

Wildside Rehabilitation

Rescue ♡ Rehabilitate ♡ Release ♡ Respect

NEWSLETTER

February 2015

Issue Number Four

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Licensed

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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.



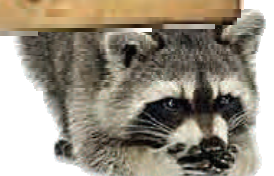
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Presidents Message



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.

With our 2014 rehab season behind us, we reflect upon the crazy busy summer we've just gone through. Our season started early this year with baby squirrels coming in early March. We still care for eight raccoons that we bottle fed in May and June (*see raccoon story in this issue*). We bottle fed fawns in June and July that were released in November. We are bottle feeding twin fawns who were born so late that we had to keep them over the winter. (*see their story in this issue*.) We suffered several painful losses in 2014. Many, many squirrels and chipmunks have been nurtured by the three licensed Wildside rehabbers this year, some born so late that though they have been released they are still reliant upon us for food.

This year we were delighted to be able to rely on the help of Dr. Jeff Cooney & Jeanette Bonomo of *High Desert Wildlife Rescue & Rehab*. Not only has Dr. Cooney been our "supportive veterinarian" but we have enjoyed a wonderful symbiotic relationship with *High Desert Rescue & Rehab* in an effort to best benefit the animals. We passed animals back & forth between us depending upon the appropriate facility, ability, availability and/or expertise that best suited the animal's circumstance. I can't imagine what we would've done without them. Especially when we took in a fawn with a severely injured leg that required constant medical attention. Every few days, the bandage would need changing or minor surgical procedures needed doing. Jeff & Jeanette were always ready to assist us in any way they could. It is a pleasure to work with people who are as passionate about caring for wildlife as we are!

We so appreciate those who support us financially! To name all of the generous and supportive people who have helped us save lives is impossible. Thank you all so much! Thanks to Anne Walsten for her substantial donation which made it possible to complete the new squirrel enclosure. The McKie family has been incredibly supportive, both monetarily and physically! Val's memory is being respectfully honored by her family's support of the organization that was so dear to her heart. I'd like to take this opportunity to send out a HUGE thanks to Bettye Tillson, for all her hard work shopping at garage & estate sales for valuable items such as cages, bedding & dishes. It's been a year of education & gratitude for us. Thank you, everyone, for all your help.

Even with all the outside help, none of what we do could be done without the care and support of our families. Thank you Andy Niedzwiecke for your unselfish support! Thank you for working so hard on the buildings and fences to house our critters! Thank you for supporting Judy through the joys and heartaches involved with what we do! Thank you Bobbe & Rachel Leonhardy. Without your support, I could never follow my passion. How can we ever thank our families for your patience! You have shared our joy when we successfully release a baby we've nurtured from newborn. You are the ones upon whose shoulders we cry when one of our babies dies. You have listened for hours while we bitterly complain about some unfairness or another. You are so deeply appreciated.

Thank you, thank you, and thanks again.

Tracy Leonhardy

Wildside now 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 by caring for animals until they are ready for adoption. Judy's background in photography, journalism, graphic design and her organizational skills bring order, public education and communication in the form of a newsletter to Wildside.



Sandy

License #1584

Sandy has a Bachelors Degree and is presently employed by a local small animal veterinarian as a vet assistant.

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

While in college, Sandy volunteered at Chintimini Wildlife Center in Corvallis.

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 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.

Wildside's new squirrel facility



Thanks to generous donors, we were able to erect this building during the summer of 2014. There is still a lot of work to be done before it will be ready for the baby squirrels this spring. The interior has got to be finished and an outside cage must be constructed which will wrap around the back and the right side of the building. The small cage on the left side of the building connects to a window through which the squirrels can pass in and out of a room inside the building. The window will be kept closed until the squirrels are ready for release. At first, for a few weeks, they will only be able to come out of the building into the cage. Then we will open this little squirrel sized door and set them free. Food and water will still be provided and the squirrels will be able to come and go as needed until they learn to fend for themselves. This is called a “soft release”.

Baby squirrels open their eyes when they are 6 weeks old. They are bottle fed for about 3 months. When they are weaned they will move into this building until they are ready to release at about 5 months of age. The squirrels we released in 2014 are still being fed until the harshness of the winter subsides.

