



FRIENDS OF WILDLIFE

NEWS

Fall 2007

OUR MISSION

Friends of Wildlife is an independent, non-profit, 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 that 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.

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.

A Special Surrogate

Back in early May I was brought an adult possum who had just been hit by a car. Luckily for her, the injuries weren't too serious and I knew with a little time and much rest she'd be fine. After I cleaned her wounds, I took a peek in her pouch and found 11 tiny babies -- not even an inch long -- certainly not old enough for me, or any rehabber, to keep alive.

About three days later a man came to my home with a small box of infant possums who had survived after their mom had been killed.

He told me his story of stopping on the road when he saw the dead possum, knowing that a female would have her babies in her pouch. He then carefully pulled four surviving



This mom was used as a surrogate for two babies whose mother had been killed. Here, mom is taking a nap and has relaxed her pouch enough so that some of the 13 babies can be seen.



By early August the babies were big and healthy.

babies from her and was bringing them to me to save.

When I looked inside the box I knew immediately I couldn't help them and, with great regret, told him the news. (A possum that age can't survive

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Letter from the Board of Directors

Board of Directors

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Bat	248-645-3232
Deer	734-670-4343
Fox	734-670-2920
Opossum	734-670-2157
Rabbit	734-670-1407
Raccoon	734-670-2120
Snake	616-789-1930
Squirrel	734-670-2101
Turtle	734-481-1812
Woodchuck	734-670-4317
General Info	734-913-9843

It's hard to believe fall has arrived and winter is just around the corner. The warm fall weather has extended the rehabilitation season for us when this is usually a time we are slowing down.

We are very happy to announce the additional of two FOW Board members: Sarah Devaney who is our Treasurer and Michael Sivac who has joined with our Directors. The Board meets on the first Wednesday of every month at 6:30pm and we welcome you to attend and learn more about our group. Please contact (who) at (what number) to make arrangements.

This has been a active and successful year for Friends of Wildlife (FOW) and many strong bonds have been created between rehabilitators and our community. We look forward to the challenges that await us next year.

One important relationship that has been forged is between FOW and the Humane Society of Huron Valley (HSHV). The commitment both groups have to animals has helped us help each other. HSHV has often brought our volunteer rehabilitators animals in desperate need of care when we aren't able to get to their facility. They have also included two rooms for mammal care and intake in their plans for the building they will begin to construct next spring. (NOTE FROM PATTI: I HAD A PERSONAL MEETING AT HSHV 2 WEEKS AGO WITH THEIR DEVELOPMENT DIRECTOR AND THEIR PLAN DOES NOT INCLUDE ANYTHING FOR WILDLIFE, ONLY A HOLDING AREA BUT NO ROOM DESIGNATED STRICTLY FOR WILDLIFE.) We look forward to our continued relationship with HSHV and our commitment to helping all wild animals in our area.

The FOW Board has also been looking at fund raising options for next year. Included are hosting another "Walk for Wildlife," which was an enormous success with (how many) people attending and raising (how much). Creating a wildlife calendar and canvas tote bag are also being considered as another way to raise much-needed funds. We are always grateful for donations which help us help so many animals. If you are considering a donation to Friends of Wildlife, please also check with your employer to see if they have a matching program. Every dollar counts!

The Advanced Rehabbers workshop was held on October 13. And an appreciation lunch for placement people was held on November 10. (Can these be elaborated on: where held, what was learned, anything???) (I would rather write separate articles re these on another page)

We thank you again for your interest and support for wildlife in Washtenaw County and the state of Michigan. You have made an enormous difference in the lives of many animals!

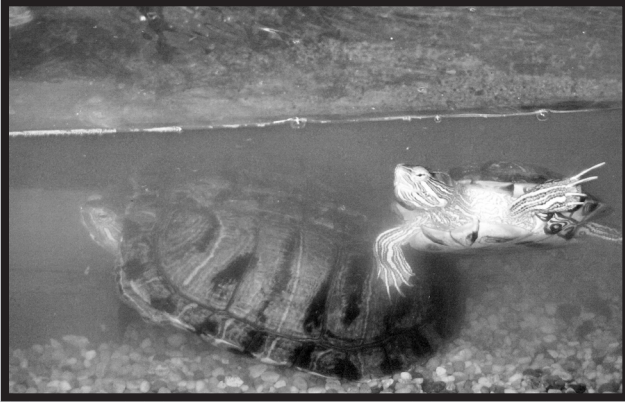
Happy Holidays!

Friends of Wildlife Board of Directors

Please contact us at 734-913-9843 with any comments, questions, thoughts or suggestions. Thank you for your continued support!



A Kind Letter of Appreciation



*“Turdy”
(left) was
missing for
more than a
week when
FOW
Rehabber
Marilyn
(last name?)
helped come
to the rescue*

Dear Friends of Wildlife:

I want to commend Marilyn and Carter from your Turtle Rescue division. Our turtle, “Turdy” was missing for over a week. She was two blocks away from her home and was brought in by a nice young man by the name of Jayson. I never knew that there was such a thing for turtles. We have had Turdy for over six years. She lives in our pond in the warm months and then in a very large aquarium during the winter with three other turtle friends.

Marilyn, special thanks to you and your knowledge! Come to find out Turdy was once again laying eggs. I hope this time we can fertilize them and have baby turtles.

I am attaching a picture of Turdy - she’s a Yellow Bellied Cooter (the big one) the other one is Lucky (a Red Eared Slider). Also is a picture of their summer home!

Thank you all so much. God Bless you all!

