

Another Great Year

By Kol Medina, Executive Director

Once again, I'm proud to provide a stunningly positive report for the Shelter. June 30 is the end of the Shelter's 2011 fiscal year; it will mark the end of the best year the Shelter has ever had. None of the achievements I'm about to list would have been possible without the extremely generous support of the Shelter's donors and volunteers. Thank you!

On July 16, we will host the ribbon-cutting for the Shelter's new waterfowl enclosure. This enclosure is the final phase of a \$600,000

capital campaign that the Shelter finished in December of last year. Ducks, herons, loons, shorebirds, and all types of waterfowl will benefit from this state-of-the-art rehabilitation enclosure, an enclosure that will also stand ready to care for birds injured during an oil spill. In fact, this will be the only enclosure of its size and quality in the entire State.

By the end of 2010, we had provided hospital services to a record number of patients – 853. That's 853 injured, orphaned, and sick wild animals who were given a second

chance at life or, at the least, shown compassion and relieved of pain in their final moments.



Photo: Dottie Tison

View from the Perch

By Mike Pratt, Director of Wildlife Services

As a wildlife rehabilitator I am not suppose to get emotionally involved with the wild patients I treat.

But it is spring and with it comes the baby animals. It is hard not to feel a special place in my heart when I look at these innocent little faces. They are the future, just like our human children.

My heart particularly goes out to the little orphans – the raccoon babies that lost their mom when she was trapped and killed because she was living under someone's house, the fawn that lost its mom when killed by a car, the coyote pups that lost their mom to an angry homeowner that shot her, the goslings that lost both parents because of a federal



©Robin Purcell Photography

extermination program, the baby squirrels whose mom was shot for collecting seed from the feeder to feed her kids, the baby rabbits whose mom was killed by a dog . . . and the list goes on.

They are orphaned not because of natural causes or anything their mother did wrong. She was only trying to raise and feed her babies and got in the way of humans.

These babies don't understand why their mom has been replaced by us humans.

Compared to today's date in 2010, we are substantially ahead of last year's patient total. Also, we're receiving more phone calls asking for help resolving wildlife conflicts. In short, we are busier than ever.

Call to the Wild, the Shelter's annual dinner and auction event, was a huge success. Due to the generosity of the 265 guests at the dinner, we raised \$117,000, smashing our goal of \$100,000. Most importantly, everyone had a wonderful time celebrating the Shelter and its work.

While the demand for the Shelter's services continues to grow, the Shelter has been blessed by the community with the resources it needs to build new facilities and maintain a first-rate staff. I am deeply grateful to the Shelter's Board of Directors and all of the Shelter's donors and volunteers.

We certainly don't look, smell, or act like mom. Mom never told them about this part of life. Thanks to the many dedicated volunteers and other staff, we're able to see to it that these innocent orphans live to carry out their mother's legacy. We may not have fur or feathers but we do our best to make sure that these babies get a second chance at life to make their moms proud.

We recently started a special "nursery" page on our website (www.westsoundwildlife.org/wildlife/PatientStories/PS_Nursery.html) to show the baby wild patients we admitted this year.

I hope you will take a moment to visit our website and meet our babies. Being typical human parents, we have many pictures and are proud to show them.

West Sound
**WILDLIFE
SHELTER**

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 through public outreach, education, and involvement.

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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 members and 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 implied or expressed.

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Wildlife Shelter

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Get to Know Our Native Red Fox

In folktales and legends, foxes are clever, crafty animals that are often portrayed as knowing more than the other woodland creatures. More than likely, it's their patient hunting skills and quiet ways that have given them this reputation.

Geographic Reach

The red fox (*Vulpes vulpes*) is native not only to Washington state, but to the entire United States and well beyond. In fact, of all the canids, the red fox has the greatest reach around the globe. Red foxes have been found as far north as the arctic circle and as far south as northern Africa and South America. They're considered native to all of North America.

Foxes came to North America from Europe during the Wisconsinian glacial period, more than 10,000 years ago, when the Bering Land Bridge allowed humans and mammals to travel from Siberia to the new world.

Sadly, foxes were introduced to Australia, where they're now considered invasive species because of the harm they've done to local wildlife populations.

Diet and Lifestyle

Foxes mostly live on a diet of small rodents like mice and rats, though they'll also eat birds, reptiles, invertebrates, frogs, and the occasional bit of plant matter.

They live in family groups that are made up of a breeding pair and some of their grown-up children (anywhere from 1 to 8), who help with raising the new fox kits. Only the dominant pair will breed each year.

