“We are not as different from the rest of the animal kingdom as we used to think. It helps us to realize that we're all in this together.”

— Dr. Jane Goodall
Director's Message

Twenty years and it seems like it was yesterday. Two decades ago, a group of people sat down to discuss how we could continue to provide important services to our wild neighbors and the community when the Humane Society was forced to eliminate its Wildlife Department. Many of that core group of folks, who were an integral part of our beginnings, are gone now, but WCSV still stands strong. Twenty years, 100,000 animals and thousands of people touched by wildlife, thanks to our education programs. We’ve weathered the bumps, mastered the storms and stayed resilient to the changing world around us.

We’ve come a long way down a rugged path. Today, our animals get top-notch care in a hospital setting. We have professional staff, who are committed to the cause and highly trained to give expert care to the patients that come through our doors. We have an education program that reaches out to children and adults alike, teaching them an appreciation for nature and how to co-exist with wildlife. From washing dishes in a bathtub at our Senter Road site to the two automatic dishwashers we now use in a specially designed modern kitchen, we are grateful. We have changed in so many ways but our mission is still the same—we rehabilitate and release, we educate and advise.

When we first arrived at our Penitencia Creek site, it was vast and barren. Today it is filled with numerous enclosures, all specialized to house the variety of species that pass through each year. From coyotes to cormorants, from raccoons to ravens, our timeline tells our story.

One thing that has not changed is the need to continue to carry out our important mission. We need your help to support our quest to rehabilitate and release our local wildlife by giving generously. We could not do what we do without your help. It is always a challenge for a small, grassroots nonprofit to thrive in an uncertain economy. Now, more than ever before, we ask you to step up to the plate and help us attain our goals. We are committed to continuing to provide the high-level care to those who can’t speak for themselves. We’re still here, making a difference for each animal we receive. If you work for a corporation that has a matching gift program, let us know when you make your donation and your contribution can be doubled! Share your love of the Center with everyone you know. Volunteer. Attend our events. Bring our education programs into your kids’ schools. Make a difference in any way you can!

I’m so grateful to have been here in the beginning and I’m proud to continue to be part of this great endeavor. I’m looking forward, along with our team of dedicated professionals, to leading WCSV into the next decade, where we’re just going to get better. Stay tuned and watch out—there are great things to come just over the horizon!

Janet Alexander
Director of Operations

Tracks

The Wildlife Center of Silicon Valley is a California nonprofit organization that since 1993 has been committed to providing the highest quality care and rehabilitation to urban wildlife and to promoting a mutually beneficial and respectful coexistence between humans and wildlife in our communities.

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Managing Editor – Jen Constantin
Layout and Design – Ruth McDunn
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Tracks...across the backyard, along a wooded trail, meandering by a creek. Whose tracks are they? Are they coming or going? Perhaps they are the tracks of things past, or of visions to be revealed, and stories yet untold. Come join us as we explore different dimensions of wildlife rehabilitation and the special wild neighbors with whom we share our communities. It is the intention of this publication to investigate our dynamic relationship with wildlife within the greater context of our relationship with the earth and each other. The issues are many, as are the myths, feelings, and beliefs surrounding each one.
Past Reflections and Current Improvements
A look back on how we have evolved into a Wildlife Hospital

by Ashley Kinney

Over the past 20 years we have evolved tremendously—we are now proud to say that the Wildlife Center of Silicon Valley is truly a Wildlife Hospital. In the past it was common for animals to come in, receive basic treatment (fluids along with basic medications), then get setup and monitored indoors until they were ready for an outdoor enclosure.

Nowadays the WCSV has highly trained staff and volunteers to conduct intake examinations and provide high quality medical care to all incoming animals. The Center has access to many more diagnostic tools, housing improvements, and medical treatments than ever before. Here are some examples:

We are now able to draw blood and run fecals within our own hospital to check for abnormal blood levels, parasites, etc. and provide more accurate and complete treatment for mammals, birds and some reptiles!

Since 2010, we’ve had a digital radiograph machine, making it possible to determine right away if we can provide care to the animal, or if the animal is in need of surgery or other drastic treatments.

We have a veterinarian on staff to assist with continuing care, prescriptions, basic surgeries, radiograph interpretation, necropsies, and more thorough lab work.

