



Fall 2012

Friends of Wildlife News

Our Mission

Friends of Wildlife is an independent, non-profit 501©(3), volunteer organization dedicated to the emergency and extended care of orphaned or injured Michigan wildlife.

Our goal is to rehabilitate these animals in a professional manner which allows them to return to their natural habitat and continue their lives in the manner of that species, independent of humans.

We are licensed by and have a close working relationship with the Michigan Department of Natural Resources (**DNR**).

In addition to wildlife rehabilitation, we are vitally interested in education and the broader aspects of protecting and restoring the natural habitat of the world we share.

Friends of Wildlife endorses the high standards set forth by the National Rehabilitators Association and the International Rehabilitators Council.

Helping Squirrels who have Mange

By Stephanie Hunter

FOW's Squirrel Mange Medicine Person

*Mites are minute to microscopic 8-legged arthropods, related to ticks and spiders (where as, lice and fleas are insects.) Mange mites burrow into the skin of animals, feeding on subcutaneous tissues. The site of the infestation becomes irritated, itchy and results in scratching by the host animal and results in hair loss. The type of mange mites most commonly seen in squirrels is called *Notoedres douglasi*, and is different from *Sarcoptes scabiei*, a mite species parasitic on humans producing a medical condition commonly called "scabies," which is most commonly contracted from an infested person. In the wild, *Sarcoptes scabiei*, occurs primarily among red foxes and coyotes.*

About six years ago I had some squirrels in my back yard that did not look good to me. They were losing hair, scratching, and had the beginnings of bloody spots. I figured out that they most likely had mange. I knew this was making them miserable, was contagious to the other squirrels, and could possibly result in



their death, so I set about trying to find someone to help me. Through contacting a squirrel person with FOW I was able to get and give the exact medicine to help my back yard squirrels. Realizing there was a shortage of people to help with this problem, I called FOW and volunteered to be "a squirrel mange medicine person." I am usually not far from home so I can quickly get back to people who phone for help. This is how it all works ... If you needed help you would call the squirrel

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Placement & Advice

INFORMATION LINES:

General Info	734-913-9843
Rabbit	734-548-3126
Squirrel	734-548-3127
Raccoon	734-548-3128
Woodchuck	734-548-3129
Opossum	734-548-3130
Fawn	734-548-3131
Fox	734-548-3132
Turtle	734-481-1812
Coyote	248-672-9615
Bat	248-645-3232
Bird Center ..	734-761-9640
Water Fowl ..	734-482-8187
Raptor	419-346-7079

Humane Society
734-662-5585

- *Helping Squirrel cont. from page 1* -
hotline. The person answering will listen carefully to the problem and if it seems to be an issue with mange then you will be given my phone number. I'll talk awhile with you and explain the use of the medication and then convince you that it is easy to treat the squirrel and you can do it! I will tell you to give the squirrel lots to eat and to make sure that he/she has an easy source of water. I will also suggest that you toss him shelled pecans, one at a time. He will receive the medication on a pecan so he needs to know that he wants to eat that and you need to practice your aim. We would arrange a time for you to come to my house to pick up the medicine. You will get the medication and printed instructions for correct use. The actual medication for one squirrel is wrapped in a round ball of aluminum foil. When the foil is opened, there is another wrapping of plastic wrap. Inside of that are two pieces of a pecan nut. Each piece has medication for one dose and a squirrel normally gets two doses about 10 days apart. The first dose will kill the mites on the squirrel. The second dose will kill any eggs that may hatch later. The first piece is tossed to the squirrel and he'll usually eat it right away. The second pecan piece is stored until later, tightly wrapped away from heat and light. (The refrigerator is a good place.) It is important that the right squirrel eats the nut and that a bird or other animal does not eat it. This means you will

have to watch carefully. If the squirrel doesn't eat the nut you will pick it up, re-wrap it, and try again later. You will also get so



that you can toss a nut right in front of the squirrel's nose, or you will devise another way to get the nut to the squirrel. The best part for me is when you call back a few weeks later to tell me your squirrels are happy again, your aim is much improved, or you have figured out how to get the medicine to your squirrels in some ingenious way. If you are treating more than one squirrel you have written down descriptions or have drawn pictures of each squirrel so that you can tell them apart and you have carefully recorded dates of treatment. It always amazes me how clever you all are! Once you are comfortable doing this you will have my phone number for the next time and I will most likely be able to leave medication at my door for you to pick up when you are able. The medication is very precise and too much could harm your squirrel so it is best that you use what has worked so well for FOW for many years. Treating

