

Included with this issue: West Sound Wildlife Shelter's Annual Report

# saving wild lives

THE NEWSLETTER OF THE WEST SOUND WILDLIFE SHELTER

A CENTER FOR REHABILITATION AND EDUCATION SERVING THE GREATER WESTERN PUGET SOUND REGION

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SUMMER 2015

*West Sound*  
**WILDLIFE  
SHELTER**

*Inspiring Wildlife  
Stewardship Through  
Care and Education*



# From The Director

By Lisa Horn, Executive Director

I hope that this newsletter finds you enjoying the lovely weather as we move into summer! The staff and volunteers of the West Sound Wildlife Shelter are very busy meeting the needs of our wildlife patients who have been orphaned or find themselves in need of medical attention.

For over sixteen years, the West Sound Wildlife Shelter has provided vital care to sick, injured and orphaned wildlife from throughout the Puget Sound region and western Washington. We have also offered important, engaging educational programs that have increased understanding of the important role of wildlife in maintaining healthy communities, while helping to create wildlife stewards of tomorrow.

Our growth in the last decade has been remarkable, including a four-fold increase in the number of birds and mammals we care for annually. Last year alone, we provided more than 16,000 days of patient care treating more than 1300 patients, and educational programs to more than 13,000 children and adults.



Photo: Dottie Tison

Our achievements have been extraordinary and the Shelter now stands at an important crossroads. Like a baby bird that has outgrown its nest, the Shelter has simply matured beyond the utility of our current campus. Thankfully, our vision of a new facility has taken flight!

As I shared in the Annual report, the Shelter is working with consultants to plan for a new hospital and interactive public education center. The Shelter is finalizing the feasibility stage for this important project and will move forward with a Capital Campaign in the latter part of 2015. I promise to keep you updated as this fledgling project moves forward.

The West Sound Wildlife Shelter would never be able to do what we do, let alone dream so big, without the incredible support of our volunteers, advocates, and donors. Your passionate support of our mission is helping us to realize a fantastic future for all wild animals!

Thank you for caring about wildlife!

## Have You Seen Our Rescue Van?



Photo: Cate McCaslin

shelter. We use this van almost daily in the summer to rescue injured, sick and orphaned animals, and to transport our educational ambassadors to programs at schools, fairs and other events. You may even see us when we're picking up food and supplies for our patients, or at special events like the Kitsap County Fair. If you see us out and about, know that we are doing our best to help our local wildlife. Here are a few noteworthy statistics for our van for the past 12 months:

- 50+ wild animal rescues and welfare checks
- 43 live bird education programs
- 35 food/supplies pick up and shelter business
- 21 wildlife releases
- 30 trips for special events



WILDLIFE HOSPITAL  
& EDUCATION CENTER

The West Sound Wildlife Shelter provides injured, orphaned, and sick wild animals a second chance at life and promotes the well-being of wildlife and their habitats through public outreach, education, and involvement.

### Board of Directors

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## saving wild lives

Saving Wild Lives is a triannual publication of West Sound Wildlife Shelter. The articles and information contained herein are provided for the education and entertainment of our readers.

While we make every effort to check the accuracy of the facts, stories, and advice in this newsletter, no guarantee of accuracy or remedy is expressed or implied.

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Wildlife Shelter

7501 NE Dolphin Drive  
Bainbridge Island, WA 98110  
Tel: 206-855-9057 • Fax: 206-842-6027  
www.westsoundwildlife.org  
info@westsoundwildlife.org



# A Record Breaking Spring!!

We have had an amazing and busy spring! We released half a dozen bald eagles that had been injured in December and January, barred owls from February, and the first wave of babies began arriving in March. We had our expected arrivals: cottontails, opossums, squirrels, ducklings, juncos, and robins, but we also received a few unexpected guests. Hatchling bushtits, adult Wilson's Warblers, and Western Scrub Jays are rare to unknown patients at our facility - yet we have seen every one of these species in the last three months. The bushtits were successfully raised and released. Quite an accomplishment considering they are about the size of a flying walnut.