Medications and treatment plans are better than ever before. We network with other facilities, veterinarians and animal hospitals to make sure we are providing the best possible care. This includes the use of pain medications, different antibiotics, fracture stabilization and wound treatment techniques.

Toxin exposure cases
We experience several toxin exposure cases yearly. Some of these are suffering from ingestion of rodenticides and gardening toxins. Over the years WCSV has developed treatments that have proven successful.

We continue to reflect on the past 20 years, and are grateful for the medical resources we have access to today. The Wildlife Center of Silicon Valley has come a long way, and we will continue to provide the best possible care to our incoming wildlife.

A Huge thank you to local veterinarians who have gone above and beyond for wildlife and WCSV:
Dr. Kate Cameron
Dr. Curt Nakamura
Dr. Deb Sell
Dr. Nicolette Zarday

Thank you!

You can keep up with Center highlights including news, photos and success stories at:
www.wcsv.org
www.wcsv.org/facebook
twitter.com/wildlife_center

Center Updates

www.wcsv.org  •  408.929.WILD
The beginning of the struggle to find a new location. Los Llagos Golf Course construction would begin within one year.

HSSV announced its need to cut wildlife programs. WCSV was born.

1st full-color issue of *Tracks* published (Volume 6: Number 2; Summer 2000).

WCSV Board unveils Five Year Strategic Plan.

WCSV hired Lead Staff for the 1st time: Director of Operations and Animal Care Coordinator.

Duck Pond a matching donation. May 23, 2001—MOVING DAY! After 2.5 years of sweat, research, negotiation, and fund-raising we finally moved into our current location at Penitencia Creek Park.

San Francisco Chronicle
WEDNESDAY, JANUARY 10, 2001

Animal Rescuers Find Deliverance
Santa Clara County offers a home

By Maria Alicia Gaura
Chronicle Staff Writer

Untold numbers of baby animals were granted an 11th-hour reprieve yesterday by Santa Clara County, which agreed to become the new landlord for a wildlife rescue group threatened with homelessness. County supervisors voted unanimously to grant a 10-year lease to the Wildlife Center of the Silicon Valley, a volunteer group whose

Wildlife Center of Silicon Valley • Spring/Summer 2013
Welcome Olive (Western Screech Owl)! Our 1st non-releasable wildlife ambassador to be housed on-site at WCSV.

More wildlife ambassadors join our public education efforts: Welcome Jet (Red-shouldered Hawk) and Yankee (California Gopher Snake)!

Welcome Fala (leukistic American Crow)! Our 1st wildlife ambassador incorporated into educational programs.

WCSV accepts its 4th avian wildlife ambassador: Welcome Marley (American Crow)!

50-ft. raptor flight enclosure finished and immediately used to house a Great Horned Owl until his successful release in January 2013.

Kitchen and laundry room remodel complete built with grant and labor.

2nd Predatory Mammal enclosure built with Trena Doegler Trust for Animals.

1st radiograph machine purchased with $50,000 grant award from Themla Doelger Trust for Animals.

Received $12,000 grant from Santa Clara County for our 1st Predatory Mammal enclosure.

Ground breaking ceremony, building, and first patients in new Predatory Mammal enclosure.


Celebrating our past, protecting the future, and thankful for each day we have to give back to wildlife!
A SECOND CHANCE  Some of WCSV’s Most Memorable Moments

by Jen Constantin and Bill Paker

Since the Wildlife Center opened its doors in 1993, we’ve treated over 100,000 individuals. Together they encompass a wide variety of species, some relatively rare and uncommon to the Bay Area and others so commonplace that many tend to look past and take them for granted. However they’re classified and distinguished, at WCSV each individual has always been valued—they are all a part (as are we) of the greater whole, important components of the ecosystem.

These tens of thousands of wild patients have come to us over the years for a countless number of reasons, and in a variety of ways. We’ve seen and heard from so many incredible people who have gone to heroic lengths to safely capture and bring animals in need to our facility. At least 75% of our patients over the last 20 years have come to us because of human caused injuries, illnesses, or other issues. We’ve always felt it’s our responsibility and great privilege to care for these individuals—to offer a second chance. Here are a few of their inspiring stories.