Foxes are generally solitary hunters.

Fox Tails

A fox's big, bushy tail is one of its more distinctive physical traits. Like a cat, a fox will use its tail for balance. It's also used as a warm blanket in cold weather and as a signal flag for communicating with other foxes.

Fox Kits

Foxes generally mate during the winter months, and their babies (typically 4-6 kits) are born in the spring. The kits are born blind, deaf, and toothless, with dark brown fur that will turn red as they grow up.

At about 3-4 weeks, the kits begin venturing out of the mouth of the den, eating food their parents bring them. They'll continue to nurse through about the 7th week. If anything happens to the mother, the father fox will take over child-raising until the pups are grown.

By 6-7 months, the young foxes are fully mature. If the food resources of their area are good, young foxes may leave the family at that point and find a territory of their own. If food resources are scarce, the group will stay together with the younger foxes in a non-breeding position.

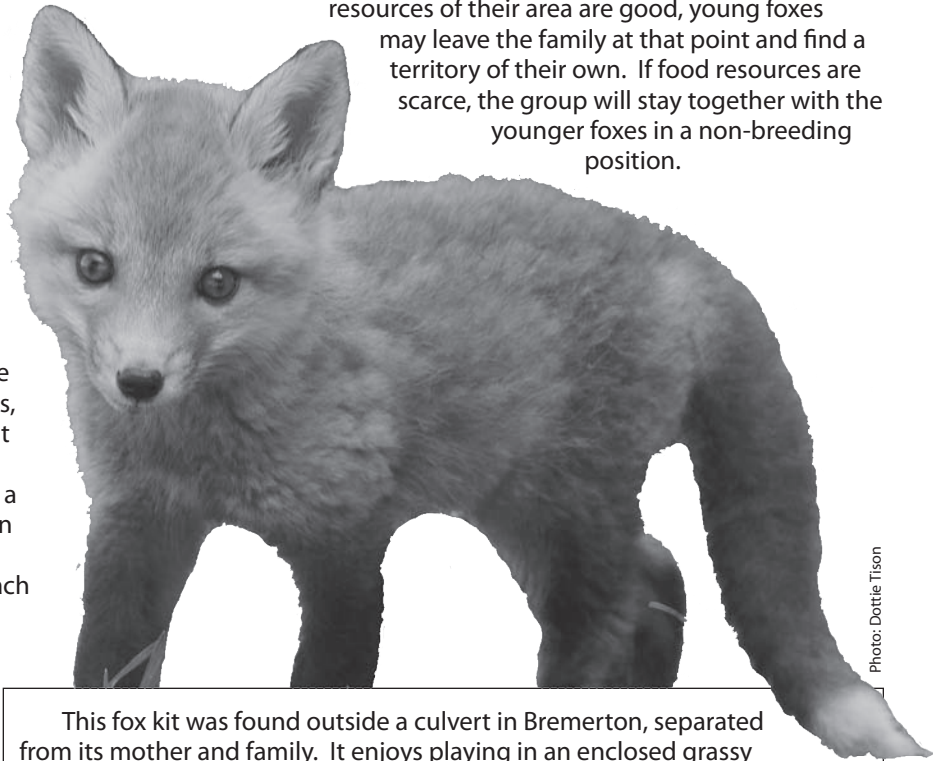


Photo: Dottie Tison

This fox kit was found outside a culvert in Bremerton, separated from its mother and family. It enjoys playing in an enclosed grassy area, chewing on bones, and wrestling with a stuffed-animal fox. You can sponsor the fox and help cover the costs of its time with us by completing the form on page 4 of this newsletter. To learn more online, visit www.westsoundwildlife.org/SponsorFox.html.

FOX QUIZ

What do you call a male fox, a female fox, and a baby fox?

A dog fox (or, sometimes, a reynard), a vixen, and a kit.

What's the name of the house a fox builds for itself?

During breeding season, foxes dig a den in a hillside or around the roots of a tree. The den usually consists of a long tunnel—a handy place for a fox to dart when a predator is nearby—with a larger burrow at the end.

Dens are often used year after year, and some dens have been in consistent use for decades. In

warmer weather and when there aren't any little kits, foxes usually prefer to sleep outside their den in dense underbrush.

How do foxes communicate?

Foxes use a combination of body language and sounds to communicate with other foxes. Submissive foxes will approach a dominant fox in a low crouch, with their muzzles reach up in greeting.

When one fox meets another, they'll often make a "wow wow wow" sound. This is especially common in the mating season.

