank you
KC Development!**

One cold spring morning in 2014 several volunteers disassembled a building donated by David Banks and moved the lumber to Wildside's facility .

Left to Right: Deirdra Kelleher, Dianna Kelleher, David Banks, Andy Niedzwiecke, Greg McNutt, Keith McKie

Thank you all!

**Thank you Mac, Keith,
Jen & Kevin for all you do!**

Andy Niedzwiecke spent the summer and fall of 2014 building the outside of the Nut House.

THANK YOU ANDY!

Anne Walsten donated \$1,000 for this project.

THANK YOU ANNE!



The Nut House project had to stop for the winter. The complex interior and the outside playground would have to wait until the spring of 2015.



The Outside



Front



Right Side

The outside playground wraps around the building. There is a window in each stall that keeps squirrels in or opens to let them out into the playground

The building is 7 feet tall at the lowest side so that there is plenty of lateral room to climb in each of the three stalls.



Back

Outside playpen on the back of the building. Kevin & Jen McKie helped to build the outside playpen. Thank you Kevin & Jen McKie!

There are three bedroom boxes outside and three inside. All six boxes were built by Greg McNutt

Thank you Greg McNutt!



Left Side

The small cage in this picture is for soft releasing squirrels. The inside stall on this side of the building is connected via a tube to this cage. When it is time to release, squirrels and chipmunks, they live in this part for a week before the cage is opened and they are free to come and go for a while before they are on their own.



This is a shelf under one of the windows that allows the squirrels to go in and out of the building.



Thank you Tom & Susan Rainwater for gifting us this sign!

The Inside

The inside of the Nut House is divided into 4 sections. The front section has two small cages, one on each side of the door, for animals not yet ready to join the population housed in the rest of the building. Food is stored and prepared in this section. The back section is divided into 3 stalls. These stalls have the option of being connected to each other or closed to separate the occupants. Each of the three stalls has a window that can be open or closed to access to the outside playpen.

Each of the stalls has a pass through for food



Stall #1 is set up for soft release. When squirrels and chipmunks are ready to be released, this stall is closed off from the rest and the animals that are ready to release live in that space for a week or so.



They can go out to the small cage on the outside left side of the building through this hole. When they are comfortable eating in this space, the door to the outside cage is opened for them to come and go. We continue to feed them in #1 stall for a couple of weeks, until they have found the other feeding stations around the property.



← Inside stall #3.

Inside of feed room viewed from the man door that accesses the outside playpen. →

Andy Niedzwiecki built the inside of the building in early spring of 2015.
THANK YOU ANDY!





Six orphaned raccoons will spend the winter at a Wildside facility. Had they not been orphaned, they would have traveled with their mama for most of the winter. She would have taught them to hunt and protected them from predators. Our orphans are just not mature enough to survive the winter on their own.

To date we have taken in 10 baby raccoons.

Five of them are siblings that we removed from the basement of a dentist's office in Downtown Bend.

Agnes's mama was hit by a car. She was raised by people who took good care of her but she is extremely imprinted. She is finally interacting with the other raccoons well. Her relationship with humans is still abnormal, which compromises her successful release.

Three tiny raccoons came to us from a well meaning family who attempted to bottle feed them. We only had them for 18 hours before they died of aspiration pneumonia.

Aspiration pneumonia occurs when food, saliva, liquids, or vomit is breathed into the lungs or airways leading to the lungs. In this case it was milk.

The care and feeding of wildlife should be done by experienced rehabbers.

You will find the contact numbers for rehabbers in this area later in this newsletter.



They learn to hunt for food because we hide their breakfast all around the enclosure—in hanging buckets, under a pile of rocks, in the swimming pool, in a PVC tube, etc. They learn to hide in their dog house bedrooms. They learn balance because most of the play structures are hanging from a bungee. They become wary of people because we leave them alone as much as possible.



Bucket Swing



The bed rooms



60 pounds of chicken



Raccoons are very expensive to feed. They are also a lot of work! We buy chicken hindquarters in 10 pound packages. We cut each hindquarter into 3 pieces, package and freeze for daily feeding.



trout fry

Packaged and frozen for daily feeding (YUCK!)



They eat tilapia, crawdads, trout fry from the hatcheries, apples, grapes, blueberries, raw eggs, catfish, trout, salmon, hot dogs and dry dog food. Donations gladly received!

Thank you Tracy Leonhardy for catching crawdads & cutting brush!

