



Friends of Wildlife
 P.O. Box 1505
 Ann Arbor, MI 48106
www.friendsofwildlife.net



Fall 2011

Friends of Wildlife News

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.

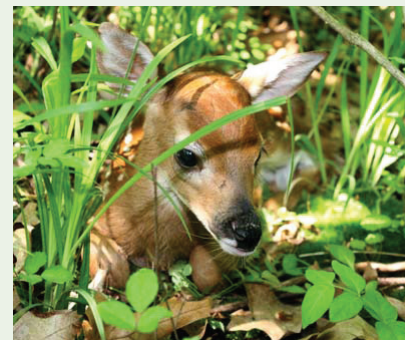
Please make your check payable to Friends of Wildlife and mail to P.O. Box 1505, Ann Arbor, MI 48106. Also, check our website at www.friendsofwildlife.net to donate through PayPal. Donations are tax deductible to the fullest extent of the law.

Thank you for your generosity!

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.

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

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.

"Hello, Squirrel Help Line ..."

By Elena Wakeman

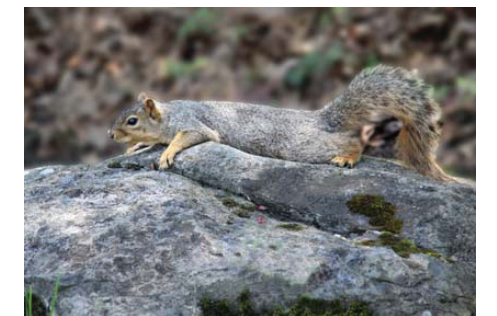
Squirrel Placement Coordinator & Interim President of FOW

The majority of our "squirrel calls" are from caring individuals in urban and suburban areas, who have come upon an orphaned, injured or sick squirrel, and have a willingness to take action to find it help. The Friends of Wildlife (FOW) squirrel line receives approximately 450 calls a year of this type. By order of squirrel species, from most to least, the type of calls that come in are regarding Fox, Gray, Red, Flying Squirrels and Thirteen-lined Ground Squirrels.

Squirrels typically breed twice a year, the first litter being born between February and March and the second litter between August and September. Orphaned squirrels are most often the result of either nesting in a bad spot (i.e. automobile engines, attics, fireplaces, cut-down trees) or the mother being killed by cars or predators. By volume, most calls are for orphaned squirrels, then injured, but there are certain to be handful of "nuisance" calls as well (i.e. squirrels nesting in a house or garage). People call us when they think they have found an orphaned squirrel or litter or about a squirrel they have rescued after it was hit by a car or attacked by a dog. Sometimes we get calls because they have a squirrel in their yard that "just doesn't look right" (often the result of mange, a common, but treatable problem) that appears to the rescuer to possibly be injured.

When a call comes in, the volunteer responding is a "placement coordinator" for FOW. The first responsibility is to listen carefully to the rescuer and determine that the squirrel does indeed need human assistance. Once that is determined, identifying information is obtained and the placement coordinator places it with one of FOW's trained team of squirrel

"rehabilitators". FOW is blessed with volunteers that work together for the good of the animals. We share knowledge, our resources, and even babysit for each other's animals when needed. The FOW rehabilitators use their training (received through FOW workshops and other wildlife groups), and if necessary, request assistance from local veterinarians that work with us, to return the squirrel back to the wild.



An outstanding services that has developed through FOW to help our bushy tailed friends in the community is mange control. Mange is caused by mites and is transmitted from squirrel to squirrel by physical contact or sharing a nest. Mange can cause loss of enough fur to leave the squirrel very vulnerable in cold weather. Though fur loss is limited and temporary in most healthy squirrels, some squirrels can die of exposure from extreme fur loss. Frequently we are called by residents that feed the wildlife in their yard. They will say "I have a squirrel that is losing hair" or "it has bald patches and bloody spots". We will ask if it is scratching and if they have seen other squirrels with this. Then we put them in touch with our volunteer (Stephanie) that dedicates her work with FOW to dosing nuts with the medicine

