



FRIENDS OF WILDLIFE: Rescue, Rehabilitation, Release

Friends of Wildlife ~ Spring/Summer 2020

Our Mission

Friends of Wildlife

is an independent, non-profit 501©3, all 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 by the International Wildlife Rehabilitation Association (NWRA) and the International Wildlife Rehabilitation Council (IWRC).

Friends of Wildlife - Humanitarian and Founder Pat DeLong Retires



Pat DeLong and her Husband Dick

Pat DeLong has a deep love of all animals. Her biggest passion is for the safety, health and preservation of wildlife! Pat's earliest animal care began in 1952 when her four children first brought critters to her to heal.

Pat has a special gift when dealing with wildlife and nursing injured animals back to health. There were many lessons learned back then by both her and the children. Perhaps a most important one was that sometimes, even with much care and devotion, wild animals don't always survive. This did not stop Pat's determination to do the best she could to preserve wildlife in distress.

Pat's legacy as an animal rehabilitator began in 1982 when she obtained her license through the Michigan DNR. She then founded Friends of Wildlife (FOW) and registered her group as a 501(C)(3) Non-Profit Corporation (charity). Based in Washtenaw County, FOW has provided aid and rehabilitation to untold numbers of red and gray fox, squirrels, raccoon, opossum, deer, woodchuck, beaver and rabbits. Pat was so knowledgeable, engaging and passionate about wildlife that it became easy for her to recruit volunteers. Under Pat's leadership and permit (over 35 years) FOW's volunteer numbers grew to over 150. Pat was skilled at recognizing people's strengths and organizing them in a variety of roles to support FOW. Pat created specialized training for volunteer rehabilitators via annual Spring (Basic) and Fall (Advanced) workshops. Pat was known and respected in the wildlife rehabilitation community and of course, was always available to mentor anyone who sought her advice. She always displayed patience and humor while mentoring her volunteers. Pat's empathy, encouragement and appreciation was frequently offered and valued.

Pat will be fondly remembered, as she has now stepped away from the organization in retirement. I speak for past and current Friends of Wildlife volunteers, as well as the FOW Board in thanking her and wishing her a happy retirement blessed by family and friends. The many, many great memories of the FOW family she created, along with her husband Dick who served as financial advisor and accountant for Friends of Wildlife for over 30 years. Dick was also as dedicated to supporting his wife's organization and her lifelong passion.

written by: Lare Blum, Patrice Luther, and Elena Wakeman

FOW Board of Directors

Lare Blum, President
Elena Wakeman, Vice President
Gail Jarskey, Treasurer
Cathy Kimmell, Secretary
Judie Black, Member at Large

Newsletter & Editing, Victoria Zande
Editing, Cathy Kimmell



FOW Animal Hotline Placement & Information Have You Found an Injured or Orphaned Animal?

Call the species number listed:

Main Line.....734-548-3132
Squirrel.....734-548-3127
Raccoon..... 734-548-3128
Woodchuck 734-548-3129
Opossum.... 734-548-3130
Fox.....734-548-3132

Non- Emergency Questions

friendsofwildlifemi@gmail.com

Note: Please do not email us with emergency questions. Call the proper phone numbers listed to get emergency help!

Other Helpful Phone Numbers

Bird Center.....734-761-9640
Humane Society..734-661-3512
Raptor Rehab.....734-428-8455
Coyote Rehab.....248-672-9615
Howell Nature.....517-548-5530
Deer/Fawn.....734-645-3552
Rabbit Rehab..... 517-769-2856

Michigan DNR -

<https://www2.dnr.state.mi.us/dlr/>

Scrambled Egg – A squirrel “tail”



One beautiful, sunny (HOT) morning in Ann Arbor a woman steps out onto her patio to enjoy a cup of coffee. The temperature at 10 am was already scorching –

one of those August days that make you long for fall weather! After a brief time in the heat the woman decided it was much too hot to be outside already. As she turned to go back into the house, she noticed something small on the patio bricks that appeared to be moving. It was a tiny baby squirrel so new its umbilical cord was still attached! Having previously rescued a baby squirrel she knew what to do...she scooped him up, put him in a little box with a warm soft cloth and a heated rice sock and called Friends of Wildlife.

