



A NETWORK OF VOLUNTEERS DEDICATED TO CARING FOR WILDLIFE

PO Box 24552 Winston Salem, NC 27114

phone: (336) 785-0912



Looking Ahead

WILDLIFE REHAB INC. PRESIDENT OUTLINES PLANS FOR 2011

Contacts

President

— *Carol Orr*

Vice President of Administration

— *Brenda Hiles*

Vice President of Rehab

— *Gail Sparhawk*

Secretary

— *Susan Jolie*

Treasurer

— *Sandra Reid*

Board of Directors

— *Glenda Combs*

— *Carla Johnson*

— *Karie Martin*

— *Lynn Mastin*

— *Joell Beth Montgomery*

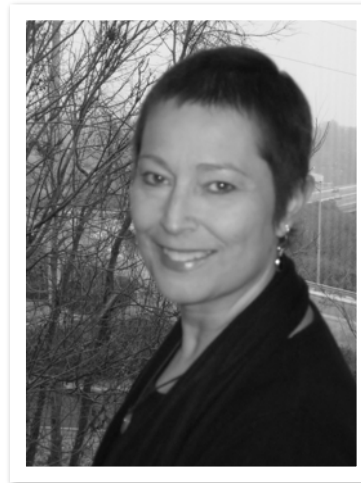
Brenda Hiles, newsletter editor

What a busy year 2010 was for Wildlife Rehab Inc!

Our hotline took 1,060 calls and 651 animals were taken in for rehabilitation. With our focus turned toward more inclusive documentation in 2011, we hope to provide more detailed reports including data analysis for release rates and the

disposition of animals that were not released. We will be reviewing other areas of the rehabilitation process as well to identify opportunities for improvement and growth.

WRI will focus on its education program this year. Plans to adopt a new logo and T-shirt design also will be implemented. We hope to have our new look ready for the Earth Day Fair in April. Public exposure affords us the opportunity to educate and enlighten



people about wildlife issues in our changing world.

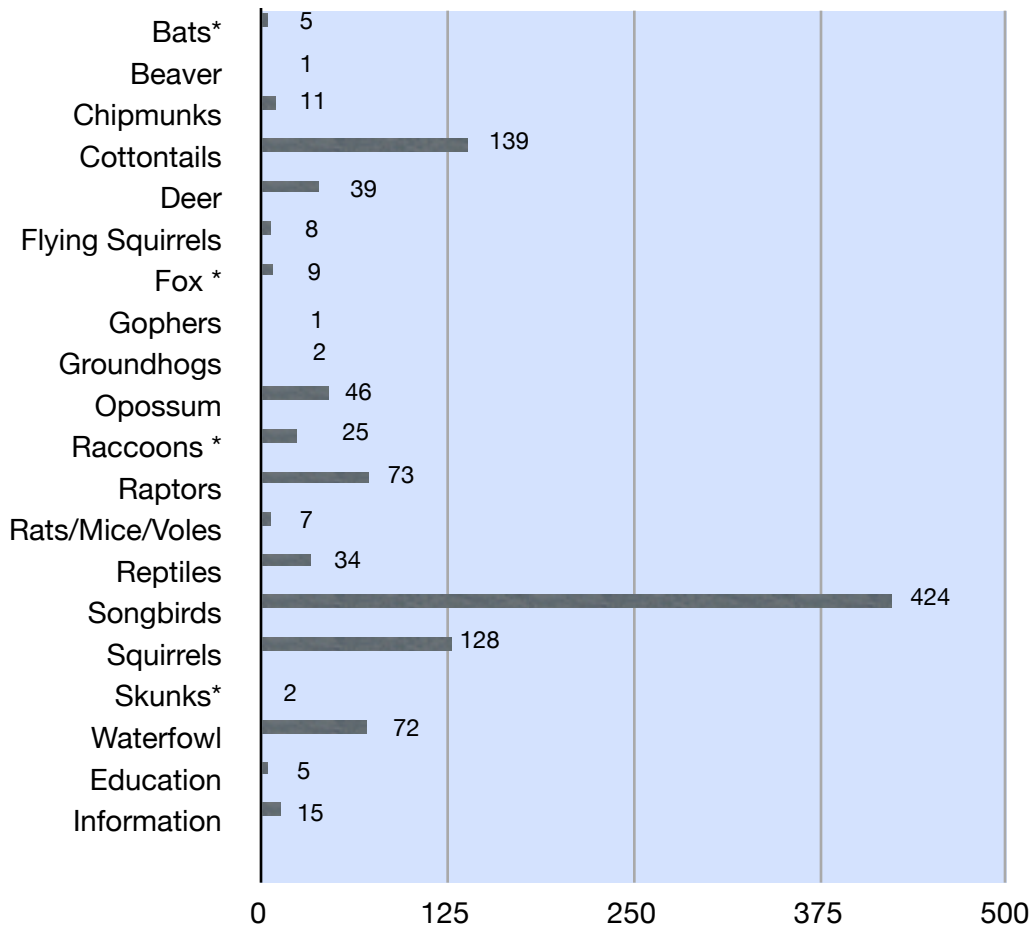
We also plan to update the displays, equipment and education materials used in our programs to enhance our professionalism. We hope to add a skunk and an opossum to the education program to add diversity.

