

Wildside Rehabilitation

Rescue ♡ Rehabilitate ♡ Release ♡ Respect

NEWSLETTER

September 2015 Issue number five ~ Chapter two

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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Our 2015 Fawns



Wildside has never had so many fawns before! We took in 16. Not all have survived. This has been a year of triumph and sadness. All of our fawns are weaned now. They are shedding their spots and the bucks have little nubbins where their antlers will grow. All are at the Nezervation with Judy until they are released in October.



This year there have been many rare occurrences. One such occurrence is pictured here of Chica who came to us orphaned but very wild and unwilling to take a bottle. Of course she would be the one to somehow punch a bungee hook through her cheek. This blunt hook went in via the inside of her cheek so that the end of the hook was on the outside of her face. The bungee was on the fence to hold their bitter brush up off the ground...we won't be doing this anymore! Chica was more than unwilling to allow us to remove her piercing...guess she thought she was stylin'. We did get it out and she is fine and even more convinced that humans are to be feared.

Believe it or not, Tracy named Chica long before this incident!





SCOTTY FAWN

An early morning call came from Madras on June 11th reporting a doe hit and killed by a car. While the mangled doe was being removed from the street, two tiny fawns fell out of their mama's abdomen. Oregon State Police Officer Scott Soggy responded to the call and agreed to bring the tiny premature fawns to us from Madras. When Officer Scott arrived, one of the fawns had died in route. Scotty Fawn was still wet with embryonic fluid and he had several abrasions from his untimely birth on the hot asphalt. He was named Scotty after his rescuer who cared for him from his first breath and transported him all the way from Madras.



Tracy worked her magic on this poor little beat up boy. Scottie was a big fawn from the get-go and with Tracy's help, he quickly overcame his unfortunate beginnings. He became an accomplished fence jumper and as fast as Tracy would put him back, he would escape and meet her at her front door before she could get there. Scotty moved to the Nezervation on the 12th of August. He has befriended Chika (the one with the piercing) which really helps her to cope with her wildness.

Scotty and his fellow orphans will be released on a beautiful 1500 acre ranch in about a month and hopefully he will never have to jump a fence again.

ITTY AND BITTY

These twins, both girls, were born prematurely.

Itty was so small that she could not reach her mother's udder at all and Bitty was barely able to nurse. When a doe wants her fawns to nurse she bites their bums to stimulate them to seek her udder. Apparently this doe was so frustrated that she chewed their tails so severely that Itty's was nearly gone and Bitty's was a bloody stump. By the time their rescuer found them, the doe had given up on tiny little Itty and was still trying to get Bitty to nurse.



Clearly these fawns would not survive without human intervention.

They were two days old when Tracy got them on June 16th. Itty was very close to death and both had bloody butts. Itty weighed 4.6 pounds and Bitty weighed 5.2 pounds.

← This picture was taken after Tracy had them for about 10 days. They are doing pretty well but they have a ways to go to be as tall as Tracy's knees.

Bitty thrived and obviously outgrew her sister. A trip to the vet revealed that Itty had pneumonia, a common problem caused by premature birth. Itty died on July 20th.



Bitty is still the smallest of our fawns but she is doing just fine. She is weaned now and, except for her short tail, she seems to have overcome her difficult beginnings.

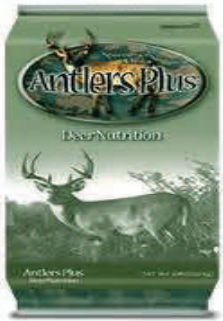
She has shed her spots and is beginning to look more like a doe than a fawn.



Feeding the Fawns



This bucket of formula to make milk for the fawns costs \$74.95. This will feed 2 fawns for 3 weeks.



When they are weaned they are fed a pelleted deer formula, calf manna, hay and bitter brush in addition to pasture grass. A bag of the pelleted formula costs \$20.00 and will feed 4 fawns for 1 week. We are currently feeding 10 fawns



This bag of Calf Manna costs \$42. Each fawn gets 1 cup a day after weaning until a month before release.

Feeding the Raccoons



This can of milk formula costs \$18.00. Depending upon the age that they come to us, a baby raccoon will require three or more of these cans until they are weaned.