Yellow-bellied Marmot

On Monday, August 20, 2012 we began receiving reports from Willow Glen neighborhoods in San Jose, that a strange mammal was running around manicured yards, and in an out of storm drains. Callers were able to email pictures, so we could indeed properly identify this animal not as a beaver or muskrat, but as none other than a Yellow-bellied Marmot! We reached out to Wildlife Emergency Services (WES) who we often rely on for their expertise in safe wildlife capture and transport. WES worked with the Department of Transportation, for several hours to capture and transport the marmot to the Wildlife Center. They also surveyed the neighborhood to find if anyone had recently been to higher elevations around the Sierra Nevada, Cascades, or White Mountains—marmot territory. After some sleuthing, they discovered a nearby neighbor had just come back from Yosemite, and made the connection that this out-of-place rodent had most likely hitched a ride with this unsuspecting Willow Glen resident. Despite being a bit dehydrated and underweight, this adult female marmot was healthy and feisty. After only four days at our Center, our own Wildlife Rehabilitation Supervisor drove her all the way back to her home in Yosemite National Park.

Common Opossum

Fortunately, most of the wildlife injuries treated at the Center are caused indirectly by humans, but on occasion we do work with animals that have been intentionally harmed. In the early summer of 1998 a mother opossum with 13 joeys was picked up from an apartment complex in San Jose after she had reportedly been held hostage by some young people. South Bay Animal Control Services (as they were known at the time) discovered that this severely injured marsupial had endured abuse such as being kicked and having stones and other objects thrown at her over a 24-hour period. At the Wildlife Center she was treated for large facial wounds, blood loss, dehydration, and a broken, misaligned jaw. After a local veterinarian wired her jaw shut and sutured the wounds on her face, she was able to continue successfully raising her 13 babies. Under the watchful and compassionate eyes of Center staff and volunteers, she healed and was given back her freedom at the end of July 1998.

“Lazarus” the Raccoon

Those of you familiar with the Wildlife Center know that we never name our wild patients. All individuals get a record number upon intake as their primary identification until release. However, a very injured raccoon came through our doors in 2003, who was not your average patient. This raccoon had endured an aggressive encounter with a dog, was suffering from puncture wounds, and a severely injured tail. Clearly it needed to be amputated, and a local veterinarian was able to squeeze him in for an emergency procedure. During the late afternoon appointment, while waiting for the raccoon to recover from sedation, further examination disclosed that his left rear leg was broken. It was too late in the day to take care of the problem so he had to return the next day for a pin to be inserted into the bone.
After the raccoon's second operation was completed he was moved into the same large room in which a domestic animal was being monitored by a veterinary technician. Things were progressing well until the vet tech called to the veterinarian that the domestic animal was not breathing. The vet left our long-standing, extremely dedicated and current Board President, Bill Paker, to monitor the raccoon while he went over and gave the other animal a shot of epinephrine. At virtually the same time Bill noticed that the raccoon was not breathing and he could not see a heartbeat. Essentially the raccoon had died. Bill immediately called the vet who came over and administered epinephrine to the raccoon. Both of the animals, the domestic animal and the raccoon, who thereafter became known as “Lazarus,” resumed breathing and each had a regular heartbeat.

After returning to the Center, the raccoon spent several months recovering before being successfully released.

**Double-crested Cormorant**

San Jose Animal Care and Services transported a Double-crested Cormorant to us on February 5, 2010. This waterbird had monofilament line coming out of its mouth along with some wrapped around one wing, constricting blood flow and movement. It wasn’t clear initially whether the bird had also swallowed a hook, so he was taken to Adobe Animal Hospital the next day for a radiograph. A fishing hook was found lodged in his proventriculus (upper portion of GI) and the hospital conducted surgery that evening to remove it. Eight days at the Center of much needed rest, care, and tasty smelt, was all this cormorant needed before being released at Almaden Lake in South San Jose on Valentine's Day.

**Bobcat**

In early December 2009, a Santa Clara County Park (SCCP) interpreter and volunteer quickly captured an extremely weak, injured female yearling bobcat from a road along Uvas Reservoir and brought her to the Wildlife Center. It was immediately apparent she had a broken leg, was anemic, emaciated, and covered in fleas and ticks. Adobe Animal Hospital took radiographs of her fractured right tibia, and performed an emergency surgery that involved pinning her leg.

