

# Wildside Rehabilitation

Rescue ♡ Release ♡ Respect

## Newsletter

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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 and many other species of wildlife. Wildside care-givers strive to heal or nurture and prepare wildlife for a return to their native environment.

### Mission Statement

*Provide competent, compassionate care to mammals of Central Oregon with the least human impact; Educate and advocate for wildlife; Conservation and preservation of the wilderness.*

### Donations Greatfully Received

Tax ID Number 26-3589400

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[www.wildsiderehab.com](http://www.wildsiderehab.com)

# Presidents Message



Tracy Leonhardy is the President of Wildside Rehabilitation, Inc. She is a licensed Rehabilitator and a licensed Veterinary Technician. All of the volunteer caregivers legally care for wildlife, under Tracy's knowledgeable tutelage. This knowledge is incredibly far reaching! Each species has unique dietary needs and must be handled and housed according to their specific needs. Tracy 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.

*I remember my very first involvement with wildlife rescue & release. Back in 1979, my family & I were living north of Sisters on a cattle ranch. My father was driving home late one night & found a Golden Eagle walking up the middle of the road. He carefully wrapped it in his coat & brought it home with him. It was raining & the poor bird was drenched to the skin & shivering. We kept it warm & force fed it chicken broth the first few days we had it. Mom suspected that it had pneumonia. It coughed up mucus & we were sure it was going to die.*

*Finally, we were able to locate a local wildlife rehabilitator named Jay Bowerman. Jay was starting what is now the Sunriver Nature Center but he didn't have any cages to put the eagle in. He coached us on how to care for it, & more importantly, how to handle it! Golden Eagles have very formidable beaks & sharp talons. Given her size, Jay surmised that our eagle was a female. My mother & I patiently fed her & cleaned her and to our complete surprise, the eagle survived! She lived with us for nearly 2 months before she was strong enough to fly away.*

*The day we released her was a warm sunny day. My mom had hooded the eagle with her own stocking cap. I climbed up to the top of a big rock out-cropping. Dad carefully passed the eagle up to me. I gently held her down on the top of the rock while dad climbed up behind us. Then dad pulled the hat off of the eagle's head & I let go of her. She sat blinking in the bright light for a bit, calmly adjusting to her new surroundings. The most amazing thing happened. The eagle looked directly at my father, then at me, making direct eye contact. She thought about it for a second, then took two hopping steps & with one hard down stroke of her wings, she was off! Oh my, how she soared! She circled high above us and with a long cry of delight, was gone. I felt such tremendous joy watching that eagle soar away. I felt as though I was a part of something magical. Well, that was it! I was in love with caring for wildlife!*

# Baby Raccoons 2013



TWO WEEKS



TWO MONTHS

WHEN WORKERS SHOWED UP AT AN EMPTY BEND HOME THAT WAS BEING REMODELED, THEY DISCOVERED A RACCOON IN THE STREET THAT HAD APPARENTLY BEEN HIT BY A CAR. WHEN THEY OPENED A WALL AS NEEDED FOR THE REMODEL, THEY FOUND THREE TINY RACCOONS. FURTHER INSPECTION REVEALED THAT THE DECEASED RACCOON WAS LACTATING AND NO DOUBT THE MOTHER OF THESE THREE ORPHANS. WILDSIDE REHAB HAS NURTURED

THESE ADORABLE BANDITS SINCE BEFORE THEIR EYES AND EARS WERE OPENED. THEIR EYES OPEN 18 TO 24 DAYS AFTER BIRTH.



LEROY

WHOOPI

MALCOLM



THREE  
MONTHS

Raccoons are excellent mothers. They take great care of their babies. When the babies are young, they stay in a nest while the mother raccoon goes and forages for extra food to make enough milk to feed them. After about twelve weeks, the young have grown large enough that they start to follow the mother outside of the nest area. The nest is usually in a tree hollow or other safe dry place, usually elevated for safety. They travel with their mother learning from her how to forage for food, and avoid predators. They are weaned by 16 weeks. Their mother teaches them how to hunt, kill and eat birds, fish, crawdads, insects, reptiles, small mammals and how to steal eggs. The young stay with her for around nine months. Although a female raccoon can give birth to up to eight babies (though four is average), nine months after birth, there's usually only two or so still traveling with her. When mom has a new litter, her babies are definitely on their own.