**Our 6 raccoons are weaned...
now they eat:**

three pounds of raw meat (fish-beef-chicken)

8 cups of dry dog food

6 raw eggs or apples, blueberries, grapes and bananas

EVERYDAY

They cost us approximately \$150.00 a month

2 weeks



3 weeks



5 weeks
eyes open



7 weeks



LUCILLE YELLOW PINE CHIPMUNK

We love and care for them all but once in a while, one comes along that really makes our hearts go pitty pat! Lucille is one of those. Most squirrels and chipmunks become wild quickly when they are weaned...which is a good thing. Lucille just got cuter and sweeter from the day she opened her eyes. Usually when they move outside and are not handled anymore, they want nothing to do with us ...which is a good thing. Lucille sees mama coming and she celebrates! She is a social butterfly! She will spend the winter with us because she won't be old enough to release for another month or so. By then she won't have time to find a den, furnish it and collect her winter food stash so she can hibernate. She has been working on her den in the Nut House, however. Chipmunks have such a high metabolism that they can not go through the winter without waking up occasionally to eat some food from their stash. It will be fun to watch her instincts kick in. It will be hard to let her go in the spring...but she **will** be set free early next spring.

2 months



Moved to
Nut House



Lucille uses this tube to travel from the building to the outside release cage.

Feeding the Squirrels & Chipmunks

A can of milk formula for the infant squirrels and chipmunks costs \$20.00.

One baby squirrel will require half of the can before it is weaned. We have had 33 baby squirrels & Chipmunks so far this year.

One sack of feed for the squirrels after weaning and after their release costs \$32.95. We go through two or three of them a month.

3 months



Baby Owl Rescue

Great Horned Owls are not very good nest builders! Their nest is more like a platform. Quite often, baby owls fall out of their nest and unless a hero comes along, they are doomed to die.

Our Hero



One early spring day this baby owl hit the ground on Scott Waters property from a nest 50 feet up a juniper tree. Luckily Scott found the little guy before a predator did. He called his neighbor, the rehabber, and they devised a plan to put the little guy back in the nest.



Scott climbed up the tree with one end of a rope. He found the platform and two more owlets on it. A small crate containing the fallen owlet was attached to the other end of the rope and Scott hoisted the baby up and placed him in the nest.

Next day...baby owl is on the ground again.

It was decided that a new nest was in order. Scott and his rope went back up the tree. Rehabber first sent up the screw gun, then the nest and nesting material. Scott placed the new nest on the platform, moved the other two owlets into the new nest and then screwed the nest to the tree trunk.

The rope was lowered again for the bag containing the owl to be hoisted up. The owl was placed back with its siblings.



New nest with owl in it

Bag to carry owl

Screws in new nest

Grass for new nest

Before After



The parents watched this rescue, both days. They flew from tree top to tree top and screeched but they did not attack. As soon as the

hero and the rehabber left the area, the parents returned to the nest and continued to feed and protect their three kids for another six weeks. It will be interesting to see if they raise another clutch in the new nest next year.

When the owlets began to fly, they drove their parents nuts!



One day, one of the kids flew over to the rehabbers place and spent several hours on the dock on the pond. He sat there, out in the open, completely vulnerable, while one of the parents guarded him and tried to get him to move.

No doubt the other parent was in the same situation somewhere with one or both of the other babies.



Thank You!

Sincere thanks to all of you who have donated cash and materials to make it possible for us to care for orphaned and injured wildlife in safe and comfortable facilities.

Thanks to our supporters, we now have a very efficient raccoon enclosure. In 2014 we enlarged the deer pasture and added a bigger overnight shelter. Our new squirrel facility is finished. This structure has vastly improved our ability to safely soft release the squirrels and chipmunks.

OUR EXPENSES FOR 2014 AMOUNTED TO ALMOST \$11,000!

This number is rounded up because we had significantly less squirrels in 2014 than we usually have, so in a normal year we would probably spend another \$300 on squirrels.

Food & Vet: \$7,206.00

(Milk formula, raw meet, fruit & vegetables, seeds & grains, hay & feed pellets, vaccines & wormer)

One time expenses: \$3,637.00

(Cage & equipment purchase, construction & repair and brochures)

OUR EXPENSES IN 2015 FOR FOOD AND VET WILL PROBABLY DOUBLE !