Photo: Dottie Tison

Every summer has been different regarding species that are admitted and their prevalence. It will be interesting, especially given the unusual weather, to see what this year brings us. The summer of 2013 was the summer of flycatchers and during 2014 we had four different waves of robins with early arriving cedar waxwings. We will let you know in the fall what the "theme" for this summer turns out to be - aside from the exotic and unexpected visitors to our hospital.

## But what really speaks to us? The numbers! And they speak for themselves.

Patient intakes: As of June 15, 2015, we were standing at a record-breaking 756 patients! On this day last year, that number was 596. That's an increase of 27%! Last year, we treated a total of 1320 animals. If we continue at our current rate, it's very possible that we will treat 1500



Photo: Dottie Tison

or more patients this year, an increase of more than 20%!

And our release rate? Two years ago, our release rate was 37%. That means that the animals received in a condition that were viable for rehabilitation, 37% were successfully released. That number last year was 62%. An amazing increase! We are aiming to make that 66% this year.

## An Upward Trend

A growing and thriving volunteer program, partnerships with local veterinary clinics and consultants, outreach and coordination with other regional shelters; improved and updated protocols and an increase in oversight and meticulous charting: these factors are what's driving those amazing trends.

We are excited to see what the rest of the summer brings. If you are interested in volunteering to help with these efforts and being part of the Shelter's mission to give wildlife a second chance at life, please visit our website for more information.



Photo: Dottie Tison

## Did You Find A Wildlife Baby?

Please call the Shelter **before** you pick up any baby animal. Seeing a baby animal that is alone doesn't always mean that the parents are not nearby. The majority of the time, the parents are very close. Some animals purposely leave their babies to not draw attention to their young.

For instance, deer will leave their fawn for up to 12 hours. Fledgling birds will end up on the ground for several days before flying as they exercise their wings.

Wild animals are excellent parents and work hard to raise their young. Too many times well-meaning humans abduct baby animals before the parents can retrieve them. Last year we received 62 babies that were abducted.

Leaving fawns where they are, placing baby birds back in the nest, replacing fallen nests, and letting fledglings fledge are all helpful to our wildlife.

If you find a wildlife baby or if you have any questions, please call the Shelter.

**(206) 855.9057**

## BY THE NUMBERS

Between January 1 and May 31

**600 wild animals were received for treatment:**

**January:** 25 Birds  
(33 patients) 8 Mammals

**February:** 30 Birds  
(35 patients) 5 Mammals

**March:** 28 Birds  
(41 patients) 22 Mammals  
1 Reptile

**April:** 99 Birds  
(174 patients) 75 Mammals

**May:** 194 Birds  
(307 patients) 110 Mammals  
3 Reptiles

## Volunteers: The Heart of The Shelter

Energy, passion, and dedication to our cause: this describes the volunteers at West Sound Wildlife Shelter to a tee. They are the heart of the shelter operations. They keep this place pumping with life and without them we could not do what we do. No fuzzy math here – it's simple. Volunteers are involved in nearly all aspects of the organization, and without them we would simply cease to exist.

Our volunteers come from all interests and backgrounds – from students to retirees, and soccer moms to executives. We even have a retired veterinarian and a wildlife biologist as volunteers. Some of our volunteers are families - parents and teen children who volunteer together.

Our volunteers help us with education and outreach, special events and fundraising, and administrative tasks. Even the Board of Directors are volunteers. But most of our volunteers are animal lovers who help us care for the 1500+ patients that will arrive this year.

During the very busiest season, between April and September, we have roughly 80 volunteers who come to the shelter at least once a week (some come more often, some can't stay away) for their 4-hour shift to do



what needs to be done to help keep our most vulnerable patients alive and hopefully prepare them for release.

Duties are varied and volunteers will do anything that is asked of them - even the tasks that are unpleasant. Here are a few of the tasks that our volunteers do each and every day, sometimes several times:

- Feed and clean hungry babies
- Prepare food for larger birds and mammals – (and this can include doing some things that would turn most peoples' stomachs!)
- Clean indoor and outdoor cages
- Sweep and mop the floors
- Do dishes and laundry – lots of laundry
- And so much more ....