This will be an exciting year of growth and change for WRI. Many advancements have been made in wildlife rehabilitation, and it is our responsibility as professionals in this field to maintain our expertise through education, networking and supporting our state and national wildlife associations.

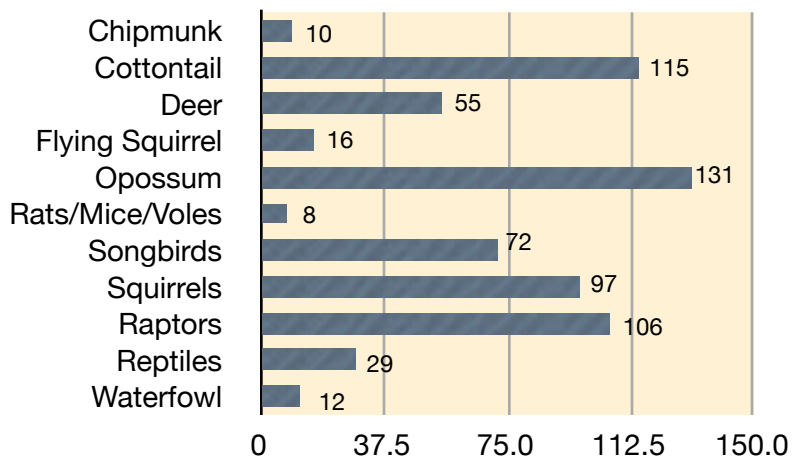
Thank you for all you do for wildlife.

Carol Orr, president

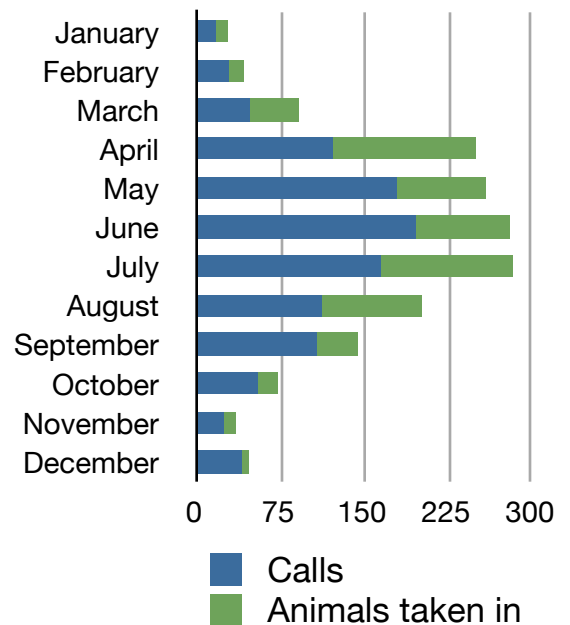
Total calls for 2010:



2010 Animals Taken in to Rehab



Month by Month



A Killer Bacteria

Bordetella, a respiratory disease, can quickly kill squirrels

BY SHIRLEY CASEY
AND MACKENZIE GOLDTHWAIT

In the past decade, rehabilitators have reported an increase in the number of squirrels in rehabilitation dying unexpectedly and suddenly with few symptoms and no obvious causes such as trauma or aspiration. *Bordetella* has been confirmed by lab tests in some cases and rehabilitators believed it was responsible for more fatalities.

Quickly identifying and treating this serious and contagious respiratory condition improves the animal's chance of recovery and decreases spread of the infection.

Bordetella bronchiseptica is a gram-negative bacterium, commonly found in the respiratory system. It is part of the normal respiratory flora in its non-pathogenic form. The virulent or disease causing form can be activated in animals with compromised health, or by the presence of stressors such as overcrowding, transportation, poor ventilation and other factors. Secondary infections may develop.

Bordetella is a highly contagious bacterium, whose victims include dogs ('kennel cough'), cats, rabbits, and pet rodents.

Transmission may be airborne or by direct contact. This includes accidental transfer of bacteria on a caregiver, cage, feeding instruments, etc. Incubation is believed to be 2 to 14 days. Although *Bordetella* infection is not commonly described as

zoonotic, some wildlife rehabilitators caring for squirrels with *Bordetella* developed respiratory symptoms, several of which were confirmed as cases of *Bordetella*.

Symptoms of *Bordetella* infection in squirrels include:

- Rapid onset of symptoms.
- Lethargy and weakness.
- Refusal to eat and/or fight attempts to feed, likely due to respiratory difficulty.
- Profuse, frequent urination, sometimes involuntary. While profuse urination often is mentioned in squirrel cases, it has not been mentioned as a common symptom in other species. The profuse urination could be a secondary condition to this infection or another disease process.
- Moderate to high fever.
- Rapid and significant dehydration and weight loss, likely due to profuse urination, fever and difficulty eating.
- A variety of respiratory conditions, which can include sneezing, audible breathing, difficult or oppressed
- Respiration, gagging or coughing. Although respiratory difficulties are not uncommon with squirrels that have aspirated, the profuse urination that has often preceded the visible respiratory symptoms has been very different.

Due to *Bordetella*'s highly contagious nature, rehabilitators are urged to follow strict quarantine and sanitation protocols.

Rehabilitators have reported that an orphan squirrel admitted to rehabilitation appeared reasonably healthy on admission but quickly became dehydrated, refused to eat, possibly sneezed, and then died with 24 to 48 hours. Unless strict quarantine was observed for 14 days, exposure may have occurred before the new animal showed symptoms.

Antibiotics, particularly Bactrim (e.g., TMP, SMZ) and Baytril™, have been effective in treating *Bordetella* infections in rodents when used for 14-21 days (many cases required 21 days). Doxycycline is the antibiotic of choice for dogs and cats and may be used in rabbits, squirrels, and other rodents. Nebulizers were also used for some cases.

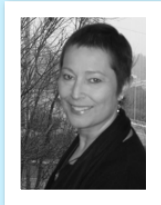
Since antibiotic treatment often disrupts gut flora, concurrent administration of probiotics may be needed.