Thank you Marita Southerland for bringing fish from the hatcheries!

RACCOON RODEO

2015 RACCOON RELEASE

Wouldn't we love to know that when we set our babies free, they all thrive and survive!

We kept 8 raccoons over the winter. We released them early in May 2015. By the time our babies are 10 months old, they are no longer our babies!! They no longer volunteer to do anything...much less get in a crate and go for a ride!



Wrangling eight 40 pound raccoons is no easy task! We split the project into two days-one group going to one location and the other to another. The above picture was taken after 4 of them were loaded in the back of a pickup, covered with a tarp.

When we reach the location along the river, the fun is not over. We have to haul these cages down to the water, unload the raccoons and then haul the cages back up to the truck.

← Their first view of their new home. Poor babies are scared but very curious. Their instinct is to go UP. We always worry when they go so high into the trees but they seem to know that UP is where they are safe .



Sisters Forest
Sisters, Or.



Wildside Rehab
Bend, Or. 97701

Dear Mommies,

We are alive and well, although we sure miss your great dinners! The fishing is good and we sure do appreciate those irresponsible humans who dump their garbage in our forest. Don't worry about us, we are fat happy coonies and we love our life. We send thanks to our mommies and all the generous people who supported us when we were babies!



Love Always,
Malcolm, Westley, Whalen,
Alice, Wendell. Wallace,
Meeko & Murdock





It takes two of us to carry these cages down to the river.
Finally, we open the cages and cross our fingers.

OUR COONIES ARE FREE



When we turned the first 4 raccoons loose, three of them went for the river, which was our plan. But Wendell ran uphill, toward the road we came in on. So we chased him down and made him run back down hill. We walked toward the direction we had seen him last, wanting to make sure he did not turn and run toward the road again. We searched for him for quite a while when suddenly we spotted him (picture below) absolutely frozen, blending in so well that we almost stepped on him! 15 minutes of freedom and that quickly his survival instincts kicked in. We had frightened him and his defense was to become invisible.



Hello



Goodbye

Frequently Asked Questions

Q “How do you transport deer?”

A Fawns are fairly easy to put in a crate before they are 3 weeks old. After that, transporting wild deer is a serious rodeo...not recommended.

The fawns we bottle feed are fairly easy to transport in a large crate until they are 6-7 weeks old, after that their wild instincts kick in and they are no longer willing to go where they do not feel safe. The day we transport our fawns to be released is no walk in the park!

Q “Where is your facility?”

A Wildside’s three rehabbers each care for wildlife at their own place. We all collaborate and work together in the best interest of each animal as to which one of us has the expertise and/or time for a particular case. In an effort to keep human intervention with the wild animals at a minimum, we do not advertise our locations.

Q “Where do the animals you care for come from?”

A In most cases kind citizens bring sick, injured or orphaned wildlife to us or we meet them at an agreed upon location. Sometimes we get a call and have to go round up the animal(s). Rehabbers in the area collaborate with each other and transfer animals to each other according to their needs. The Oregon State Police are wonderful about bringing us animals who have been hit by cars or have lost their mothers to a car accident. The County Sherriff and Bend Police Department are very cooperative and compassionate. The Humane Society of Central Oregon often receives calls about wildlife and they are very helpful in connecting us with the animal in need.

We do not remove animals for people who want to be rid of a pest. We will loan traps to people who need our help to rescue an injured or orphaned animal that we are able to help.

More Frequently Asked Questions

Q “Is it against the law for people to keep injured or orphaned wildlife?”

A It is against the law ...for very good reasons. It is illegal in Oregon to keep wildlife unless you hold special permits. The penalties for being found to break these laws are steep!

Wild animals are unpredictable, adults and children can be injured by wild animals. Wild animals can expose people to disease and introduce them to parasites.

Uneducated human intervention almost always is not in the best interest of a wild animal.

Usually, animals that have been fed or treated by uneducated people do not survive. Each animal has specific requirements, needs that uneducated people can not even fathom.

Bottle feeding a neonate animal can easily result in death due to aspiration pneumonia.

When a wild animal is imprinted, it's chance of survival in the wild are severely reduced. People realize way to late that living with a wild animal is a bad decision. By then the animal's life has been certainly doomed do to nutritional deficiency or imprinting.

A rehabber's worst nightmare is to have to try to save an animal that has been permanently damaged by well meaning people.

Q “There is a doe in our neighborhood that has a broken leg. She is suffering. Can you help?”