Aside from their duties, they work daily with animals that are so injured, sick or young they have only a small chance of survival. They resist the cuteness, a difficult task for even the hardest heart, in order to keep them wild. They delight in the successes and grieve the losses. Most importantly, they make a difference in the lives of all the animals we treat, and they inspire us and each other.

We cannot thank them enough. Let us say that again.

**We cannot thank them enough.**



## Our Incredible Interns

A very important part of our cadre of volunteers is another dedicated group, the Interns: a group of volunteers who donate countless hours and energy while learning.

The 2015 intern season began with our first three candidates joining us in mid-April. We had six more join our team in May/June, and we are looking forward to a great summer. They are an amazing and dedicated group who have a passion for wildlife and learning. It is possible we have learned as much from them as they have from us. We couldn't do it without them, and the internship provides many of them with valuable job skills and clinical training. It is a win-win situation!

Duties are varied, and are partially dependent on the interests and skills of the intern. Animal care internship duties include the

cleaning, feeding, and handling of orphaned and injured wildlife. An average morning might include weighing and feeding meal worms to 5g baby birds, scrubbing and vacuuming duck pools, preparing food for Douglas Squirrels, and/or assisting with wing-wraps on bald eagles.....or goslings.

In addition to our animal care internship, we also have programs geared toward education and outreach and outdoor animal care.

We could still fill a few late-season spots this summer, and if this year is not the right year for you, put us on your calendar for next year. The commitment is about 10 weeks for 32 hours per week. We would love to have you join our team!

For more information on our internship program, please visit our website [westsoundwildlife.org/Employment](http://westsoundwildlife.org/Employment).

### Volunteer with West Sound Wildlife Shelter and make a difference

#### Animal Care Volunteers Needed

Do you love wildlife and have always thought about volunteering? We need animal care volunteers to help care for our babies and other injured, sick or orphaned wildlife.

#### Transport Volunteers Needed

We are establishing a wildlife transport network. Volunteers will assist in transporting wildlife in need to the Shelter from other facilities.

#### Wildlife Release Sites Needed

Do you have the perfect habitat for wild birds, mammals or reptiles? We're seeking release sites for animals that were taken or evicted from their homes. These are patients that are ready to be released back into the wild.

Visit our website to check out all the volunteer opportunities!

[www.westsoundwildlife.org](http://www.westsoundwildlife.org)

# The Tricky Fix: How do you repair a fractured beak?

Fractures are easy to deal with, right? Unfortunately, they are one of the most common injuries we see at the Shelter. We see simple and complicated fractures: we know what we can fix at the Shelter and how to do so, and we also know when we need to refer cases. But what do you do late in the afternoon on a Saturday when an adult male eagle is transferred from All Creatures Animal Hospital with a fractured BEAK?! The only history that you are provided with is that he "fell from a wire".....



The answer? You quickly seek a consult from a board certified avian veterinarian who kindly works with the Shelter. It turns out that it would have been fantastic to have some bone cement on hand. Or dental acrylic. But we had neither. A McGuyver fix for this problem was to mix tissue glue (a product we have on hand to close small lacerations) with baking soda (borrowed from our kind neighbor across the street) and apply in layers allowing time for the mixture to dry between applications.



We pulled the two pieces of the beak together with some padded hemostats, thoroughly cleaned the fracture site, and started applying the mixture. This effectively made a "cap" or "beak cast" that held the beak together in good position when dry. The beak was further secured with tape for the night to make sure the edges stayed together. Injuries to a bird's beak can be incredibly painful. We gave this eagle Tramadol and Meloxicam (like Ibuprofen, but for birds) to keep him as comfortable as possible. Since we knew he probably wouldn't be anxious to eat with this injury, we also tube fed him a high-calorie supplement.

The next day, the cap was in place and the edges of the beak remained in good alignment. We repeated his pain medications and also fed him some of the supplement and some cut up deer meat. Over the next few days, various foods were offered to the eagle, and pain management continued. Eagles often have "preferences" when it comes to foods that they will eat while at the hospital. On

day 4, this guy declared his "preference" for fish. Fish was actually better for the healing beak too: No bones or tissue to disrupt the cap/beak cast while he is tearing at the meat.