A few rehabilitators and veterinarians have treated *Bordetella* infections in rodents with Nuflor, a next generation Chloramphenicol (antibiotic) approved for use with livestock. Nuflor is an off-label use for non-livestock patients and could cause unforeseen side effects. Since it may cause injection site reactions, oral administration has been preferred. Some veterinarians have prescribed it for wildlife since it is only used for 2 doses (loading dose and second after 48 to 72 hrs). Nuflor needs to be handled with

Introducing WRI board members

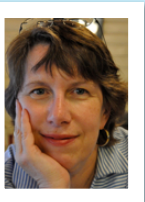
Carol Orr, *President*

I joined Wildlife Rehab Inc after completing the Fall 2006 class. I have been an animal rights activist for several years and wanted to build on that experience by learning how to help wildlife in my own community. There is so much need for our services as natural habitat is lost everyday to urban sprawl. For every new shopping mall, highway or residential development that is built, many species of wildlife are displaced, injured or orphaned in the process. My mission is to get the message out to the public, through education programs, that all life is interconnected and that humans must find it in their hearts to coexist with our native wildlife.



Brenda Hiles, *Vice President of Administration*

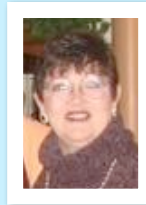
I began volunteering at a wildlife rehabilitation center in 2002, and in 2008 began rehabbing juvenile cottontails out of my home. I also have experience with opossums and squirrels. For the past year, I've been studying the natural history of several species as well as homeopathic first aid. I spend my leisure time hiking and biking and observing wildlife in its natural environment.



Gail Sparhawk, *Vice President of Rehabilitation*

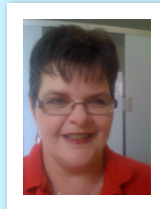
I have always had an affinity for wild creatures of all sizes and kinds. I

recently retired from owning and operating our own business (aptly called Golden Eagle) and relocated from Southern California, where my husband and I worked mainly with raccoons and skunks. I learned of the class at Forsyth Tech through a friend. Upon completion of the class, I obtained my state certification and joined WRI. So far, I have rehabbed squirrel babies, much to our delight. My husband and I learned how to feed the raptor education animals and recently were trained to help capture and transport injured raptors. We are thoroughly enjoying this involvement, helping animals and meeting other rehabbers.



Sandy Reid, *Treasurer*

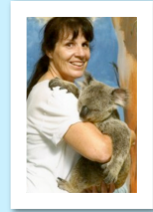
I attended the Wildlife Rehab class at Forsyth Tech in September 2009 because I have always had a connection to wildlife and nature. The class was another way for me to strengthen the connection and learn how to properly take care of the animals that seem to make their way to my door. Now, as treasurer, I get to see the other side of wildlife rehabilitation and all the effort that goes into taking care of injured and orphaned animals.



Susan Jolie, *Secretary*

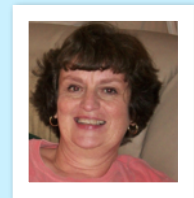
I chose to get involved with WRI because of my love of animals. I also had just moved from Cape Cod, Mass., and was volunteering at Cape Wildlife and loved it. When I read

about the rehab class, I signed up and the rest, as they say, is history. I do enjoy working with everyone. It has been a rewarding experience.



Glenda Combs, *Board member*

My wildlife rehab experience began many years ago while growing up in Wilkes County. I tried to save any living thing I came across. I was not always successful because I did not know the proper diets, care, etc. About 17 years ago, I saw the Wildlife Rehab class listed at Forsyth Tech. I took the class, and have been associated with WRI ever since. I have held every office from president on down, and I currently help teach the classes. I don't do very much actual rehabbing now because of my job but want to do anything I can to help them. I volunteer with the Forsyth County Animal Shelter, and with Chihuahua Rescue. My family includes eight cats, six dogs, 14 chickens, one snake and Gertie the groundhog, who is used in education programs. All but two of the cats are rescues, as are some of the dogs.