After over eight weeks of cage rest at the Center to fully heal she went into an outdoor enclosure and soon was running, jumping, climbing, and even hunting. On Friday, March 26, 2010, after nearly four months of rehabilitation, specialists from WCSV and the SCCP released the bobcat at dusk at the nearly 4,000-acre Rancho Cañada del Oro Open Space Preserve in the Santa Cruz Mountains.

**Coyote**

In March 2006, a female coyote was transported into our care after being found near a Los Altos Hills freeway with lacerations on her body and a fractured front left leg. Somehow we must have known she would be on her way and needing space. We had just broken ground on our first, official predatory mammal enclosure and she was the first to test it out. We never like to house them, or any other social species alone, and were beginning to worry about her loneliness effecting recovery when six young, abandoned coyote siblings arrived at the Center. Their mother had been hit and killed by a car, but unbeknownst to them, they were about to receive a new one.

It’s actually quite unusual for an adult coyote to adopt unrelated young, but it certainly seemed worth a shot. Staff observed their introductions and interactions being sure not to be detected and disrupt the process, unless things were to get aggressive. Fortunately for everyone it ended up being the best possible outcome. This female perked up and rose to the occasion with incredible fortitude. She even accepted a seventh youngster a few weeks later! They were all released as a cohesive family unit the following autumn.
PATIENT GALLERY

Merriam’s Chipmunks orphaned after their home (in a car) was moved

Orphaned Wild Turkeys

Striped Skunk stuck in poison bait trap

Burrowing Owl after recovering from antifreeze exposure

Nestling orphaned Barn Owls receive new foster mom and siblings

Cedar Waxwing with head trauma

Hoary Bat suffering from multiple fractures in right wing

Extremely thin and dehydrated Dusky-footed Woodrat

Orphaned Brush Rabbits

Merlin with dislocated wing during exam

First fledgling Anna’s Hummingbird of 2013

Orphaned Black-tailed Fawn
**Patient Releases**

- **It took 68 days of treatment for this Ruddy Duck to fully recover from being attacked by another animal. She couldn’t have shown more energy upon release!**

- **They don’t know it yet, but this is a good thing. Orphaned Coyotes being captured in their outdoor enclosure for release**

- **Orphaned after their den site was plowed over, these Coyotes (and four other siblings) were released together in October 2012**

- **It took 68 days of treatment for this Ruddy Duck to fully recover from being attacked by another animal. She couldn’t have shown more energy upon release!**

- **Successful Mallard release**

- **This Great Horned Owl came in as an orphaned owlet, was partially raised by a non-releasable Great Horned Owl, and was the first to fly in our new 50-foot enclosure before being released in January 2013**
**HOPE FOR THE FUTURE**

by Jen Constantin

Everywhere you turn, it seems as though you can’t escape some sort of environmental doomsday message. The effects of our own overpopulation and climate change are being felt around the world, with the hardest hit being plants and animals essential to our own survival.

Of course we cannot ignore these warnings, but we also need to find hope, inspiration, and strength in the positive. It’s critical that we are aware of and appreciate our successes, however small the strides may sometimes appear within the macrocosm. With this in mind, if we glance back over the years we can find wildlife victories at the state and national level for certain species that have truly increased in number, and even flourished in the face of daunting odds.

The Peregrine Falcon, now a wildlife role model for overcoming adversity, has certainly had its share of hardship. It was placed on the U.S. Endangered Species List in 1969 because its numbers were dangerously low across the country. In fact, a field survey conducted in 1965 revealed no nesting pairs east of the Mississippi River, indicating a decline of more than 400 pairs since the early 1900s. On our side of the country, the numbers were also grim, but ever-so-slightly higher, with about 40 nesting pairs accounted for. The widespread use of the toxic pesticide DDT was the primary culprit, and it was banned nationally in 1972. Several different organizations such as the Santa Cruz Predatory Bird Research Group, the Peregrine Fund, and the North American Peregrine Recovery Program rose up across the country to save the species, spurred by Rachel Carson’s courageous 1962 book, Silent Spring. The ban of DDT helped those left in the wild to begin recovering, and these heroic organizations released more than 5,000 captive born and bred falcons between 1974 and 1999. By 1999, there were more than 1,600 nesting pairs recorded, and the Peregrine Falcon was removed from the endangered species list on August 20, 1999. These gorgeous, fast-flying falcons are now commonplace in the Bay Area and beyond as those in and around San Jose know well by watching “our own” City Hall falcons raise families successfully year after year. Another bird whose numbers plummeted largely as a result of thinning eggshells caused by widespread use of DDT, was the California Brown Pelican. These nearshore waterbirds who seem uncoordinated and somewhat goofy on land but so adept at life in the ocean, have thankfully rebounded from dangerously low numbers in the 1970s and ‘80s. It clearly took some time from when the Brown Pelican was federally listed as endangered in 1970, but after the ban of DDT, and more protections from disturbances at colony nesting sites such as those on two islands within Channel Islands National Park, the California Brown Pelican was removed from the Endangered Species List in 2009. The species still faces challenges ahead that could prove severe—such as fishing line and hook injuries, oil exposure, and eating toxic anchovies—but their numbers are currently strong. Hopefully the next time you take a trip to the coast you’ll smile as you watch them in action and reflect on their encouraging success story.