- continued on page 2 -

FOW Board of Directors Officers

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Wendy Halsey
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Newsletter Staff

Mary Ellen Lloyd

Photography

Wendy Theisen-Halsey



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

Squirrel Line continued from page 1 -

that treats the mange in squirrels. She dispenses the nuts to the resident with detailed instructions on how to use it. She makes sure they understand that if the nut is not consumed, they must pick it back up and try again later, otherwise other wildlife may eat it and it is specifically, carefully dosed for only a squirrel. And she generously provides her contact information so if they have any questions, they can contact her back. Every year, hundreds of squirrels are saved from a painful death from mange, by the team work of kind residents and our FOW volunteer working together.

Though not every rescue has a successful outcome, there are a lot of happy, memorable endings. Thus the work of the volunteer is often rewarded with the funny and unusual stories that result from the calls to our various wildlife rescue lines.

A memorable squirrel rescue was "Cinder". One wintery night, I received a call from a woman who said she had a squirrel in her chimney that refused to leave. At night, she and her husband would sit down to watch TV. One night they would look over at the glass doors on their fireplace and a squirrel was watching, too! When they approached the fireplace, the squirrel would jump up onto the firebox, but would not leave. Her husband thought that if he lit a small fire, the squirrel would go back up the way it came. But he did not know the squirrel was trapped and unable to get out, and when the fire began burning the squirrel's tail, it cried out and he quickly put out the fire and called FOW! We took a large shoebox, cut an oversized "mouse hole" shaped entry into the side, and placed pieces of old flannel material and a dish of applesauce and apple wedges inside the box. Then we quickly positioned the box in the fireplace. We put a large towel over the doors so that the squirrel could no longer see the couple, and vice versa! We came back the next evening and when we removed the towel we saw success! We had her! As I went to open the glass doors, the woman said "wait - how do you know it is in there?" I pointed out the flannel stuffed at the entrance to the box, blocking entry or exit. The squirrel was in there, and stuffed the hole for protection. The woman and her husband did not believe me, and whenever I need a good laugh, I think about them running out of their family room in their bathrobes as I reached in, put duct tape over the hole (securing the squirrel)

and pulling it out of the fireplace. We sought veterinary treatment for "Cinder's" tail burns, and when she healed and grew some hair back, she was released.

Ah, one more story ... The most successful outcome for an orphaned baby is to be reunited with its' mom. We have advised many callers (depending on the information they provide) to attempt reuniting and it is so gratifying to get a call back from them saying excitedly "She did it, she came back, and I saw the mom squirrel move them to another tree!" However, sometimes rescuers will hear the babies emitting their "smoke detector like" scream when mom has not returned to the nest and they are starving. Eventually, the screams stop and they start jumping from the nest in search of food. Often their eyes have not even opened yet, so they crawl from where they land, and hopefully it was on grass. I responded to a call from a rescuer that had found such a squirrel on the ground. I asked her to show me where she found it, and then looked up. There was a beautifully constructed fox squirrel nest, and it was over the street. The baby that had fallen had fleas, was dehydrated and slightly emaciated. No mom had tended to it for some time. I advised the rescuer that there may be more and asked if she would she check off and on to see. I got a call from her an hour later. She could hear them and could see one hanging from a limb! She and her neighbors quickly developed a plan of action and got a large sheet and all stood holding it under the tree until the squirrel dropped into the sheet. When I came to pick it up, they indicated that they could hear another squirrel, but they could not stay outside, so they had piled old blankets and placed garbage cans so cars would drive around it. The neighbors all would check periodically and the next day another squirrel had landed. All three of those squirrels were rehabilitated and released thanks to that rescuer and her neighbors.

It is tough out there for a squirrel - dodging cars, cats and dogs, navigating power lines, and finding food and shelter through our long Michigan winters. I very much appreciate the leadership, training, and support that FOW provides to the "squirrel team". I am proud to be a member and encourage anyone that has a love of wildlife to get involved! You, too, can make a difference however you choose to contribute.