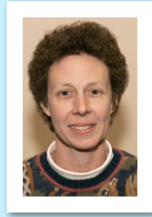


Carla Johnson, *Board member*

I've been rehabbing for more than 20 years. I've always had a love of all animals and my mom used to make me turn out all of my pockets when I came through the door because usually I'd be trying to smuggle some creature into our house. I took the WRI class many years ago, rehabbed a ton of opossums, started learning

BOARD

everything I could about raptors, got my federal permit and then figured out that I really liked the education aspect of WRI, so I started working on my federal education permit. The opportunity to coordinate the WRI classes came up so I started setting up the classes as well as teaching some of them. At present, I also serve as membership chair and as a board member for Wildlife Rehabilitators of NC (WRNC), a state wildlife organization and am currently serving as vice president. In my spare time, I volunteer as the regional coordinator for a national Chihuahua rescue group called Chihuahua Rescue and Transport, Inc.



Karie Martin, Board member

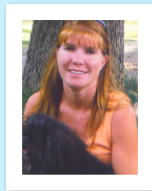


Joell Beth (Montgomery) wanted to rehab baby squirrels, so I took the wildlife rehab class with her because I am always running into "wild animal situations." I love animals and do not like to think one is out there that needs help and cannot get it. I think WRI is an excellent organization, and I am proud to be

a part of it!

Joell Beth Montgomery,
Board member

I took the wildlife rehab class at Forsyth Tech with Karie Martin. I hate to see any animal in need, and I've received tremendous enjoyment and satisfaction from raising and releasing all my little squirrels.



Lynn Mastin, Board member

I joined Wildlife Rehab Inc., and started rehabbing 6 years ago. I work full-time at Champion Industries as the Marketing/Advertising Administrator. I also volunteer with the Forsyth County Animal Control, Stokes County Humane Society, Surry County Animal Rescue and am an EARS (Emergency Animal Rescue Service) volunteer. I love sewing, crafting and camping in what's left of my spare time. I've been known to pick up wildlife on my motorcycle. I live in Walnut Cove with my husband of 10 years, Randy. We have two children, our boxers "Zipper" and "Diesel."

BORDETELLA, from Page 3

extreme care and highly diluted due to potential risks.

Some rehabilitators also have used classical homeopathy and reported positive results, especially when giving the homeopathic remedy Phosphorus 200c to treat the active symptoms (e.g., twice a day for 4 to 5 days) or Phosphorus 30c once a day for 7 days on a prophylactic basis to help prevent animals that had been exposed from developing the infection. Some rehabilitators have used an antibiotic and homeopathic Phosphorus.

Supportive care is essential, such as limiting activity by keeping in a small cage, providing supplemental heat, ensuring good nutrition, and minimizing stressors such as noise. Use effective hydration protocols with isotonic fluids to avoid dehydration. As always, consult promptly and closely with a veterinarian on diagnostics and treatments.

Shirley Casey, WildAgain Wildlife Rehabilitation, Inc. in Evergreen, CO is co-author of the Squirrel Rehabilitation Handbook. She has published and presented widely on wildlife rehab topics.

Mackenzie Goldthwait, DVM of Denver, Colorado, graduated from Tufts University School of Veterinary Medicine in 1989, with special interest in wildlife medicine. She has extensive experience with wildlife, exotics and small animals. She has been involved in writing for and training rehabilitators.

© 2010 Shirley J. Casey, Mackenzie Goldthwait

RESOURCES

DeCubellis, Julie and Karen Shenoy. Bordetella in young rabbits and squirrels. 2006. NWRA Bulletin. Volume 24, Fall/Winter.

Harkness, John and Joseph Wagner. 2010. Biology of Rabbits and Rodents. Blackwell Publishing. Ames, IA.

Kent, J. T. 1900. Lectures on Homeopathic Philosophy. North Atlantic Books. Berkeley, CA.

Phatak, S.R. 2002. Materia Medica of Homoeopathic Medicines. B. Jain Publishers. New Delhi.

Schroyens, F. 2004. Synthesis: the Source Repertory. Homeopathic Book Publishers. London.