No anecdotes of successful wildlife conservation efforts could be complete without mention of the one bird that has literally been brought back from the brink of complete extinction—the California Condor. Federal protection of this condor dates back to 1967, and it was formally added to the U.S. Endangered Species Preservation Act in 1972. In 1982, it was believed that only 22 individuals were left in the wild, and then the species was officially listed as extinct in 1987 when the last California Condor was captured and brought into captivity in a last-ditch effort to save the species. Now, seemingly against all odds, there are close to 200 California Condors flourishing in the wild. They are nowhere near out of the woods of course, and still face tremendous threats due to lead poisoning from ingesting spent ammunition left in carcasses, but theirs is an undeniably awe-inspiring story of the power of human conservation efforts.

Even though we may not see and treat all of these endangered species at the Wildlife Center, we are strong in our belief that prevention is a critical piece to the conservation puzzle. Working together we can learn from past mistakes, witness our successes, speak up and care for those who do not have a human voice, and make a positive, lasting difference in the lives of all wildlife.
**Greener Pastures** Non-releasable patients find their forever homes

*by Jen Constantin*

Those of you familiar with the Wildlife Center are used to hearing patient success stories. What we do not tend to talk about nearly as often are the individuals who, for a wide range of reasons, cannot be released. Since we cannot provide permanent housing for any additional wildlife ambassadors for our own education programs, we work hard to find other options. When it makes sense for the animal (i.e., s/he is young and has a chance to adjust to a life dependent upon people, has the proper temperament and low enough stress levels in captivity, has a permanent injury/disability such that the animal won't be in considerable pain or discomfort, etc.) we work very hard to find the best permanent placement with a licensed educational facility.

Over the years, we’ve increased these efforts and our networks with wonderful facilities across the country who not only provide excellent daily care, socialization, and stimulation for these now captive, wild animals, but who also reach a wide audience with quality wildlife education programs. These non-releasable animals are getting a different kind of second chance—the chance to help their kin and all other wildlife by inspiring people of all ages to care and protect. Here are a few great ambassadors we’ve recently transferred to other organizations.

Meet “Romo” the Grey Fox.
He was too tame when he came to WCSV, and despite best efforts did not regain a normal fear of humans. We transferred Romo to the Arizona-Sonora Desert Museum in March 2013. Everyone at WCSV misses this guy!

Meet “Stevie RayVen” the Common Raven.
He came to us in early 2012 as a nestling with neurological issues. He certainly never acted like a typical raven, and as a juvenile was unable to fully fly. He is now living well at Brookgreen Gardens Zoo in South Carolina.

Meet “Big Mamma” the Great Horned Owl.
She came to WCSV with compromised vision in her right eye and lacked a healthy fear of humans. She did a wonderful job as a visual surrogate to the young Great Horned Owl we released successfully in January 2013. “Big Mamma’s” home is now at Theodore Roosevelt Sanctuary and Audubon Center, in Oyster Bay, NY.
If You Found an Animal in Distress

Watch from a considerable distance. If the wild animal seems to need assistance, for advice:

Visit www.wcsv.org or

Call WCSV at (408) 929-9453

Trained staff and volunteers can assess the situation and determine the best course of action. If the animal is clearly injured and it’s safe to do so (some animals must never be touched!) secure it in a well-ventilated box, and place it in a warm, dark, and quiet place until you can transport it to WCSV. Please do not feed or handle it; every species has different dietary requirements and giving the wrong food can be detrimental.