A We can not help this doe. Licensed rehabbers are required to follow the rules of the ODFW. We are not permitted to contain and treat adult wildlife.

Wild adult animals do not cooperate when we try to help them. They fight the containment and the human intervention, often injuring themselves even worse than the original problem.

Q “I found a baby bird, can I bring it to you?”

A All three of Wildside's licensed rehabbers are licensed to rehab mammals only. You need to call **High Desert Rescue & Rehabilitation** because they are licensed to rehab birds and they are well qualified. 541-306-8462

More Frequently Asked Questions

Q “Where do you house your infant (neonate) wild animals?”

A All three of Wildside’s rehabbers have a designated room in their house for the care and feeding of neonate animals. Even the fawns are housed inside so that the temperature can be regulated and over night observation and feedings are convenient.



Pictured here is Judy’s neonate room. Babies graduate from the beige cage to the cages by the window as their mobility progresses. If we have same species of the same age, they are housed together (after it is determined that they are healthy) so that their infancy is as normal as possible.

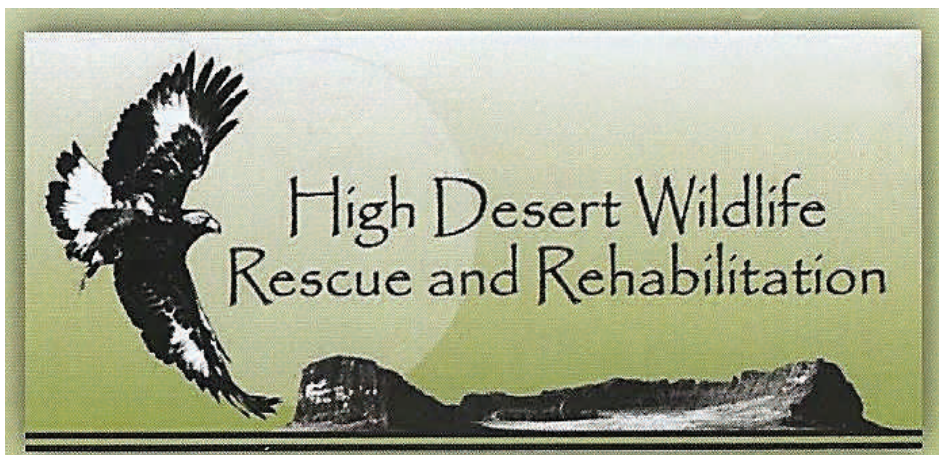
Baby squirrels, chipmunks, rabbits, etc. stay in the house until they are weaned and are known to be eating solid food well. Then they move out to “The Nut House”. Tracy and Sandy do the same except when they have their babies weaned, they move them to Judy’s to join others of their species.

Larger mammals such as raccoons and fawns move outside when they are well on their way but before they are weaned. After they move outside they are usually still bottle fed for another month or more.



Spring and Summer are the most likely seasons for you or someone you know to discover an animal that is in need of help. What should be done?

1. Use a box with a lid that is as close to the size of the animal/bird as possible. Line the box with a towel. Cut a few air holes in the top of the box.
2. Using gloves or a towel, pick up the animal/bird and place it in the box
3. Place the box in a quiet, warm, dark area.
4. Call a wildlife rehabilitator, or a wildlife veterinarian or the state wildlife agency as soon as possible.
5. Do **NOT** give food or water to the animal until you talk to a wildlife rehabilitator. Kindness without knowledge can be deadly.
6. Get the animal /bird to a wildlife rehabilitator as soon as possible



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www.highdesertwildlife.org



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Mammals only

Call one of three Licensed Rehabbers
In order of preference

TRACY 541-280-7317 or 541-388-0383

SANDY 541-610-9962

JUDY 541-389-6012

www.wildsiderehab.com

OTHER WILDLIFE CONTACTS:

Oregon Department of Fish & Wildlife 541-388-6363
Cory Heath 541-389-6017 or Randy Lewis 541-388-6012

Deschutes County Sherriff
Deputy Laura Conard 541-647-7349

Dr. Jeff Cooney
veterinarian specializing in wildlife
541-693-3416

Animal Emergency Center
24 hour service
541-385-9110



*To be continued
way too much to show you in one publication!*

*Coming Soon
Wildside Newsletter~issue number five
Chapter two:*



2015 FAWNS

ITTY & BITTY



LUCILLE



SCOTTY FAWN



BABY OWL



AND MORE