Later that morning one of our volunteers was able to meet her to retrieve the baby. After making sure the baby was warm and then hydrated, he was given a through exam. Due to his weight it was determined that he was probably a fox squirrel. His little body was sunburned and there was a wound on his tail. This poor little new born eventually became known as Scrambled Egg.

Against all odds Scrambled Egg survived his first week, he was a good, strong eater! We were able to get him to one of our best “pinky” rehabbers. She rubbed his little body with mineral oil daily and tended to his wounded tail. As other babies his age started to grow hair The Egg remained naked. We were worried that his hair may not grow in correctly due to his sunburn. But he continued to grow and thrive. At last some hair began to show around his muzzle and eventually spread to the rest of his body! His tail was healing as well.

When Scrambled Egg (who had also become known as Snigglefritz) opened his eyes (at about 4 weeks, which is normal) he was transferred to another rehabber who cared for him until he was weaned (about 9 weeks old). At this point The Egg was fully furred and eating fruit/vegetables and nuts.

Scrambled Egg – A Squirrel “tail” Continued

Scrambled Egg was brought to the rehabber who would eventually release him. Here he was transferred to a pre-release cage inside where he began to hone his climbing, foraging and nesting skills. He loved to chew the leaves off every fresh branch he was given! At about 12 weeks The Egg, along with 4 other friends was put into the final release enclosure outside. After about 7 days the enclosure “hatch “was opened and he and his friends were free to come and go as they pleased. Typically squirrels only return to the release enclosure and their manmade nesting boxes for a few days after release, until they get the “lay of the land” and find a place to build their own nest. However, enclosure remained open all winter in case they find themselves in a bind and need food and shelter!



written by: Cathy Kimmell

Would you like to be a Friend to Wildlife?

We are always looking for people to help. Our Annual Spring Workshop had to be postponed due to the pandemic, although we would welcome inquiries to: friendsofwildlifemi@gmail.com
Once things open up again, let's see if we can find a way if you would like to contribute to the support of orphaned and injured wildlife.

Not everyone rehabs animals, some help with our website and social media presence, some transport animals to rehabbers, some work on fundraising to cover expenses or represent FOW at non-profit events in Washtenaw County. Some answer our species telephones' so they don't go unanswered during vacation or illness – thank you...

THANK YOU FOR SHOPPING WITH OUR PARTNER BUSINESS

Amazon: Go to Smile Amazon and designate Friends of Wildlife as your Charitable Organization. Be sure to shop through www.Smile.Amazon.com every time you shop and FOW will receive the benefit.

Busch's: Sign In to your MYWay account and select Cash for Education in the dropdown menu under your account number, then select Friends of Wildlife. Click Add and be sure to check Add to Future Quarters.

Kroger: Link your Kroger Plus Card to Friends of Wildlife and Kroger will donate a % of your purchase to FOW each time you use your Plus Card. Remember to renew your donation designation every year. If there are other businesses you would like to see Friends of Wildlife partner with, please let us know at – FriendsofWildlifeMI@gmail.com



FRIENDS OF WILDLIFE
P.O. BOX 1505
ANN ARBOR, MI 48106
www.friendsofwildlife.net

Will You Help?

Just as species of animals need special care in critical times of the year, the need for financial support is constant. FOW is a 501©3c all-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. Make your check payable to Friends of Wildlife; P.O. Box 1505, Ann Arbor, MI 48106. Please visit our website: www.friendsofwildlife.net to donate through PayPal. Donations are tax deductible to the fullest extent of the law.

Thank you for Your Generosity!

Approximate Cost of Raising a Single Animal

Rabbit	\$ 25.00
Squirrel	\$ 35.00
Opossum	\$ 35.00
Turtle	\$ 50.00
Woodchuck	\$ 50.00
Raccoon	\$125.00
Fox	\$150.00
Deer	\$300.00

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



Wish List

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