We have tripled the amount of fawns and quadrupled the amount of squirrels so far this year! We purchased \$900 worth of new fence and shelter for Tracy's facility. And we spent \$1,000 to finish the squirrel building and yard.



Every penny donated to Wildside Rehabilitation Inc. is spent on the animals for food, medication, vaccinations, worming and housing.

There are no paid employees, no administration fees and we do not count incidental expenses such as gas and utilities.

If you wish to help us with 2015 expenses please send checks to:

Kevin McKie 64564 Research Road Bend, Or. 97701

Make check to *Wildside Rehabilitation Inc.*

or use PayPal via our web site: www.wildsiderehab.com

A RECEIPT FOR YOUR TAX DEDUCTION WILL BE SENT TO YOU.

Sincere thanks to our donors & helpers

Peter & Alexa Selby

Klees family

Sharon Lohrmann

Jan Fuller

Christine Burton

Christopher & Anne Tappouni

Mona Allrecht

Jack & Pat Homeyer

Mary Jo Swaner

Sharon Parr

Mickey Hiland

Greg & Elizabeth McNutt

Fred Helwig

Mike & Sue Floyd

Keith McKie

Mark Sampson

Jared & Christine Huffman

Sound Physicians

Peggy Saydell

Cathy Conreras

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The Klees family

Cat Lieberknecht

Judy Niedzwiecke

Kevin & Jen McKie

Diana Bianca Redfield

Deirdra Kelleher

KC Development

Marita Southerland

David Banks

Harris & Nancy Kimble

Bobbe Leonhardy

Kim Hafermalz

High Desert Feed

Billy Kelleher

Janie Helwig

Please know that if you are not listed here, it is a clerical error. We are so appreciative of your help, we would never leave you out if not for a mistake. Please call Judy 389-6012 to let us know of our mistake.

Trust me...it will be corrected!

WISH LIST



Our next project is to screen in the entire deer enclosure. When the fawns can not see what goes on around them they will develop a healthy fear of people, dogs (coyotes), machinery and everyday activities going on at the facility. We hope to release fawns that are better prepared to behave normally in the wild.

This is the material we want to use to accomplish this.

You can buy it on Amazon:


LUCKY DOG WINDSCREEN-SHADE KIT FOR SIDES OF DOG KENNEL., 57-INCH WIDE BY 34-FEET LONG

Price: \$86.56 & **FREE Shipping.**

- Brass grommets every 24 inches provide extra strength
- Size and material allow for easy air movement to help keep your pet comfortable
- Installs easily using included zip ties

link to the page on Amazon:

http://www.amazon.com/dp/B0019RQM2I/ref=wl_it_dp_o_pC_nS_img?_encoding=UTF8&colid=2Q0SAK6AO1YKQ&coliid=IDP4YL4Z5GAFK



We already have this material on part of our deer enclosure and we are very pleased with the way it screens and how well it has held up over two years. We need 7 of these “kits” to screen all of our enclosure.

If you would like to help, please order a kit or two and have it sent to:

Kevin McKie 64564 Research Road Bend, Or. 97701

Got elk, deer or fish in your freezer that you won't eat? Raccoons would love it!

New or used Chain link panels (dog kennels) to set up Tracy's new facility

Cash or Gift Certificate from Feed Store-Costco-Food for Less

THIS IS THE BY FAR OUR MOST FREQUENTLY ASKED QUESTION:

Q After all the human intervention while these animals are babies, what are the chances of their survival after they are released? How well are they able to find food, avoid predators, and interact with their own species?

A **FIRST DO NO HARM** Always, our last resort is to remove an animal from their natural habitat or from their parents unless there is absolutely no doubt that their current circumstance will certainly result in death or life threatening injury. When we commit to save an animal, we are assured that we can only make things better for them because otherwise they face certain death or pain and suffering.

At Wildside we take advantage of having three licensed rehabilitators. We make a concerted effort to break the bond a neonate will form with it's first caregiver. If one of us bottle feeds a raccoon (for example), when it is weaned, it will go to a different rehabber to complete it's time in captivity. This goes a long way to prepare them for freedom because they are naturally wary of humans they don't recognize. They get no unnecessary handling and they become roommates with their own species. In the case of the carnivores, we make an effort to simulate their future hunting skills by hiding their food and providing live food that they have to capture. Most of the carnivores respond well to this plan. Instincts that come with maturity kick in several months before release and they become very difficult to deal with just to move them to their release location.