A can of milk formula for the infant squirrels and chipmunks costs \$16.00. One baby squirrel will require half of the can before it is weaned. 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.



4 WEEKS OLD

Eight babies grow up at Wildside's raccoon facility.



January through March is mating season for raccoons. The orphans that Wildside rehabbers are sure to take in this year will be born in March through June. We usually get them when they are old enough to venture out of the den at 2 months of age, but many are much younger and still have eyes and ears closed. Almost all of them must be bottle fed for two or three months, depending upon their condition.

In 2014 we rehabilitated 9 raccoons. One of them was about 3 months old, weaned and very wild. Willy availed himself of our free food for a month and then he busted out and released himself. The other eight, 7 boys and 1 girl, remain with us and will be released just in time for us to take in the 2015 motherless coonies.

When they were tiny orphans, they were divvied up between Wildside's rehabbers to be bottle fed and nurtured until they were old enough to wean. Sandy raised three, Judy raised three and Tracy raised two. After weaning, they all moved to Judy's facility. They all weigh between 30 and 35 pounds now. They have been vaccinated and wormed and now, until their release, they will have little contact with humans. We expect them to weigh 40-45 pounds when we release them.

Each baby we take in has a different story. They come to us from all over Deschutes and Crook County from citizens who have found and/or rescued them.

Wendell, for example, was found on a Deschutes River trail by a runner and her dog. He was barely alive and his face was covered with imbedded porcupine quills. He was hungry and extremely dehydrated. He was probably two months old. At this age a raccoon is barely mobile and does not see very well. He seemed to have trouble using one hind leg, although he had no open wounds other than those caused by the penetration of the quills. Our guess is: Wendell may have been the runt of a litter that



had ventured out of the den

with their mom for the first time. Maybe because of his wonky hind leg, he fell behind his mom and siblings and was left behind. Possibly he wandered up to a Porcupine and mistook him/her for his mommy. Being very hungry, he may have been more rude than the porcupine was willing to tolerate. After he was subcutaneously hydrated and the quills were removed, Wendall gladly accepted the warm formula from a bottle. For several weeks we worried about his uncooperative hind leg but eventually he traveled like a normal baby raccoon and is now nearly ready to be released.



August 2014-just weaned



By September all the babies moved from Sandy and Tracy's facility to the raccoon enclosure at Judy's place. Alice, raised by Tracy, is the smallest and only female. When it comes to feeding time each day...Alice moves in first and takes her preferred food before the guys dare to approach the food! Wendell is the second smallest so he waits for everyone else to grab what they want. There is always enough food offered for Wendell to get his fair share.

Raccoons eat a variety of food: raw meat, fruit, eggs, reptiles, fish, rodents and most anything they

can find. In the wild, they need to be stealthy lethal hunters. When humans invade their hunting grounds, they are smart enough to adapt to consuming our garbage and killing our livestock (which we cage for their convenience).

It is very difficult to keep a raccoon in or out of a cage! They decide upon a project and they fastidiously work at it until it gets done. Their busy brains and hands enable them and their perseverance keeps a rehabber on his/her toes! Keeping thawed clean water available to a caged raccoon is a never ending project! Currently, the defrosting unit is caged away from busy hands by a heavy wire secured to the water container which is chained to the fence. The coons are only able to get their snout and hands through to the water but not far enough to dismantle the defroster or get hold of the electric wire attached to it. For some reason, it is a daily project to stuff as many toys and anything else they can carry through the wire into the water. The water must be disconnected from the fence and dumped every day in order for the water to be fresh.

The play structure you see in the picture above is also a continuing challenge. We built a roof for the top of the play structure to provide an inside shelter from the weather and a high platform for them to play and sleep on.

This is the second one they have destroyed →
The next one will be covered with steel instead of plastic.

And where is all the material they tore off? Remember the water container? Some of it is in there each day and the rest is everywhere inside and outside the enclosure! Cleaning of the raccoon pen is never ending!

And what about all that poop?



Pictures taken 2-5-15



Alice

At this time, our eight raccoons eat

5 pounds of raw meat or fish

12 cups of dry dog food

8 eggs or 1 pound of fruit

EVERY DAY

They cost us approximately

\$150.00 a month



Wendell

others spending the winter with us



Scrubby came to Wildside from Hi Desert Rehab with 9 other birds for a soft release. Judy's facility has an abundance of pine trees which is a must for Scrub Jay and Steller's Jay habitat. The birds were held for a month so they would know where to find food after release. All were successfully released except for one.