Patrons

Raymond and Carol Pearson
Elizabeth Shapere
Rebecca Smothers

Sponsors

Carol Ann Dimling
Joseph and Melinda King
Randy and Lynn Mastin
Richard Nifong and Claire McNaught
Nancy Shannon Porter
Wild Birds Unlimited – Winston-Salem
Wild Birds Unlimited – High Point

Special Members and Donors

Diane Lamb
Maria Mendez
Joy & Randal Ogburn

Special Corporate Matching Donors

Reynolds American Foundation
RJ Reynolds Foundation



Dr. Sue Stephens presents a \$500 donation to Linda Woodruff (center) and Susan Jolie for Wildlife Rehab Inc. The donation is from Friends of NCVMA, the charitable arm of the N.C. Veterinary Medical Association, a nonprofit association for veterinarians. The organization strives to advance the science and art of veterinary medicine by providing educational, professional, lobbying and recognition programs for its more than 1,300 members. Other NCVMA activities focus on promoting and enhancing service to clients and animal patients and educating the public about animals and public health. Dr. Stephens, who practices with Animal Hospital of Clemmons, was instrumental in WRI being chosen to receive this generous gift.

A Thank-You to Our Vets



To show our appreciation to the veterinarians who work with and help support WRI, volunteers created trays of homemade cookies, peanut brittle and almond roca along with assorted Hershey kisses chocolate and fruit baskets.

Trays were delivered to Animal Ark in Clemmons; Ard-Vista Animal Hospital; Hickory Tree Animal Hospital and Southside Animal Hospital in Winston Salem; Walkertown Veterinary Hospital; Animal Hospital of Walnut Cove; and Hopkins Road Animal Hospital in Kernersville. WRI members who volunteered to bake, assemble, and deliver the trays were Gail Sparhawk, Sandra Reid, and Susan Jolie.

We all look forward to a continued working relationship with all our veterinarians in the coming year.

Successful wildlife rehabilitation does not rely solely on the individual rehabber but is a team effort. Beginning with the person who rescues the injured or orphaned animal to its final release back into the wild involves many individuals.

Our successes would be limited if it were not for the caring and dedicated veterinary practices that donate their time and expertise for the care of these animals. This is the first in a series recognizing the vets who work with Wildlife Rehab Inc.

Meet the Vet

Dr. Debbie Cowan, DVM
Animal Hospital of Walnut Cove
Walnut Cove, N.C.

<http://www.animalhospitalwalnutcove.com/>



- 1. Where did you go to school?** North Carolina State University College of Veterinary Medicine.
- 2. What type of practice is Animal Hospital of Walnut Cove?** It's a small-animal practice that has cared for pot-bellied pigs as well as exotics, including fish, amphibians, birds and reptiles.
- 3. When did you become interested in wildlife?** When I was with Animal Control in 1976 and helped form the North Carolina Wildlife Foundation.
- 4. What types of wildlife do you see?** We are licensed to see all types of wildlife, including raptors and deer.
- 5. What is the most interesting case you have had involving wildlife?** They are all different, and each has its own story. We're thankful that the Carolina Raptor Center is nearby.
- 6. Tell us about your family – humans and nonhumans.** My husband has been extremely supportive. We have used our bathroom at home as an ICU for foxes, raccoons, skunk, deer, raptors and opossums. He's assisted with their care without complaint.
- 7. Other interests.** Kayaking and making stainglass are passions. It's a great way to relax.
- 8. Other affiliations:** I'm on the Animal Shelter Board and the Hospice Board. I work with the Stokes County Animal Shelter and Stokes County Kitty Rescue. I also work with the Forsyth County Spay and Neuter program and the Forsyth County Humane Society, as well as several other animal groups.
I also enjoy working with local youth by offering job shadowing and giving seminars for groups and schools. If interested in either program, please call the clinic.