# THREE MORE....

THESE THREE BABY RACCOONS CAME TO US WHEN THEY WERE OLD ENOUGH TO KNOW THAT THE FORMULA WE OFFERED THEM IN A BOTTLE WAS NO SUBSTITUTE FOR THEIR MOTHER. HANDLING OLDER BABIES LIKE THESE IS CONSIDERABLY DIFFERENT THAN THE YOUNGER INFANTS. BEFORE THEY WERE SEPARATED FROM THEIR MOTHERS, THEY HAD BEEN TAUGHT TO FEAR PREDATORS...AND HUMAN BEINGS FALL INTO THAT CATEGORY.

VALLIE CAME FROM PRINEVILLE WHERE A FAMILY FOUND HER HIDING IN THEIR WOOD PILE. HER MOTHER AND SIBLINGS HAD BEEN STEALING CAT FOOD FROM THE FAMILY CAT AND FOR SOME REASON THE

MOTHER RACCOON MOVED ON WITH HER BABIES BUT VALLIE WAS LEFT TO FEND FOR HERSELF. VALLIE GOT HER FACE SWATTED BY ONE OF THE CATS. A BAD SCRATCH WENT STRAIGHT ACROSS HER EYEBALL AND SHREDDED THE CORNEA. MOST OF THE EYE ATROPHIED, CAUSING BLINDNESS. WHEN SHE'S A LITTLE OLDER, SHE WILL NEED SURGERY TO REMOVE WHAT'S LEFT OF HER EYE AND THE EYELID WILL BE STITCHED CLOSED SO THAT DIRT & INSECTS DON'T GET INTO THE EYE WHEN SHE IS RETURNED TO THE WILD.

THE OTHER TWO RACCOONS ARE BROTHER & SISTER THAT CAME FROM SUNRIVER. THEIR MOTHER WAS HIT & KILLED ON THE ROAD. BECAUSE ALL THREE REFUSED TO TAKE A BOTTLE, WE SOAKED KITTEN FOOD IN THEIR FORMULA SO THAT THEY WOULD STILL RECEIVE THE PROPER AMOUNT OF CALCIUM NEEDED FOR GROWING BONES. ALL SIX RACCOONS WILL SPEND THE WINTER WITH US AND BE RELEASED IN THE SPRING.

WHEN INJURED OR SICK ANIMALS COME TO US NEEDING A VETERINARIAN FOR TREATMENT OR TO BE EUTHANIZED, WE TAKE THEM TO A LICENSED WILDLIFE VETERINARIAN. ALTHOUGH WE RECEIVE A NON-PROFIT DISCOUNT, WE STILL HAVE CONSIDERABLE VET BILLS. WE STRIVE TO TREAT EVERY ANIMAL IN THE MOST HUMANE WAY POSSIBLE.



Raising ORPHAN RACCOONS IS A LONG TERM PROJECT. A CAREGIVERS JOB DOES NOT END WITH BOTTLE FEEDING UNTIL THEY ARE FOUR MONTHS OLD. FOR THE FIRST TWO MONTHS WE MUST STIMULATE THEM TO ELIMINATE WASTE LIKE THEIR MOTHER WOULD HAVE. WE MUST TEACH THEM TO HUNT AND EAT A ROUNDED DIET. WE MUST PROVIDE THEM A HABITAT THAT OFFERS THEM THE ABILITY TO PRACTICE THE SKILLS NEEDED TO AVOID PREDATORS. THEY NEED TO LEARN TO RUN FAST, CLIMB AND BALANCE. WE MUST RESPECT THEIR "WILDNESS" AND ALLOW THEM TO USE THEIR DEFENSES REGARDLESS OF THE POSSIBILITY THAT THEY CAN HURT US.