Scrubby (a Scrub Jay) never grew a tail! We know not why. So he is still with us because he can only fly short distances.



1-19-15

Two chipmunks remain in protective custody because they should be hibernating. We feared they were not mature enough, before winter set in, to build a nest and stash food. One of them is hibernating but the other is still running around his cage gathering and stashing food. They will be released in the spring of 2015



About 3 weeks old

Hope & Hoover



Almost all Mule Deer fawns are born in June. So Tracy was dubious about a call from concerned citizens regarding a doe that was struggling to give birth on the 6th of **September**. When Tracy arrived on the scene the doe had delivered triplets.

One of the triplets was a normal size fawn. The other two weighed **less than 4 pounds** and were not tall enough to reach their mother's udder. The decision was made to leave the normal size fawn with his mama and to take the tiny ones to Tracy's facility and try to save their lives.



The fawns lived in an X-Pen in Tracy's bedroom for the first two weeks. They were bottle fed around the clock, at first only two hours between feedings. In spite of the fact that they never got the precious colostrum from their mama, Hope and Hoover thrived under the expert care Tracy gave them.

These fawns are very rare! Not only is it rare for a mule deer to give birth to triplets but it is al-

most never that they are born so late in the year. (which makes it difficult for them to survive the cold weather that is sure to stress them and limit their food supply) Without our intervention, two of them and possibly their mother would never have had a chance to survive.



JUDY WITH
24 hour
old fawn



TRACY WITH SIX WEEK
OLD FAWNS

Hope and Hoover not only survived but they thrived! When they were 6 weeks old, they moved outside to deal with the weather and start the process of weaning. At 2 months they outgrew Tracy's facility and were moved to Sandy's facility where there was more grass and room to run. Sandy bottle fed them three times a day and introduced them to other natural foods.

Hope is a doe and she is very independent and as self reliant as she could be and still survive. Hoover, a buck, was named for the way he vacuumed up a bottle! He is a mama's boy and very demanding of attention.

All creatures rely on a signal to their eyes that alerts their body to prepare for harsher weather. As the light of day becomes shorter, their bodily functions change and their hair grows to prepare them to survive the impending winter weather.



SANDY
WITH 6
WEEK
OLD
HOOPER

Because Hope and Hoover were born so late and kept inside (where nature's signals could not be received), they did not grow the winter coat needed for the weather change.

Anticipating this problem, Wildside bought the fawns jackets to wear when the cold weather set in. They only wear them on the coldest of days and an effort is made to expose them to a full day of sunlight.



HOPE—3 MONTHS OLD.

Up until two weeks ago, they were still brought into a barn at night but now they will stay outside day and night and have much less contact with humans.

We anticipate releasing Hope and Hoover in April or May .

Then in June, we will begin to take in 2015's orphaned fawns that have lost their mama for one reason or another.



Hoover—2½ months old.



Sandy & Hope 1-18-15



THIS BUCKET OF FORMULA TO MAKE MILK FOR THE FAWNS COSTS \$74.95. THIS WILL FEED 2 FAWNS FOR 3 WEEKS. WE USUALLY FEED 6-10 FAWNS A YEAR. WHEN THEY ARE WEANED THEY ARE FED A PELLETED DEER FORMULA, GRASS HAY AND CALF MANNA. A BAG OF THE PELLETED FORMULA COSTS \$17.00 AND WILL FEED 4 FAWNS FOR 1 WEEK.

THE ANNUAL FAWN RELEASE

IN NOVEMBER, AFTER HUNTING SEASON CLOSES, WE LOAD OUR FAWNS IN A TRAILER (what a rodeo!) AND TAKE THEM TO A BREATHTAKINGLY BEAUTIFUL REMOTE CANYON TO SET THEM FREE. THIS IS A BITTER SWEET EXPERIENCE!



WHEN THEY FIRST STEP INTO THEIR NEW HOME, THEY CLING TO US IN FEAR OF THE VASTNESS, ALL THE NEW SOUNDS AND SCENTS.



