



Wildlife Rehab Inc.

May/June 2008

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– Glenda Combs
- **Vice President Administration**
– Carol Orr
- **Vice President Rehab**
– Karie Martin
- **Treasurer**
– Joyce Reedy
- **Secretary**
– Joell Beth Montgomery
- **Board of Directors**
– Carla Johnson
– Lynn Mastin

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Wildlife Rehab Inc. of Winston Salem is a non-profit organization dedicated to the preservation and care of wildlife.

My Experience as a New Rehabber

It seems as though it was only yesterday when I signed up for the wildlife rehabilitation class at Forsyth Tech in September of 2007. It was one of the largest classes to date with well over 20 enthusiastic “bunny huggers”. How nice it was to be with such a diverse group of folks that all had the same love of animals as me.

As we introduced ourselves and gave our reasons for taking the class, I soon realized that most of us had the same stories to tell as well. It seemed as though we were all that “kid in the neighborhood” that always brought home injured animals in hopes of saving them. I know for myself when growing up, I could not understand why others did not share my passion and love for all of these creatures. I have finally come to the realization that we must have been born that way!

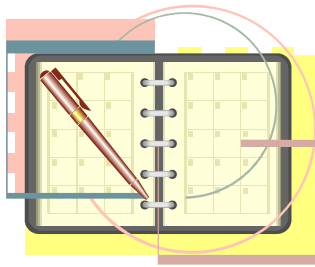
The weeks of class flew by and before we knew it our group experience was over. I had more questions than answers at this point and thank goodness for our rehab manual. I think I re-read it two or three times over the next couple of months.

The annual WRNC Symposium in January of 2008 presented another opportunity to take additional classes and to network with other rehabbers across the state. I thoroughly enjoyed it and highly recommend this as a way to gain some “hands-on” experience, as well as a way to learn from the other rehabbers who have had great success over the years.

January also began my on-call experience. What a disappointment with no calls the first day I was assigned. No need to worry, that all changed in the months to follow. Even with my on-call manual to guide me, I ended up calling Sharon at work with questions almost every month. Although frustrating at times when I couldn’t locate someone to take in some “babies”, I eventually learned it was okay to leave messages and wait for a return call from someone willing to go out for a pickup. More importantly, it became second nature to ask the correct questions of the caller to insure we didn’t take in babies that could safely be reunited with their mother.

(Continued on Page 3)

Next WRI Class will start In September. Cost is \$50 for 11-week Class. Contact Forsyth Tech for more information



Calendar of Events

Here is the list of upcoming events that WRI plans to attend. We can always use additional volunteers to help man the booths, answer questions, sell merchandise and talk to people about what we do. If you can help us out with any of these events or would like to be contacted for other future events, please contact Gail Dawson our Events Coordinator (336) 946-2981.

JUNE

1st – Lewisville Girl Scouts

21st – Hanging Rock State Park Campground

JULY

6th – Hanging Rock State Park Lakeside

7th – Critter Camp

14th – Critter Camp

21st – Critter Camp

OCTOBER

18th – Hanging Rock State Park Visitors Center

WRI Annual Picnic

Saturday, June 21st at 12pm. Call Sharon Cihak for directions. Please RSVP so we know how many burgers to throw on the grill.

Meet The WRI Officers and Board Members

Glenda Combs - President

I have been a wildlife rehabilitator for about 17 years. I'm not as active rehabbing as I used to be due to a job change, but still do what I can. Gertie, the education groundhog, lives with me. I also help teach the WRI classes each spring and fall. I have 5 cats, 5 Chihuahuas, a boxer, a beagle, 2 snakes, 13 chickens, and a toad who will eat out of your hand. I also volunteer for many other rescue organizations.

Carol Orr – Vice President Administration

I completed the WRI class in the Fall of 2006. I am a member of our state organization, NCWR and a member of the Carolina Raptor Center. In 2005, I met the requirements of The National Wildlife Federation to have my property listed as a Certified Wildlife habitat. I have two rottweilers, two boxers, one black lab, one mixed breed terrier, and a chihuahua. They were all rescued or adopted from shelters.

Karie Martin – Vice President Rehab

I specialize in pigeons, but I don't mind raising anything that's a self-feeder. I've taken in a lot of animals through the years, and do all I can to help something in need. My current pets include birds, rabbits, several cats, and a dog.

Joyce Reedy - Treasurer

I have been a rehabber for many years specializing in bunnies and squirrels. I am currently not actively rehabbing but teach bunny class for our twice-yearly WRI course.

Joell Beth Montgomery - Secretary

I started rehabbing in 2003 with a baby squirrel out of my backyard that mom wouldn't come back for, and since then I've been hooked. I have to give credit to my husband, Jimmy—he helps me out with feeding the babies, and I couldn't do it without him! As pets, I have a peke-a-poo named Max, an indoor cat named Dodge, and two Labradors, Josey and Casey.

Carla Johnson – Board of Directors

I have been rehabbing or doing education programs for over 15 years. I have worked at Baptist Hospital in Medical Genetics for the past 14 years and will soon be relocating to Durham to work at Duke University Medical Center. I've had just about every kind of critter there is from Ruby the education skunk to Madagascar Hissing Cockroaches. In the past few years, I have taken in abandoned parrots and chihuahuas and now am the NC/SC Coordinator for Chihuahua Rescue and Transport, a national 501(c)(3) organization.

Lynn Mastin – Board of Directors

I have been a rehabber and active member of WRI for 5 years. I am also a member of the state organization NCWR. I have been happily married for 9 years and could not rehab if my husband didn't love animals as much as I do. We do all that we can for any of God's creatures in need. We have two boxers, Zipper and Diesel.