WE TAKE THEM TO A POND OR CREEK TO TEACH THEM TO MOVE ROCKS, FIND AND EAT SNAILS AND CRAWDADS. THEY MUST ALSO LEARN TO SWIM.



THEY LEARN TO CLIMB AND BALANCE IN THEIR ENCLOSURE. LIVE CRAWDADS AND FISH ARE RELEASED IN THEIR POOL TO TEACH THEM TO CATCH, KILL AND EAT THEM.



RAW CHICKEN, GRAPES AND OTHER NATURAL FOODS ARE HIDDEN UNDER ROCKS, IN HANGING BUCKETS AND IN THE POOL SO THAT THEY HAVE TO SEARCH FOR THEM.

THEY HAVE AN INDOOR "DEN" FOR SHELTER AND A "SAFE PLACE" TO RUN TO WHEN THEY ARE FEARFUL. NO HEAT IS PROVIDED, THEY MUST LEARN TO DEAL WITH THE ELEMENTS.





BY THE TIME THEY ARE READY FOR FREEDOM IN THE SPRING, THEY WILL WEIGH ABOUT 40-45 POUNDS. THEIR WILDNESS WILL OVERCOME THEIR NEED FOR US TO CARE FOR THEM. THEY WILL BE DANGEROUS WILD ANIMALS, READY TO FIT INTO THE PERFECT AND SOMETIMES CRUEL BALANCE OF NATURE.



## Releasing THE Babies

WILDSIDE'S 2012 ORPHAN RACCOONS WERE BOTH MALES, NOT RELATED. MAC AND TEDDY WERE RELEASED THIS SPRING IN THE SISTERS MOUNTAINS, NEAR A CREEK FULL OF CRAWDADS.



TEDDY QUICKLY CLIMBED A TREE TO SURVEY HIS NEW HOME FROM ABOVE.



MAC WAS RELUCTANT TO SEPARATE FROM US, HE PLAYED IN THE WATER AND CLIMBED TREES BUT CAUGHT UP WITH US WHEN WE WALKED OUT OF HIS SIGHT.



WE WALKED ALONG THE CREEK FOR AN HOUR OR SO, ENJOYING MAC'S FROLIC. WATCHING THIS BEAUTIFUL 45 POUND, HEALTHY RACCOON ENJOY HIS FREEDOM WAS HEARTWARMING. RELEASING THESE CRITTERS IS A BITTER SWEET EXPERIENCE.

MAC NEVER LET US OUT OF HIS SIGHT, WHILE HE EXPLORED AND CHITTERED IN DELIGHT. HE FOLLOWED US AS WE TURNED BACK TOWARD OUR CAR AND AS WE GOT CLOSER TO THE TREE THAT TEDDY WAS IN, WE COULD HEAR TED CALLING TO MAC. MAC HEARD HIM BUT HE STAYED WITH US FOR A WHILE. WHEN TED'S CALLS BECAME MORE DESPERATE, MAC CHOSE TO RUN TO HIM, UP THE TREE FOR A DRAMATIC REUNION.



WATCHING THEM HUG EACH OTHER AND CELEBRATE THEIR FRIENDSHIP WAS AMAZING.

THIS WAS OUR OPPORTUNITY TO LEAVE THEM.

WE WILL NEVER KNOW HOW THEIR LIVES WENT FROM THERE. WE HAD AN INTIMATE PART IN THEIR FIRST YEAR AND IT WAS HARD TO WALK AWAY.



# Raccoon Enclosure Expansion Underway

*Thanks to our generous donors!*



**Trees removed to make space for cement to be poured.**

**New enclosure will extend their space to the size of the slab.**



Original Raccoon Enclosure 6 X 12  
Has access to a den inside the building

Part of tree left for coons to climb

The new enclosure will have a gated divider so that the raccoons can be sequestered in one side or another while the pen is being cleaned or when a new raccoon needs to be safely introduced to other raccoons. This gate will be left open unless needed for raccoon management.