Sincerely,

Marisa L. Maes



The turtles’ summer home

“Relocation” by Side of Road is Cruel

This is an open letter to the man in the light-colored car who DUMPED that little wild animal off by the side of a very busy road (can we name the road?) down by the river (is it the Huron River?) (and to anyone who considers relocating an animal in this fashion). It’s too bad you didn’t check the next day

to see the results of your relocation efforts. Did you wonder how the animal was managing in her new

It’s too bad you didn’t check the next day to see the results of your relocation efforts

environment, away from her nest, familiar sounds and surroundings?

She wasn’t; she lay dead in the road, hit by a car.

Understandably, no one wants or should share their home with wildlife intruders, but there are reasonable and humane solutions to any invasive problem. A call to one of our knowledgeable rehabilitators would help both you and the animal as we can suggest workable solutions to help solve the problem.

Relocating wildlife without a permit is not only cruel but ILLEGAL in the state of Michigan. Please remember the little one who died needlessly when you think of relocating any animal in such a careless fashion.

Friends of Wildlife



continued from cover

long outside the pouch as their organs aren't developed enough -- especially the lungs which can't tolerate the higher concentration of oxygen that exists outside the pouch.) He was heartbroken.

Then I had an idea. I told the man about the mom I had with only 11 babies -- and I say "only" because they usually have 13.

I told him I'd put two of these babies in that mom's pouch and hope she accepts them. He was as excited as me as we walked toward the outside pen.

Mom was sleeping quite soundly (as possums often do) so I carefully opened her pouch and again counted 11 babies. I knew there were two free nipples so I gently placed the two healthiest infants from the box into her pouch.

As I stepped back, mom awoke and abruptly sat up. She then leaned way down and pulled one of the babies from her pouch. I thought she was going to eat the infant right in front of this poor man who had gone to such lengths to save the helpless babies.

Instead, she carefully placed the baby on the ground and began cleaning her, rolling her over and over while licking every part of the tiny body. When mom was done, she again carefully picked the baby up and placed her back

into the pouch. She never took the second baby out (at least not in front of us) but instead laid back down to finish her nap.

I regularly looked into mom's pouch hoping there would still be 13 babies -- and there continued to be.

When the babies were about four inches long, mom relaxed her pouch enough so that they could climb in and out at will, and I enjoyed watching them begin to explore the outside world.

I told him I'd put two of these babies in that mom's pouch and hope she accepts them.

enjoyed watching them begin to explore the outside world.



Though mom tolerated me, the babies stayed wild and fearful of people -- just like they should.

By early August the babies were close to nine inches long -- certainly old enough to be on their own. One beautiful night I opened the cage door and waited, though it certainly



Just released back into the wild, this baby let's me know he's ready to take on the world.

didn't take long for mom and the not-so-little ones (any-more) to walk out. I watched them slowly make their way into the woods behind our home, some staying close to mom, the rest going off in their own directions.

I often think about that mom and what she must have thought after discovering two extra babes in her pouch. Was she aware of what happened? Did she care? Did she know and gladly accept the new additions? I think she did know but either didn't care or was happy to raise them along with her 11. I continue to be in awe of the care and compassion animals can show -- even to those not "their own."

**By Patti Roman
FOW Rehabilitator and
Opossum Coordinator**



NEWS FOR MEMBERS AND REHABBERS

Can't Rehab at Home? Here's Another Way to Help!

Help us help animals by staffing information tables at future fund raising events.

We are looking for volunteers to pass out information about Friends of Wildlife (FOW) and answer basic wildlife questions (or give the appropriate phone numbers to get those questions answered) to folks who will be stopping by the FOW booth at future fairs and fund raising events.

If you'd like to help, please contact Nancy Haddix at NHaddix@comcast.net.

Thanks so much!



Rehabbers Please Don't Leave Us Hanging!

We know how busy everyone gets and we understand if you're unable to take in an animal, but PLEASE return all phone calls from placement people who are looking for foster homes.

It's very frustrating to wait on return phone calls which never come thereby delaying calling the next person on the list of interested rehabbers.

If you believe that you'll be unable to rehab for the season, please let your placement person know that also. It will save a lot of time for us in the future! Thanks so much!

Friends of Wildlife Holds Advanced Training Workshop

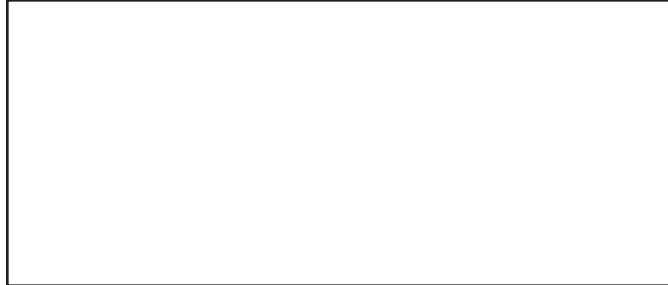
Could we write about the training workshop that took place this fall?

Should we mention upcoming dates for spring workshops (if we have dates yet)?

Appreciation Lunch Article?

Could we write about the appreciation lunch?





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



Will You Help?

Any donation made is greatly appreciated by us and the animals who need our help. The amounts listed below are approximate in raising an entire litter of the animal named through to the date of release, though sometimes the expense is considerably more if any are seriously injured.

Rabbit	\$ 20
Squirrel	\$ 25
Snake	\$ 30
Opossum	\$ 30
Turtle	\$ 50
Woodchuck	\$ 65
Raccoon	\$ 130
Fox	\$ 150
Deer	\$ 300

Thank You

- Our volunteer rehabilitators who saved so many animals this past season
- Our donors who help make our efforts possible

Wish List

- Release sites on private land
- Heating pads
- Materials for building outdoor cages (wood, wire mesh, etc.)
- Volunteer help in building cages