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- Helping Squirrel cont. from page 2 -

a squirrel is easy to do and you will feel so good afterward. Over the years I have met hundreds of people who have come to my house for the medicine. They are all wonderful, because, of course, they are animal people. I have even been able to recruit a few volunteers for FOW (and also for the Bird Center, which is where I originally began volunteering to help wild life). And they are all very, very happy to realize how easily they can make a difference in the lives of the squirrels that they are trying to help. ■

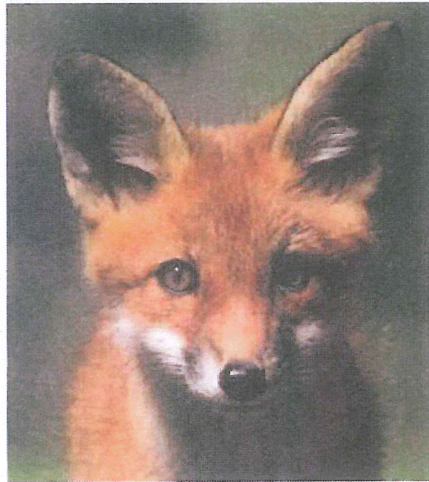
Handy?

Here are some other ways you can help!

We often need individuals to help with non-animal types of volunteering including building cages, helping staff our information table at fairs, sewing, serving on committees and envelope stuffing to name a few.

If you can help us out, please contact the number of the species of animal you would like to help, or the main FOW line:

734-913-9843.



Can't Rehabilitate, but still want to Help?

One new area of help we are looking at for 2013 is for a few volunteers to rotate turns with the species phones. When rehab season is in full swing with the babies AND injured calls, those of us that rehab animals are overwhelmed with the responsibility of having to answer and return calls to the public, advise the public, pick up animals from the public and then take care of animals while still answering the phone calls. We are willing to try and train volunteers for phone help. The perfect candidate would be someone who is retired that cares about wildlife and is willing to learn how to advise the public on our hotlines. If an animal needs rehabilitation, that candidate would also need to contact FOW rehabbers and find placement for the animal. The volunteers will keep a record of the calls in a phone log book. If an animal is placed with a FOW rehabber, the rehabber is responsible for completing the DNR form to be turned in at the end of the year.

A Letter from the community...

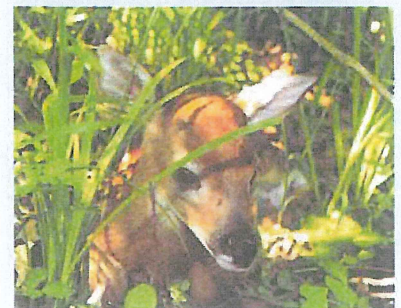
April 22, 2012

Good evening,

My family was attending the Earth Day event at the Leslie Science Center today. When we went to leave and we noticed our toddler son had turned on and left on the interior light above his car seat. Needless to say, the car battery was dead! A husband of one of your staff members came to our rescue and gave us a jump start. He wouldn't give me his name, but he had a beautiful blackish truck and he had a greyish beard. He also mentioned he was retired from the city so I hope you can track him or his wife down to please give them an extra thank you. We especially appreciated his gesture considering we had 2 other people tell us they wouldn't help us! Please know you will be expecting a financial donation in the mail from my family for his kindness, but also your amazing mission.

Warm Regards!

Jenni and Steven Hawes





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www.friendsofwildlife.net

*Bi Annually
 1200 Copies*

Will You Help?

Just as each species of animal needs special care in critical times of the year, the need for financial support is constant. **FOW is a 501©(3) volunteer organization which operates entirely on donations from friends like you.** Each injured or orphaned animal needs special food, medicine and caring attention which costs money. In these difficult times, when so many are pinched and hurting, it's easy to forget our little wildlife friends. Please give what you can.

Please make your check payable to Friends of Wildlife and mail to P.O. Box 1505, Ann Arbor, MI 48106. Also, check our website at www.friendsofwildlife.net to donate through PayPal. Donations are tax deductible to the fullest extent of the law.

Thank you for your generosity!

Rabbit	\$25
Squirrel	\$35
Opossum	\$35
Turtle	\$50
Woodchuck	\$65
Raccoon	\$125
Fox	\$150
Deer	\$300

The amounts listed above are approximate costs related to raising an animal (or an entire litter) to date of release, though sometimes the expense is considerably more if any are seriously injured.



Wish List

- Release sites on private land
- Heating pads
- Materials for building outdoor cages (wood, wire mesh, etc.)
- Volunteer help in building cages
- Monetary donations to help with veterinary expenses & supplies

You can also Participate in the Scrip/Community Rewards Program at Kroger, Hiller's, or Busch's. They donate 5% of your total bill to FOW (no extra cost to you!) FOW's Scrip number is 82467
 Questions? Contact the FOW Scrip Coordinator at: tempiedell@chartermi.net or 734-426-3361.