A 4X6 gated section will serve as a sally port. This area will be covered and used as a potty room. The gate will be left open except for when potty boxes are being cleaned.

Leroy, Whoopi and Malcolm have been taught to use a large plastic box with shavings in it for their toileting. When other raccoons are added to the enclosure, we hope they will follow the triplet's example.

# The second phase is finished!



For now, the space for the raccoons to play is doubled. We hope to have the remaining space finished in a week or so, weather permitting. It was so rewarding to watch the triplets celebrate their new space. Wild animals need to be busy in order to develop physically and mentally.



We keep them occupied by hiding their food and providing new toys. Almost anything new is a toy for a baby raccoon. We find toys at the thrift stores. When they become bored with one we replace it with another.

Things as simple as a pine cone or a floating 2X4 are excuse enough for a raccoon frolic. We are building hanging platforms to replace the one you see in this picture. They love this thing so much it is falling apart!



**Finished project featured in next newsletter**

# HOW TO BE a SUPERHERO



## Volunteer

We really need dedicated caregivers.  
 You only need the space and the desire.  
 We will train you and cover all expenses.

Fund Raising	Publicity
Research	Gather food for fawns
Transporting of animals	Building builder
Cage building	Veterinary services
Distribute literature	Catch Crawdads

## Donate

Trailer to transport animals

Traps	Chain-link Fence panels
Nets	Portable shelters
Food	Bird, Squirrel, Bat Houses
shavings	Canopy for booth
Leash pole	Medical supplies
Cat sacks	Rescue stretcher
Squeeze cage	Tranquilizer gun
Large cages	Water heaters
heat lamps	Heat lamp fixtures

# Sincere thanks to our donors

Madaline Currie for a chain-link Pen

Peter & Alexa for \$100 cash

Jack & Pat Homeyer for \$50 cash

Mickey Hiland for \$200 cash

Bill & Debbie Grafton for Hay for Fawns

Scott Waters for Raccoon Play Gym

Mona Albrecht for \$15 cash

John & Judi Gram for \$50 cash

Richard Patterson for hay for fawns

Katy Corning for \$40.00 cash

Cat Lieberknecht for \$100.00 cash

Mary Jo Swaner for \$50 cash

Anne Walsten for \$1000 cash for coon enclosure

Sharon Parr for a rolling cage

Greg McNutt for loaning a canopy for booth

Jane Helwig for \$450 cash

Christine & Jarad Huffman for \$50 cash

Peggy Saydell for \$200 cash

Fred Helwig for \$1000 cash

Sharon Lohrmann \$1000 cash for coon enclosure

The Klees family for \$40.00 cash

Mike & Sue Floyd for much financial & physical help!

Please know that if you are not listed here, it is a clerical error. We are so appreciative for 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!

# Some of this years critters



We took in nine injured or orphaned fawns. We were able to save five of them and they will be released in October.



Chitter Bug is a Golden Mantel Squirrel. She came to us before her eyes were open. She was released this summer.



More baby Gray Squirrels this year than ever before!



Two Douglas Squirrels came to us from LaPine. One did not survive neurological injuries, probably from falling out of their nest. Little Doug is healthy and just as cute as it gets!



Six baby raccoons—3 girls & 3 boys

# Dedicated Caregivers and Money that's all we need .....

Infant raccoons are bottle fed milk replacer formula (20#-\$69.00) every two hours around the clock until their eyes open. More milk is given further apart as they grow. Just before weaning (about 3 months) one raccoon will drink an 8oz. bottle twice a day, then once a day until fully weaned.