When foxes near each other, they make clucking type sounds or sometime high pitched whines. Fox parents have special "huffing" sounds they use to greet their kits.

New Space for Small Mammals

One wing of our wildlife hospital is currently filled with curious, chattering, adorable babies – orphaned raccoons. The raccoon nursery is a happy place because the babies are so busy exploring their world. But it's also a sad place, because the hard truth is that the babies don't belong there.

In a better world, these babies would all still be with their mothers. Our volunteers and staff do a wonderful job, but they're no substitute for a real mother. Nearly every orphaned-raccoon case is the same – people exterminated the mother raccoon, and the babies were left behind.

What's particularly devastating about these situations is that the raccoon mothers could have been frightened away instead of killed. If the people involved had used a few deterrents, the mother would likely have moved her babies somewhere else, and the family could have stayed together.

At the moment, we have twenty baby raccoons in the nursery, four of which are touch-and-go cases. Their mother was killed, and the babies were left alone – without a mother – for four days. By the time they came to us they were dehydrated and malnourished.

At West Sound Wildlife, we understand that sometimes raccoons can come uncomfortably close to people's living spaces. We know people often wish the raccoons would move away to a different area. And our staff has plenty of tricks people

can use to make that happen. All they have to do is give us a call at **206.855.9057 x1**.

To care for these young raccoons, we've recently completed work on a new Small Mammal Enclosure. This structure was built completely with volunteer labor, and a number of generous people helped see it to completion. Without the donations of money, time, and materials, this much-needed unit would still be on paper.

We'd like to give a warm thank you to the following individuals: Stewart H. Clarke, Mark and Willow Follett, Linda Garrison, Jim Henderson, Barbara A. Klingburg, Jolynn Meriam, Sandy Nakata, Geoff Nestor, Dean Olsen, Cory Rhyerger, Kurt Thompson, Robert and Mikel Whitley, Tom White, and Tim Youngern.

A number of local businesses also donated materials and expertise to the project: Arrow Lumber and Hardware, Port Orchard; Coyote Woodshop, B.I.; Fairbank Construction, B.I.; Fred Hill Materials, Poulsbo; Kingston Lumber, Kingston; Liberty Bay Excavating, Poulsbo; Olympic Glass, B.I.; and Skyler Excavation, B.I. Thank you all!



Photo: Dottie Tison



Photo: Dottie Tison



Photo: Dottie Tison

The new Small Mammal Enclosure has its own laundry facilities, so bedding and cloths can be washed right on-site.

Sponsorship, Purchase, or Donation Form

- I would like to reserve _____ (quantity) calendars, to be delivered in early fall.
(Calendars are \$12 each.)
- I would like to donate \$_____.
- I would like to sponsor the baby fox for this amount: \$_____



Name(s): _____ Phone: _____

Address: _____ City: _____ Zip: _____

Email address: _____

Payment Method

- Enclosed is my check (payable to "West Sound Wildlife")
- Please bill my Visa Mastercard AMEX

Card number: _____ Expiration date: _____

Name on card: _____

Billing address (if different): _____

Please return this form to: West Sound Wildlife, 7501 NE Dolphin Drive, Bainbridge Island, WA 98110



www.lawrenceworcester.com

The New Waterfowl Enclosure

The two flocks of baby mallard ducklings at the Shelter are still too small to go swimming, but soon they'll have access to a brand new facility. This July, we anticipate the grand opening of the

Shelter's waterfowl enclosure, a long-awaited structure that will serve aquatic birds like ducks, herons, cormorants, gulls, and terns.

The enclosure is essentially a series of large pools, each separated from the other so each species group can enjoy its privacy.

A robust filtration system will keep the pools clean and fresh, allowing these patients to swim and dive, building muscles they'll need in the wild. At the moment, waterfowl patients have to make do with shallow pools and occasional swims in the bathtub, neither of which are ideal physical therapy for these aquatic athletes.

An exciting secondary feature of the new waterfowl

enclosure is that it will also serve as a place to clean and care for birds that might be contaminated in an oil spill. With oil spills happening on a regular basis around the Puget Sound, we are proud to be the only oiled-bird facility on the western side of the Sound.

In the case of a disaster, we'll be standing ready to tend the oiled waterfowl and get them back to the lives they were leading before human society spoiled their environment.



Photo: Dottie Tison

An intricate filtration system will keep the water in the pools clean and constantly refreshed.