The small neonate herbivores, Squirrels and Chipmunks, usually are tame until they don't need us anymore. After weaning they move to our squirrel facility and from then until release they seldom see people and have no reason to interact with them. We provide food and water from the outside of their living space and they have no reason to credit us with the handout. They have a big yard and they quickly learn to hide food from one another as they will when released. With very few exceptions, they do not interact with humans and they have a healthy fear of predators after release.

The Mule Deer are a different story! Even when they have not been raised by humans they will choose to live amongst people. There are things we can do to make them more wary. One is our practice of separating them from their original "mama" caregiver when they are weaned. Another is to screen their living space so that they can not see people, machinery, dogs, etc. Another is to devise a way to provide food and water without making contact with the fawns. If Mule Deer fawns come to us closer to weaning age and we never bottle fed them they are usually very wild because they had time with their mother and learned from her to be wary. We are so very fortunate to have a perfect place to release our fawns! We take them deep into the Sisters mountains to a 1500+ acre ranch with ample food and water and almost no exposure to humans. There are, however, predators and this is always worrisome for us. Leaving them is hard.

We try to eliminate disease and parasites from interfering with their lives by vaccinating and worming. There is little beyond their upbringing and their health care that we can do to insure their survival.



Do you ever keep wild animals as pets?

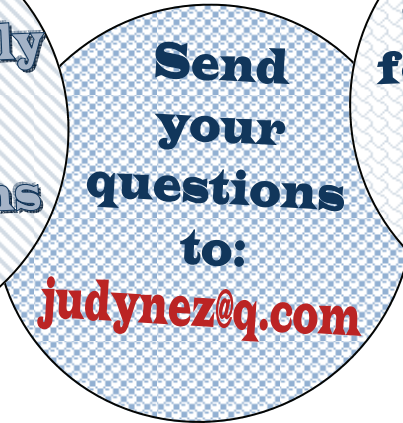
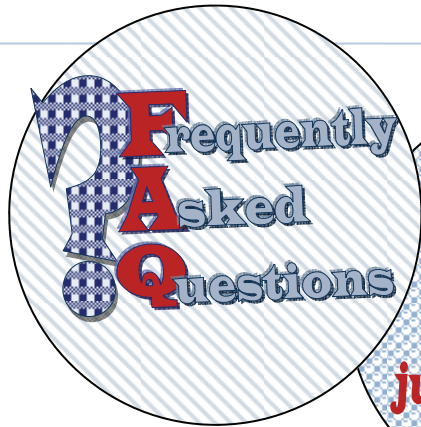


Is it possible to make a pet out of a wild animal? Yes, temporarily, but it is highly unlikely that they will grow up to become an enjoyable pet. When they mature, their wild instincts kick in. Containing a wild animal does not end well for the human or the animal.

To date, Wildside has not kept a wild animal past the time that they can humanely be released. Sometimes they stay longer than normal because there is an injury or illness that still needs to be addressed. Or we might keep them over the winter because they are not ready to survive the winter.

We don't treat them like pets. We feed them, attend to their health needs, keep their enclosure clean and otherwise leave them alone or with other animals of their own species.

It is against the law to keep wild animals captive. We will lose our license if we keep an animal unless it is specifically permitted by Oregon Department of Fish and Wildlife. Occasionally they will allow keeping an animal that can not be released due to injury as an "educational" animal.



Thank You

Kim Hafermalz for making it possible for us to acquire 250 pounds of beef for our Raccoons over the winter!

Thank you Harris Kimble for the freezer space to store the meat! And thank you Harris for offering to grind all this meat so we can package it into portions that will last through the winter!

Thank You

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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Mammals, Birds and Reptiles

Specializing in Raptors

Wildlife Veterinarian on site

541-241-8680

www.highdesertwildlife.org



Licensed to rehabilitate

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

"That's
all
folks!"



Next Issue

Next Edition of
Wildside Newsletter:
Early 2016

2015 critter count
2015 fawn release

Your suggestion
F A Q

Wildlife Contacts
Lucille