My Experience as a New Rehabber (Cont. from Page 1))

My first squirrel babies came in on March 22nd. One of my fellow classmates, Stephanie Parks and I worked out an arrangement whereby she would pass on to me squirrels she had raised, and that were weaned. I would take it from there. Well, the two she gave me had not been hand-reared since they had just come in from a tree surgeon who had found them after taking down a few trees. Stephanie was convinced they were almost as big as an adult and ready to take off her finger. I was able to coax them into my indoor cage without handling them and they quickly ran into the "hidey box" I had provided. It was going to be impossible to weigh them but by consulting my manual and some on-line photos, I was able to determine their approximate age at about 8 to 9 weeks.

As the days passed I worked out a system of waiting until they were in their hidey house so I could safely open the door. I would

cover the opening by wrapping newspaper around the hidey box, thus trapping them inside. This allowed me to add fresh water and food as well as new branches for them to chew and climb. All was working pretty well until one day I thought I could just quickly add some food to the cage without covering the hidey box. They appeared to be quietly sleeping inside so I opened the door and added food to their bowl. As I was withdrawing my hand the little male came out, ran up my arm and went out the door, landing on the floor. Not thinking, my first instinct was to grab at him. I caught him by the tail and went to put him back inside when he swung around and bit me. First lesson learned; if you get bit or scratched, it is your fault about 99% (if not 100%) of the time.

After three more weeks inside and another two weeks in an outside cage, release day came. On April

25th I opened the door for the last time and up the tree they went. My husband had made a nesting box that he placed about 20 feet high in one of our pine trees. It took them two days, but they found the box and moved in. I still provide water for them and the occasional treat but they seem to be adjusting well and are self-sufficient. It is such a joy to be able to watch them daily and to know that in some small way I played a part.

In summary, I have learned that wildlife rehabilitation is an on-going learning experience. Although frustrating at times, it is up to each individual to take the initiative to get what he/she needs to be successful. We must continue to ask questions, network with other rehabbers, and volunteer at various wildlife programs and events. Looking back, the Wildlife Rehab class was just the first baby step!

Linda Woodruff

Tales From the WILD SIDE

Lynn Mastin had an unusual call the other day and I just had to go check it out.

A Groundhog stuck in a tree. It's not unusual to get a call about a groundhog up in a tree. They will come down on their own in their own time. However, this guy was wedged in between the tree and a couple of branches. He had been there all day and was pretty tired. He was 15 feet up; there was no way I could reach him. I called the Gumtree Fire Department and talked with Scott, their chief, and explained the situation. In no time, he arrived with the fire engine and two other firemen. One of the firemen suited up in his gear, including helmet for protection and went up the ladder. He backed the groundhog into a fishing net I borrowed from a neighbor and climbed down with a very mad groundhog. Once on the ground the groundhog headed for the creek bank behind the house. I told the firemen how much I appreciated their help. It was their first groundhog rescue and they were proud of the results!

Glenda Combs



"Linda Woodruff is a new rehabber who took the Wildlife Rehabilitation class last fall at Forsyth Tech. A native of Lubbock, Texas, Linda came to North Carolina three years ago with her husband Gary and lives in Stokesdale."

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Wildlife Rehab Inc.

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We're on the Web!

See us at:

WWW.WILDLIFEREHABINC.ORG

Wildlife Rehab Inc received over 1,000 calls to our hotline in 2007. We helped more than 250 animals "back into the wild".

A Tribute To Ruby

Ruby (named after Ruby's Fur Farm in New Sharon, Iowa) was purchased at 5 weeks of age. She was de-scented and fit in the palm of your hand. Traveling back to North Carolina, we stopped to eat. Ruby went into the restaurant with us in my backpack. I prayed that she wouldn't make a sound or try to get out. Luckily she was too scared and tired from the trip so she slept.



When she outgrew her various cages, I put her in my glass enclosed shower and gave her the run of the master bedroom when I was home. She liked this idea and so did the USDA vet who came once a year to inspect Ruby and her living arrangements. When Ruby was 2 years old, I took in a tiny puppy named Emma. These two became fast friends and loved to chase each other around the bedroom. One day, while taking a shower, Ruby found the toilet paper roll. By the time I got out of the shower, she and Emma had rolled themselves up in the toilet paper and were having a ball. From that point forward, the toilet paper stayed on the back of the toilet. Ruby would also steal things and hide them under the dresser. As the years went by and Ruby got bigger, it became more difficult to get her out from under the dresser. She had no problem getting under but when it came time to go back in the shower, I had to lift the dresser so that she could squeeze out.

A couple of weeks ago, Ruby stopped eating and was acting very lethargic. She was taken to the vet and diagnosed with congestive heart failure. She had already started to fill up with fluid and an x-ray revealed that there was fluid around her heart. It was decided to euthanize Ruby instead of prolonging her suffering. This was a very difficult decision to make. Ruby would have been 6 years old this April and will be missed, not only by her caretaker but also by the many people whose lives she touched through WRI's education programs.

Carla Johnson

About Our Organization...

Wildlife Rehab, Inc. is a nonprofit organization located primarily in the Winston-Salem, NC area and dedicated to the preservation and care of wildlife. Established in 1985 to address the concerns of orphaned and injured wildlife, WRI has grown into an organization of well trained and dedicated volunteers. In addition to rehabilitating wildlife, we

offer a series of public educational programs to public libraries, churches, schools, scout groups and State Parks.

Wildlife conservation remains a major concern in today's society. With more and more natural areas depleted, wildlife must adapt to an ever changing society and environment. WRI's personal mission

statement is: "Public education and commitment to the preservation of wildlife."

The Rehabbers in our group feed and care for these animals in their own homes and many pay for the food and medicine these animals require out of their own pockets.

Donations from you....

Help Us ... Help Them!!