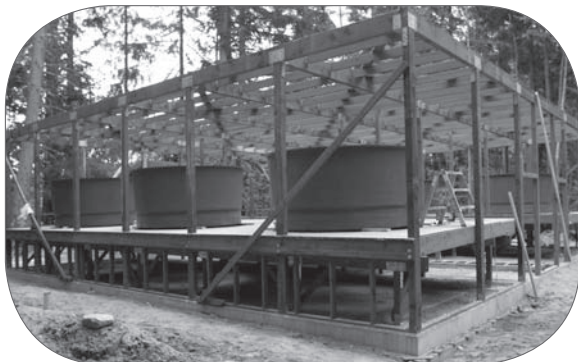


Photo: Dottie Tison

In the next phase of construction, the pools will be dropped down to ground level and a short wall will be constructed between the pools. Stairs will be added, so volunteers and staff can easily walk among the pools to check on patients.

Conclusion of the Take Flight Capital Campaign



With the opening of the waterfowl enclosure, West Sound Wildlife will bring to a close its first-ever capital campaign, the Take Flight Project. This two-year campaign raised nearly \$600,000.

These funds were used to build the C. Keith Birkenfeld Flight Cage, a dramatic new structure that has helped us rehabilitate bald eagles, peregrine falcons, owls, hawks, and ospreys. In fact, the Flight Cage has been so useful to our patients, it's been occupied constantly since its grand opening two years ago.

Many thanks to everyone who supported this campaign to build these two unparalleled facilities for raptors and waterfowl!

AUGUST

Martinis & Mad Men Party - August 27

Join us at a beautiful Bainbridge waterfront home for a 1960s flashback! With a live DJ, event photographer, and signature 60s drinks, this is a great place to hang out with friends and meet local authors like Susan Wiggs, Garth Stein, Kathleen Alcalá and Stephanie Kallos. Tickets are \$100. Call Elsa at 206.855.9057 x5.

SEPTEMBER

Calendars On Sale

Watch for our 2012 calendar! The handsome calendar, which features photos of Shelter patients, will be on sale at Town & Country Markets, Central Market, through our website, and around the county. Reserve your calendar by sending in the form to the left or call Elsa at 206.855.9057 x5.

OCTOBER

Afternoon Tea and Vintage Fashion Show

Enjoy superb teas, elegant high-tea treats, and a Victorian ladies fashion demonstration by the Chrisman Collection. Wing Point Country Club: Oct. 16. Kitsap Golf & Country Club: Oct. 23.

EVENTS CALENDAR



Keeping Our Patients Wild

At West Sound Wildlife, our mission is simple – to return our wildlife patients back to the forests and waterways they came from.

For those patients to thrive in the wild, however, they need more than just the return to health provided by our medicines, treatment, and physical therapy.

They need attitude. Specifically, a wild attitude.

Ideally, our patients leave the Shelter with a healthy mistrust of humans. This is something that will serve them well in the wild, keeping them – hopefully – away from human hazards.

The worst thing that can happen during treatment is for a patient to become habituated to people. Habituation can mean anything from seeing humans as friendly to thinking of us as good food sources.

Any level of habituation can spell disaster for an animal once it's released. Just imagine the dangers for a raccoon that looks for food on a person's porch, a crow that eats in busy parking lots, or a rabbit that searches for lunch near people – where there are also predators like dogs.

Our staff and volunteers go to great lengths to keep patients from becoming

habituated. This is especially important for babies, since they're young and impressionable, and often don't have their mother nearby for guidance.

Here are just a few of the tricks our staff and volunteers employ:

- Never pet or cuddle a patient. This is an obvious first step, but it can be



Photo: Dottie Tison

This volunteer is wearing a mask so the young squirrel won't come to associate human faces with food.

hard for newer volunteers to adjust to. They may be the ones to feed the baby patients, but they can't let the attachment become any stronger than that.

- When working with raccoons and other animals that recognize faces, the staff and volunteers wear lightweight masks that cover their mouths and noses.
- Keep voices low in the hospital wards and near the outdoor enclosures.
- Take care with feeding. For some of our patients, food appears seemingly out of nowhere. For example, when the baby fox goes to the treatment room for his daily check-up, he returns to his enclosure and finds his food bowls magically filled. This avoids his making a link between people and feeding time.

By taking all of these precautions, we give our patients the best possible chance of surviving in the wild. Our goal is not only to heal our patients' wounds, but also to help them maintain their wonderful wild attitude.

This coyote's food appeared in his crate while he was in a different room, having a check-up.



Photo: ©Robin Purcell Photography

You Found An Injured Animal – Now What?