**Mac**

As soon as they show interest in eating solid food, they will be introduced to premium kitten food (10#-\$39) soaked in the formula. Fresh Fruits, eggs, raw chicken, raw fish and a premium kitten food will be fed every day until their release, at approximate age of 9-10 months. Each raccoon gets either 1/2 an 8 inch raw fish, **or** one raw chicken leg, thigh or breast, one raw egg **and** a cup of premium kitten food every day. They will be fed twice a day through the winter months and early spring. Six raccoons will go through a bale of shavings (\$9.00) in a week for their potty area.

If a fawn is determined to be 5 days old or younger, it will be bottle fed milk replacer formula (20#-\$69.00) every two hours around the clock. After that, the amount of milk is increased and their feedings reduced to every 3 hours until they are about 14 days. After 23 days the milk is increased and they are fed 3 times a day. At about 2 months the milk is decreased and fed 2 times a day.

As soon as they show interest in eating solid food, bitter brush which we gather and cut for them is introduced. They are also given a little hay and are started on a mixture of a pelleted Mule Deer feed (50#-\$20.95) and a milk replacer pellet (20#-39.95). They are weaned at about 3 months depending upon their development. The five fawns we have now are each eating about 6 cups of pellets and share a flake of hay along with natural grass and gathered bitter brush. They will be released at the end of October.



**Juniper**

A tiny baby squirrel weighs less than 0.35 oz. When we get them, hairless, blind and deaf, they are bottle fed a milk replacer (12oz.-\$18.95) + heavy cream formula every three hours around the clock until they weigh about 0.85 oz. The amount of formula is carefully balanced with the frequency of feedings as they grow. As soon as they are interested in solid food, tiny pieces of fruit and grain are introduced. When they are weaned they are fed a Chickadee mixture of nuts, seeds and grains (20#-\$32.95) along with fresh fruit, fresh vegetables and pine cones. We have released several gray squirrels this year but we have 11 that are too young and must stay with us through the winter, to be released in the spring.



**Pearl**

# Booth at Munch & Movies



Our first attempt to educate the public  
**SUCCESSFUL**



# *Wildside needs Caregivers take a walk on the wild side*

We are so pleased to have a new *Squirrel Mama* at Wildside! Diana and her husband Billy are enjoying their foster squirrel, Christopher Robin. Diana started with a tiny female Gray Squirrel named Gidget. Gidget was about 5 weeks old, eyes and ears still closed, needing to be fed every 5 hours around the clock. A few days after Diana committed to Gidget, another tiny squirrel came to Wildside, about the same age as Gidget, so Diana agreed to foster them both.

About a week later, both baby squirrels opened their eyes and a few days later Diana reported an abnormality about one of Gidget's eyes. A few days later we realized that her behavior was not the same as Christopher Robin's. We took Gidget to the vet who deduced that she is blind in the eye and suffers a neurological disorder probably caused by the fall from her nest in the tree she was found under when she was about a week old.

The vet prescribed a series of steroid injections for Gidget. Only time will tell how she is able to function. There is little chance that she will be releasable. Gidget went home with Tracy to be nurtured through her problems. In the two weeks she has been with Tracy, Gidget shows slow progress and is beginning to eat on her own.

Christopher Robin is thriving! He has given up his milk and is eating on his own. He has graduated from cage to larger cage as needed. Cages, food and supplies are provided by Wildside. He is still in the Kelleher's home but soon he will need to move outside. He was born too late to release him this year so he will need to spend the winter in our care. The Kellehers plan to build an outside enclosure. Wildside currently cares for 11 squirrels that are too young to face the winter on their own. When Diana and Billy have their enclosure ready, one or two of the other babies will join Christopher Robin. Baby squirrels should not be raised alone if it can be helped.

If we continue to take in as many or more baby squirrels next spring, we are going to be in desperate need for more committed *Squirrel Mamas*!

On behalf of Gidget and Christopher Robin, THANK YOU Diana and Billy Kelleher!



***Diana Kelleher and  
Christopher Robin***

## **Next Issue**

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- ✧ *Raccoon Enclosure*
- ✧ *Improved Fawn Enclosure*
- ✧ *Gidget's Story*
- ✧ *Volunteers*