THEY CLING TO US AND WE WALK WITH THEM FOR SEVERAL HOURS UNTIL THEY BEGIN TO RELAX. WHEN THE REALITY OF THEIR FREEDOM SETS IN, THEY BEGIN TO RUN.....

AND THEN THEY ARE GONE.

WISH LIST

- * Cash or materials to build outside portion of the new squirrel facility
- * Got elk, deer or fish in your freezer that you won't eat? Raccoons would love it!
- * Chain link panels to set up Tracy's new facility
- * Gravel
- * Cash or gift certificate for feed (feed store or Food4Less)





Frequently Asked Questions

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

Q “Why are there less deer in our area than there were a few years ago?”

A The deer in our area have been greatly reduced due to a disease that is species specific to deer and very deadly. **Adenovirus Hemorrhagic Disease** is highly transmissible just from nose to nose contact! Infected deer can have clinical signs common to other diseases such as blue-tongue or pneumonia. Chronic symptoms include ulcers and abscesses in the mouth and throat. Acute symptoms include rapid or open mouth breathing, foaming or drooling at the mouth, diarrhea (possibly bloody), weakness, and copious amounts of fluid in the body cavity. Death can occur within 3 - 5 days from the time the deer is exposed to the virus.

ODFW limited the amount of 2014 hunting tags in our area because the mule deer herds have been so devastated by this disease.

Fawns are most susceptible, while death in adults is sporadic. Wildside lost two fawns this year (who tested positive) that had to have been infected by nose to nose contact with the wild population through a fence.

CRITTER COUNT 2014

11 WESTERN GRAY SQUIRRELS	7 FAWNS
1 GOLDEN MANTLED SQUIRREL	9 RACCOONS
1 PINE SQUIRREL	6 CHIPMUNKS
5 SCRUB JAYS	4 STELLER'S JAYS

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 NEARLY FINISHED WHICH WILL VASTLY IMPROVE OUR ABILITY TO SAFELY SOFT RELEASE.

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: \$7,116.00 (MILK FORMULA, RAW MEAT, FRUIT & VEGETABLES, SEEDS & GRAINS, HAY & FEED PELLETS)

ONE TIME EXPENSES: \$3,637.00 (CAGE & EQUIPMENT PURCHASE, CONSTRUCTION & REPAIR AND BROCHURES)

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 EXPENSE SUCH AS GAS AND UTILITIES.

IF YOU WISH TO HELP US WITH 2015 EXPENSES PLEASE SEND CHECKS TO:

Keith McKie 64564 Research Road Bend, Or. 97701

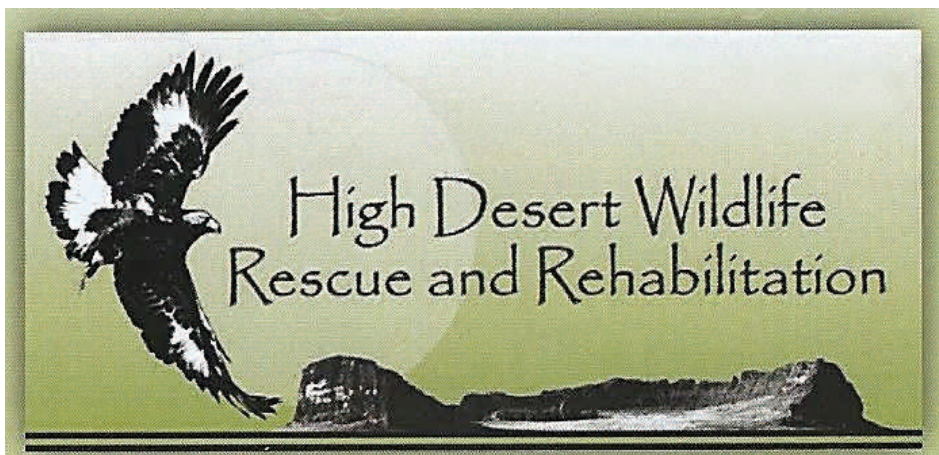
Make check to *Wildside Rehabilitation Inc.*

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

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

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

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541-241-8680

www.highdesertwildlife.org

Wildside Rehabilitation Inc.
Rescue
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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

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

Animal Emergency Center
24 hour service
541-385-9110