Call 206-855-9057 x1

Give us a call! Situations can vary dramatically, and the animal you found might actually not need help at all. Or it might be badly hurt but could require special handling. Our staff can advise you on the best thing to do to help that animal.

Many baby animals might seem abandoned, but they're actually doing exactly what their mothers ordered—sitting tight until she returns. Picking up that animal would break up a family and hurt the baby's chance for survival.

Our staff can suggest ways to monitor the baby until it's safe.

We answer phones seven days per week including holidays: **206-855-9057 x1**. Thank you!

Special Thanks

A special thanks to you and all of the wonderful people and businesses whose donations year after year allow this wildlife hospital and education center to exist. The following supporters deserve special recognition for their efforts over the last three months.

Organizations, Corporations & Foundations

Kitsap Audubon Society • Town & Country Markets • One Call for All • Blue Sky Printing • Microsoft Giving Campaign • Bill and Melinda Gates Foundation Employee Matching Gift Program • Google Matching Gift Program • Verizon Matching Gift Program • Combined Federal Campaign • The Norcliffe Foundation • Horizons Foundation • Port Madison Enterprises • Suquamish Tribe • City of Bainbridge Island • Kitsap County • M.J. Murdock Charitable Trust • Puget Sound Energy Foundation • WA State Department of Fish & Wildlife • Kimberly Clark Foundation

In-Kind Donations

Robin Purcell Photography • Lawrence Worcester, Photographer • Superior Pet Foods • Skyler Construction & Excavation • All Creatures Animal Hospital, Drs. Little, Pinto, Kruger & Cross • Peninsula Mobile Veterinary Clinic, Dr. Bill Larson • Ridgetop Animal Hospital, Dr. Cage • Dr. Christina Pettan-Brewer • Winslow Animal Clinic, Dr. Christine Susumi • Dr. Scott Ford • Motive Marketing Group • Bloedel Reserve • American Gold Seafoods • Mike Hoffman • Perrone Consulting, Inc.

• Western Edge Architecture & Design
• Fairbank Construction • Dick Badger, Photographer • Dottie Tison Nature Photography • Bonnie Block, Field and Farm Photography • Steve Weber • The Wild Bird

Monthly Giving Plan

Geraldine Carbaugh • Danny McEnery and Tobiyah Gulden • Karla Piecuch • Ervon Robinson • Stevie Stephens



THE BLOEDEL RESERVE.



The Shelter is a proud participant in Bainbridge Island's One Call for All, the "red envelope campaign." Please help us save the lives of local wild animals by donating to the Shelter through One Call for All.

Certify Your Garden as a Wildlife Habitat

Bainbridge Island is the 39th city in the U.S. – and the 8th city in Washington – to become a Certified Backyard Habitat City.

Whether you have an apartment balcony or a 20-acre farm, you can create a garden that attracts beautiful wildlife and helps restore habitat in commercial and residential areas. By providing food, water, cover, and a place for wildlife to raise their young, you not only help wildlife, but you also qualify to become an official Certified Wildlife Habitat™ and join the nearly 140,000 sites across the country.

West Sound Wildlife is overseeing the Bainbridge island-wide effort to maintain the wildlife certification. Please join the over 200 island households, schools and businesses and get your yard or business certified.

Certify your Backyard Habitat Today!
Visit the National Wildlife Federation at www.nwf.org to learn more.



Photo: Dottie Tison

Wish List

You can give wildlife a second chance at life by donating the items listed below. Collecting items in your community is a great project for kids, groups, classrooms and clubs and a simple, fun and rewarding way to help wildlife. Donations are tax deductible. For questions contact Mike Pratt at mike@westsoundwildlife.org or 206-855-9057, x 3.

General Animal Care Supplies

Flat sheets
Blankets
Towels (bath size)
Tools of all sorts (hand & power)
Bird seed & Suet
Cleaning brushes, sponges
"Dawn" liquid detergent (Original)

Liquid Laundry detergent
Liquid hand soap (regular – not antibacterial)
Zip-lock bags
Large trash bags (45 gal)
Duct tape
Masking tape
Cable ties
Toilet paper
Paper towels

Astro Turf door mats (new)
Ceramic bowls
Gift Cards (hardware's, pet stores, gas, retail stores)
Nolvasan (Chlorhexidine)
Disinfectant

Rehabilitation Equipment & Supplies

Heating pads (non automatic shut-off)

Chain-link dog kennels
Non-Latex disposable gloves
Dust & paint masks
Cotton balls
Stocking caps & ski masks
Have-a-heart live traps
Folding tables
Education Program
Wildlife books for shelter library