When this cap came off on day 10, Thomas Knight, DDS, a local dentist, gave us some dental acrylic so we could replace the cap with something sturdier. The avian veterinarian removed the lower half inch of the beak, and the new cap was placed over the area to keep it clean while healing and growing. The upper cracked area was holding together and healing beautifully.



He is a very calm eagle, and is doing well as of today. Only time will tell whether his beak will grow out normally. The tip of the beak is so essential: it's his primary tool when it comes to eating. We will keep him until we are sure that this vital tool is going to continue to grow and function normally. We are hopeful that he will return to the wild.

## WISH LIST

*The treatment we offer injured wild animals like in the story above would not be possible without the generous donations from our supporters. Listed below are just some of the items we need: for a complete list, please visit our website. Thank you!*

Meat, poultry and seafood  
Vegetables and greens  
Seasonal fruits  
Straw or hay (call before bringing)  
Disposable dust and paint masks  
Cotton balls  
Fleece snow hats  
Frozen berries  
Flat sheets  
Pillow cases

Tools of all sorts (hand & power)  
"Dawn" liquid detergent (Original)  
Toilet paper  
Paper towels  
Large trash bags (45 gal)  
Non-Latex exam gloves (Nitrile - MEDIUM)  
Liquid laundry detergent (unscented)  
Liquid hand soap (regular – *not* antibacterial)  
Bleach (make sure it is for disinfecting)

Ceramic bowls - shallow or flat  
Gift Cards (hardware & pet stores, retail stores)  
Nolvasan (Chlorhexidine) disinfectant  
Heating pads (non automatic shut-off)  
Terrariums/aquariums with screen lids (cannot be cracked)  
Small plastic pet holders with intact lids  
Ziploc bags - quart and gallon  
Gas cards



# What Do Baby Opossums Eat?

One of the biggest challenges facing the staff at the shelter is feeding each species appropriately, especially the younger ones. Their needs vary greatly. Sometimes that's fairly easy to address. Osprey? They eat fish! Eagles? They eat meat: "meat" might consist of rat, salmon, rabbit, chicken or deer, but they eat meat.

Opossums .... now that gets a bit more complicated. It's easy to Google a diet for baby opossums – there are so many of them out there. But most of them are incorrect, even detrimental.

We have done a lot of research and learned a lot by trial and error where the baby opossum diets are concerned. They are omnivores, which means they eat both animals and plants, so there are many components. It's also very important that they are eating enough, so tracking their weight daily is vital.

Diets are adjusted with great frequency as they grow, adding a little of this or that. Opossums have to have adequate calcium in their food so that they don't develop bone problems - we provide calcium to

babies with yogurt (they love it .... who knew?). Diets also change as they grow to make them more "natural", mimicking what they will have in their environment post-release.



The way we process their food also changes with the patient's age. This helps ready them for release and helps us evaluate their releasability. For instance, apples are first applesauce, then diced, then for older animals, they are sliced. Graduating to bigger and bigger pieces. Protein is first delivered as diced meat, and the pieces gradually get larger. Then pieces become cut up mice, and then mice are offered whole.

Here's an example: (Multiply this by 20 babies at a time.....It's a lot of time and effort, but we love our opossums!)

- apple sauce (made from apples donated by Town & Country Markets)
- yogurt mixed with minced greens and shredded vegetables (all from volunteers and Town & Country Markets)
- diced apple
- seasonal berries (donated by volunteers and picked locally)
- soaked cat food (all donated)
- chopped salmon (donated by Defiance Boats and the Suquamish Tribe)
- a quail egg (donated by volunteers)
- crickets
- a slug (collected and donated by volunteers - ducks love them too!)

This diet is typical for a young opossum. It has not yet begun to transition to larger and more natural foods. This will change every 2-3 days for about 4 weeks. Then it will be released – to become part of nature's cleanup crew and eat slugs out of someone's garden!

The best thing you can do if you find an opossum baby is not to feed it anything. Please call us so we can get the baby to the Shelter and feed it appropriately, giving it the best chance at a second chance.

