

Wildlife Rehabilitation Clinic, Inc.

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"caring for tomorrow's wildlife"

www.wild-life-rehab.com

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Our Mission Statement

The Wildlife Rehabilitation Clinic's mission is to respond to the rehabilitative needs of sick, injured and orphaned Missouri mammals, release healthy wildlife back into its natural environment, and provide the community with a resource for educational programs, advice, and general awareness of urban wildlife. We believe all life possesses an inherent value and that human life is enriched by sharing its habitat with wildlife.



Skunks play a vital role in our environment. They are an asset to farmers as they help control populations of mice, insects and moles.

A Busy Year at the Clinic

by Nancy Hunt, Clinic Manager

We thought we might sneak through the 2008 season with fewer animals so that we could get acclimated to our now smaller facility, but it was not to be. Since January, we have admitted more than 600 animals. SO, at the top of our wish list is MORE SPACE. We have been working with architect Killian Smith and Freedom Construction's Bill Sherwood to devise a way to add as much space as possible for as little money as possible. The initial project plans have been revised so that we can begin with a semi-outdoor area. This will best serve our most pressing needs: outdoor storage and a place for large animal enclosures. We hope to begin construction this fall so that we have plenty of time to prepare for the influx of animals that will arrive in the spring of 2009. Our grander plans will have to wait for more funding.

We have several upcoming fund-raisers, and we hope to see you there. On Sept. 13, we will host a trivia night. See the flyer inside for more information about this event that's sure to be fun. Our open house this past spring was a big success despite the weather. Our next open house is scheduled for Sunday, Oct. 5.

Currently, the late summer birthing of raccoons and squirrels has begun and, of course, bunnies never stop! We are releasing the last of our 16 skunks, a bumper crop for us! The late Toni Nelson was our skunk specialist, so we believe she has played a hand in this. It has been very "fragrant" at the clinic this summer, but we love the skunks just the same. Thanks, Toni!!!

In July several volunteers made a trip to Kentucky for a continuing education courses through the International Wildlife Rehabilitation Council, and we are hoping to sponsor a course in our area later in the year. In March, a group will travel to Bloomingdale, IL for the National Wildlife Rehabilitation Association Symposium. As we have no funding for continuing education, our volunteers are paying their own fees and travel expenses, and I would like to personally thank them for this. We have a great group of volunteers, and it shows in the quality of care our animals receive.

A Skunk Without a Stripe is Still a Skunk

What's black and white and has a scent that can make a grown man run for cover? A skunk, of course! The smell of a skunk is a sure way of detecting the animal's presence. But did you know that not all skunks have stripes?

Meet Stella, one of sixteen skunks we have acquired this season. Like most skunks, Stella has the ability to spray her way to safety, but unlike others, she does not have a white stripe. Instead, she is almost totally black with a white spot above each ear and a star above her nose.

Missouri is home to two types of skunks -- the striped skunk and the spotted skunk. Of the two, the striped skunk is the most prevalent, with the spotted skunk rarely seen due to habitat loss.

Although most striped

Skunks sport the white line down the back, they can and do vary in their coloring.

The female skunk will normally have only one litter a year. On average, there are 4 to 6 babies -- called kits. The young are very playful and quite entertaining to watch. They can -- and sometimes DO -- spray, but they exhibit several warning signs prior to spraying...stomping feet, prancing about, a raised tail and sometimes even a handstand are all signs to GET BACK. It is not unusual for a rehabber to be sprayed ... and the odor can stay around the clinic for some time.

The skunk scent, called "musk," is produced by glands located at the base of the tail. The skunk can control where he sends the foul-smelling liquid: backward, side to side, even forward!

The glands hold about one tablespoon -- enough for several rounds. The spray can reach a distance of 16 feet!

Resources: [Missouri Conservationist, 1992](#); [Peterson Field Guides: Mammals](#) by William H. Burt and Richard P. Grossenheide, 1976; [Mammals of North America](#) by Adrian Forsyth, 1999.



Stella is a striped skunk without the stripe!!! She is a feisty little girl and loves to prance about, do handstands, and threaten her enclosure mate with a raised tail.