Not everyone is cut out to feed orphaned animals every few hours with special feeding syringes full of formula, and not everyone who is willing (and patient enough) to do that task, can financially afford to do it. A successful Non-Profit Organization consists of a healthy balance of volunteers and supporters - a yin and yang, complementary opposites that interact within a greater whole.

Friends of Wildlife is celebrating 35 years of all the love and toil that goes into respecting, preserving and rehabilitating the life of animals in the shrinking wild around us. The birth of this amazing service organization began in the Ann Arbor countryside overlooking a bluff on the Huron River when a four year old boy came in from play to have a snack. His mother noticed a small furry tail extending from his pocket. When he was asked what it was he explained that he had found this "sleeping" chipmunk on the ground and he was keeping it safely in his pocket until it awoke. His mother told him that wild things must nap in wild places, so the two of them took the creature into the woods. They found a soft bed of moss and placed a leaf cover for the sleeping, lifeless chipmunk. The two quietly, but happily, retreated - he, because he had helped a needy creature, and she, for protecting one so young from the finality of death. Needless to say, their future encounters with wildlife rehabilitation were more successful, but it was then, on that wooded bluff, that the inception of a group that now serves the community on a daily basis, began.

The progression went from one to seven friends and neighbors, independently rehabilitating orphaned and injured wildlife, meeting for lunch monthly to exchange stories, and support one another in their efforts, to an official 501-C3, Non-Profit Volunteer Organization overseen by a dedicated Board of Directors (May 1993), with a group of trained and licensed rehabilitators. FOW remains licensed through the State of Michigan, Department of Natural Resources, and thus abides

by all of their rules and regulations (FOW volunteers are covered under an "umbrella permit" as sub-permittees). The FOW permit allows for rehabilitation of any animal that is native to the State of Michigan, with the exception of bats and skunks (due to potential rabies issues).

Today, Friends of Wildlife serves the local community and networks throughout the State of Michigan with other wildlife preservation groups, all on a volunteer basis. Every spring, a Basic Mammal Seminar is held to train new volunteers, and every fall, an Advanced Workshop to encourage members to enhance their skills. FOW has taken what comes from the heart; the desire to help and heal and return to nature that which is nature's, and made it a successful, ongoing reality.

But none of this would be possible without the Yin and Yang; the balance of volunteers and supporters. Clearly, there is nothing but awe to be had for the volunteers who so unselfishly contribute their time and energy - literally, hours and hours of hands on care! And for those who financially support the day-to-day needed materials and supplies, and the spread of information to educate the public, there is very simply, pure gratitude! Much thanks to all who have participated and supported this wonderful organization throughout the past 35 years as true "friends of wildlife"!

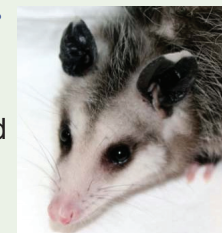
If you would like to be part of this organization, in either or both capacities, we look forward to hearing from you!

Can't Rehabilitate, but still want to 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.



A Letter from the community ...

Dear Friends of Wildlife:

Last spring my husband and I discovered orphaned raccoons in the trunk of a big tree at our main entrance in Sunnyside Mobile Home Park on Packard St. in Ann Arbor, MI. They were the cutest things we had ever seen! We immediately started doing research and hoped for the mother to come back. Over the next few days, it was apparent something must have happened to the Mother. I began making phone calls to find help. Thankfully to Annie (didn't get her last name!), she was able to get me in touch with another wildlife rehabilitator, Sandy in Manchester, that was able to take the last one that was still hanging on. I was actually on my way to the Humane Society to have it put down when she called. I'm not sure if the little critter made it, but it made my day knowing it was going to at least get one last chance!

I meant to send in a donation sooner, but didn't. I want to send my gratitude and appreciation for the volunteers of the organization. I hope to return the favor in some way, some day! Thank you so much Friends of Wildlife for what you do. Especially to Annie and Sandy, as this experience will forever be close to my heart!

Please find our donation of \$100 enclosed. Thank you for all you do!

Sincerely yours,
Angie & Dan