## Kids Can Help Save Wild Animals, Too!

Over the past year kids have made a huge difference to the Shelter's success!

We've had Girl Scout and Boy Scout troops, and other independent kids' groups drop off donations and money collected from their schools or neighborhoods. Some kids have even asked for donations to the Shelter in lieu of birthday gifts!

Our education program has reached more than 8,000 children in the greater Puget Sound region, teaching

them about wildlife and its importance.

Here's a quick list of things kids can do - no matter what age - to help keep wild animals safe:

### Do not litter

- Food scraps attract wildlife onto the roadways, putting them at risk of being hit by a vehicle. Do not throw food from your car or drop it on the street.
- Pick up broken fishing line, broken kite string and other

trash from the shores. Birds can get tangled up in the line and ingest the trash.

### Do not harass or disturb wildlife

- Leave all animals alone. If they find a baby animal that needs help, have them ask an adult to help the animal by calling us.

### Be careful on the 4th of July

- Cover up bird baths and feeders so ash does not fall into them.

- Pick up any fireworks debris so the animals won't eat it.
- User proper fireworks safety to keep friends, family and animals safe.

Share these tips with your kids and their friends. Teach them early to respect wildlife and learn what they can do to help keep wild animals safe.



# Donors as Agents of Change

Like our volunteers, donors are agents of change for the Shelter.

Whether an adult or child, group, individual or foundation, our donors make a huge positive impact on the Shelter. Here are a few ways that donors effect change through your generous financial support:

- We are able to provide injured, sick and orphaned wildlife with the best possible care in the region
- People who find distressed wild animals know who to call and how to help
- Our inspiring education programs are a catalyst for change, pulling people out of the 'nature deficit'
- We can remain fully staffed during the 'slow season' enabling us to do

research and develop protocols and treatment regimens to meet best practices

- We were able to acquire a vehicle for rescue and transport making it possible to get a higher number of distressed animals into treatment sooner
- Our treatment protocols have resulted in a staggering 62% release rate

All these changes in knowledge, care and actions are a direct result of the financial support from our donors. This support is not just a donation, but an investment in everyone's future.

Thank you to all donors who make a difference through your gifts.

## Opportunities to be an agent of change

- End-of-year gift
- Endowment fund
- Estate planning
- Legacy gift
- Annual appeal
- Holiday appeal
- Council of Eagles
- Monthly donor

Donate any time through our website at [www.westsoundwildlife.org](http://www.westsoundwildlife.org)



Photo: Dottie Tison

## Special Thanks

A special **thank you** to all of the wonderful people and businesses whose donations year after year allow this wildlife hospital and education center to exist and carry on our important mission. The following supporters deserve recognition:

### Organizations, Foundations & Corporations

- Amazon (Smile)
- Bainbridge Arts & Crafts
- Bainbridge Community Foundation
- Bainbridge Island Land Trust
- Bainbridge Rotary
- Blue Sky Printing
- Boeing Employer Match
- Central Market of Poulsbo
- City of Bainbridge Island
- Combined Federal Campaign
- GE Employer Match
- Great Northern Electric
- Horizons Foundation
- Jeff Becker Charitable Arts
- King County Employer Match
- Kitsap Audubon Society
- Kitsap Community Foundation
- Microsoft Giving Campaign
- Mountaineers Foundation
- Nintendo Employer Match
- Olympic Pre-Sort
- One Call For All
- Suquamish Tribe
- Town and Country Markets
- Wildlife Charitable Trust

### In-Kind Veterinary Services & Partnerships

- All Creatures Animal Hospital, Dr. James Little
- Dr. Kathryn Krueger
- Poulsbo Animal Emergency Trauma Center
- Winslow Animal Clinic, Dr. Christine Susumi
- Day Road Animal Clinic
- Ridgetop Animal Clinic Dr. Kristen Cage
- Dr. Barry Rickman
- Dr. Dave Balderama
- Dr. Scott Ford
- Thomas Knight, DDS

### In-Kind Donations

- Bloedel Reserve
- Bremerton Food Bank
- Defiance Boats of Bremerton
- Dottie Tison Photography
- Heidi Eros Photography
- Inside Bainbridge
- Jay Wiggs Photography
- Kitsap Sun/Bainbridge Review
- Safeway of Poulsbo



THE BLOEDEL RESERVE,



West Sound Wildlife Shelter is a proud participant in Bainbridge Island's One Call For All, the "red envelope campaign", and the Kitsap Community Foundation's Kitsap Great Give, both annual giving events. Please help us save the lives of wild animals by donating to the Shelter through one or both of these campaigns.