Consumer Beware

You hear noises in your attic ... No, it's not a ghost. Some critter has taken up residence in your home without your permission. You fret about damage that might be done and rush to the Yellow Pages. But "who you gonna call?"

The company you choose can be a matter of life and death.



Annabelle at 3 weeks of age. Her eyes are just opening!

Every year, we receive calls from homeowners who continue to hear noises after paying a pest control company to remove unwanted animals from an attic, basement or other area. Sadly, these folks did not realize that some agencies use methods that kill the intruder. And where there is a nesting squirrel or raccoon, there are more than likely babies.

This spring, at least four baby raccoons came to us after the mom was killed in a trap. The trap, much like a mole trap, uses spears to kill the raccoon once it enters the cage. Death is not always immediate. In Annabelle's case, the pest control employee actually brought her to us after finding her alive, beside her dead mother.

Several days after an agency had killed and removed a raccoon from her attic, a homeowner called to say she was hearing loud noises coming from the rafters whenever

she was cooking for her family. Three babies were retrieved from that location.

Fortunately, these three babies were brought to us, and with our tender loving care, they were raised and recently released back into the wild. But there are certainly many others that do not make it to our facility. Their lives are cut short.

What can you do?

Every winter, do a thorough check of your attic. Patch any holes, and be sure your chimney has a cap. And if you do hear unwanted critters in your home, give us a call, and we can assist you in choosing an ethical solution. Your vigilance can help save lives!

Raccoon Fun Fact:

The number of rings on a raccoon's tail are completely random.

It's All About the Animals

The animals come to us ... some are hurt and in great pain they need a place to mend others need a momma a loving human to step in some of them won't beat the odds but will die with dignity others will reach the great outdoors where they were meant to be. And then our hearts will soar.
J.M.

Groundhog (Woodchuck)

Marmota Monax



We have provided services for three groundhogs this year. Most are victims of den loss due to flooding or loss of mother from impact of car.

Groundhog Fun Fact:
Whistlepig is also an affectionate name for a Groundhog.

Raccoon

Procyon lotor



We have rehabbed 27 raccoons so far this year. Due to space limitations, many others were referred to a licensed rehabber in Columbia, MO.

Striped Skunk

Memphitis memphitis



16 skunks so far this season. Most come to us after mom has been hit by a car.

Gray Squirrel

Sciurus carolinensis



151 gray squirrels and two Fox Squirrels have come through the clinic doors this year. Most lost mom after she is hit by a car or after a storm.

Squirrel Fun Fact:

Squirrels teeth grow an average of 6 inches per year, but are kept short due to constant gnawing.



Eastern Cottontail

Sylvilagus floridanus



As of this issue's printing date, our facility has housed 350 Rabbits. Most bunnies are brought to us after their homes have been destroyed by dogs, cats or people.

Cottontail Fun Fact:

The home range of a bunny is only 1 - 5 acres.

Red Fox

Vulpes vulpes



Two red fox pups (from different litters) spent time at our shelter this spring, victims of the flooding in our area.

Opossum

Didelphus Virginia

123 opossums have had the benefit of our services. Most opossums are brought to us after the mom is hit by a car.

Opossum Fun Fact:

The average gestation period for an Opossum is 13 days.

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The Wildlife Rehabilitation Clinic, Inc.

is a not-for-profit, tax-exempt, 100% volunteer organization licensed by the Missouri Department of Conservation.

We receive 100% of our funding from private donations. We are not funded by any government agencies. Because we are an all-volunteer organization, all donations are used to provide food, shelter and medical care for our animal patients.

Upcoming Events

Benefit Trivia Night: Saturday, Sept. 13

Open House: Sunday, Oct. 5

I am only one, but I am one. I cannot do everything, but I can do something. And I will not let what I CANNOT do interfere with what I CAN do.

Edward Everett Hale

Membership

Name _____

Address _____

City _____ State _____ Zip _____

Phone _____

<input type="checkbox"/> Guardian	\$20
<input type="checkbox"/> Pathfinder	\$25
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<input type="checkbox"/> Companion	\$500
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Please send acknowledgement to:

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Address _____

City _____ State _____ Zip _____