# Our Educational Ambassadors Want to Meet You!

**Did you know that peregrine falcons “stoop” or dive at 200 miles per hour to catch their dinner? Why are an owl’s eyes so big? Can they really turn their heads all the way around?**

Nothing is more effective than a wild animal to engage and inspire an audience! In education programs they serve as live examples of natural selection and adaptation, and human impact on wildlife survival.

The West Sound Wildlife Shelter provides the region’s only live-animal education program. The purpose of this program is to help protect wild animals by giving the public a way to connect more directly with wildlife and educate the community about how to protect wildlife and their habitats, and to coexist with wildlife.

We have several wildlife ambassadors that help us provide fascinating educational programs to inform the community about wildlife and its critical role in our environment, and wildlife issues. We even added a new ambassador this year, Linnea, a Virginia Opossum.

Thanks to the generosity of our donors, local schools, civic clubs and foundations, we’ve been able to reach more than **8,000 children and adults** through more than 150 programs in the past year, tremendous **growth of more than 20%**!

From pre-schoolers to senior citizens, the Shelter offers a variety of educational programs that can take place at any public location (private residences not permitted), and can be customized to meet specific educational needs such as age and focus.

**The Educational Ambassadors  
Get Around!**

Discovery Montessori	Wofle Elementary
Gordon Elementary	KidiMu
Hazel Creek Montessori	Camp Yeomalt
Home School Co-op	Mountaineer’s Camp
Ordway Elementary	Stillwaters Camp
Sakai Intermediate	Sweetpea Cottages
Seaview Elementary	Clearbrook Senior Center
Steilacoom School	Kent Water Festival
Vinland Elementary	Stillwaters EcoFest
West Sound Academy	Shorebird Festival
Wilkes School	

Our educational ambassadors are ready to visit you! Invite them to your school or club.

Contact the education program manager to find out how to arrange a visit from one of these amazing animals!

**Phone: (206) 855.9057**  
**Email: [education@westsoundwildlife.org](mailto:education@westsoundwildlife.org)**



**Athena**  
Barred Owl



**Agate**  
Red-tailed Hawk



**Cedar**  
Red-tailed Hawk



**Remington**  
Turkey Vulture



**Lady Luna**  
Virginia Opossum



**Ranger**  
Peregrine Falcon



**Linnea**  
Virginia Opossum



**Pele**  
American Kestrel

## Where Can You Find Us This Summer?

**Whaling Days**  
July 25-26

**Bloedel Family Days**  
August 22

**Kitsap County Fair**  
August 26-30

**Special Events**  
**Wild For Wine**  
TBD (September or early October)

## Be a catalyst for change: Please donate to help save wildlife!

I would like to make a donation in the amount of: \$ \_\_\_\_\_

Name: \_\_\_\_\_ Phone: \_\_\_\_\_

Address: \_\_\_\_\_

City: \_\_\_\_\_ State: \_\_\_\_\_ Zip: \_\_\_\_\_

Email: \_\_\_\_\_

### Payment Method

Enclosed is my check payable to West Sound Wildlife Shelter (or WSWs)

Please bill my  VISA  Mastercard  AMEX  Discover

Card number: \_\_\_\_\_ Exp Date: \_\_\_\_\_

Name on card (if different): \_\_\_\_\_

Billing address (if different): \_\_\_\_\_

Mail this form to West Sound Wildlife Shelter, 7501 NE Dolphin Drive, Bainbridge Island, WA 98110

Or donate online at [www.westsoundwildlife.org](http://www.westsoundwildlife.org)