What's Inside...

Magnificent Mallards

Cover Story: Sparks Fly, Feathers Singe

Volunteer Corner

The Sticky Truth About Glue Traps
As the new year begins, I always take the opportunity to reflect on the past, and take stock of the present. I think about the incredible number of animals that come through our doors annually, the superior care they are given by our incredible staff and volunteers, as well as the reasons we are seeing these animals come in. Of the more than 5300 wildlife patients we received last year, 95% of them were injured, ill or orphaned because of interactions with humans. As land development continues to increase, so will the encroachment on local wildlife habitats.

I also reflect on how you have become partners in our mission not only to rehabilitate local wildlife, but also to educate others about peaceful coexistence with these animals. Whether it is by monetary and in-kind donations, volunteering, or spreading the word about us through social media, you are significantly helping us reach more individuals.

Your generosity makes it possible for us to develop programs, attend events that increase our visibility, and allows us to teach the community about the importance of wildlife. Your financial assistance also makes it possible for us to repair our aging facility and expand our ability to provide outstanding care to the large number of animals we receive yearly.

It is paramount to us, as a small nonprofit, to raise funds enabling us to fulfill our mission of rehabilitating wild animals and releasing them back into our shared environment. Beyond making a donation, there are many ways to help us. Please visit our web site (wcsv.org) to find out more about these fantastic programs:

- Amazon Smile
- Amazon Wishlist
- A bequest or living trust
- Vehicle donations
- Employer matching program

Thank you for your invaluable support of WCSV and for being stewards of local wildlife.

With gratitude,

Laura Hawkins, Executive Director

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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 the 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. Let’s follow the tracks, wherever we may find them, and leave our own for those who may follow.
Introducing our New Veterinarian...Dr. Guthrum Purdin!

Dr. Guthrum Purdin is the Clinical Veterinarian for both the Wildlife Center of Silicon Valley in San Jose, California and the Wildlife Care Association in Sacramento; both organizations treat over 5500 patients each year. He first began his career with wildlife at the Marine Mammal Center where he was an active volunteer for 18 years. To expand his knowledge of wildlife rehabilitation, he started working with birds and land mammals at several California wildlife hospitals. After making his living as a professional jeweler and then a movie prop-maker in Hollywood, he decided to pursue a full-time career in veterinary medicine and wildlife rehabilitation. Receiving a BS in Marine Biology from San Francisco State University and his DVM from the University of California, Davis, he has provided medical care for a myriad of animal species, both wild and domestic. Dr. Purdin teaches wildlife medicine through both lectures and writing, and has contributed to books and scientific papers. Most recently he co-wrote and co-edited the fourth volume of National Wildlife Rehabilitators Association’s “Topics in Wildlife Medicine” manual on Orthopedics.

We would like to thank Dr. Rebecca Duerr for stepping in and helping out in the hospital and contributing to our surgical upgrades these past few months! 🐾

Coyote Release Update

By Holly Cormier

WCSV was busy this summer rehabilitating five orphaned coyote pups that were found in an Almaden Valley resident’s backyard. Their mother was struck and killed by a vehicle on May 4th, 2017, leaving them to fend for themselves. Orphaned and hungry, the pups were rescued and spent four months here at the Wildlife Center. We are happy to report that on September 20, 2017 the healthy wild pups were old enough to be released to a remote location. To ensure their survival, WCSV made sure these pups were able to live hunt, so they would have no problem foraging for food in the wild. Caring for mammals for an extended period of time can be very expensive. These coyote pups cost nearly $10,000 to care for and get back into the wild. 🐾
**Patient Gallery** Who’s on the mend at WCSV

*By Jenn Wang*

This **Long-billed Curlew** came to us from the Humane Society of Silicon Valley after being found injured on a beach in Monterey. It was released after a couple of months in our care. These quirky-looking birds are actually the largest shorebirds in North America and they use their specialized beaks to dig up shrimp, crabs and other invertebrates living deep in mudflats.

Our Baby Bird Room can be quite chaotic during the spring season! Here you can see inside one of our many incubators, full of babies waiting to be fed. Clockwise from the pink nest: **House Sparrows**, a **Black Phoebe**, a **Mockingbird**, Bullock’s **Orioles**, **Dark Eyed Junco** and the nest in the middle, **Mockingbirds**.

This **Virginia Opossum** was brought to us by San Jose Animal Care with an extremely swollen paw after being caught in a snap trap. This opossum is actually leucistic, not albino, meaning that it only has a partial loss of pigmentation. You can see that it still has coloration on its ears, paws and nose.

In July, we received an injured adult female **Mallard** duck that had been clipped by a car. She also came in with her 7 ducklings that were, luckily, uninjured. It was determined that the mother was fine, only suffering from minor wounds. Later that week, we were brought another group of 11 ducklings who had been orphaned. Our Animal Care staff decided to see if the adult female would take in more babies and the attempt was a success! Here you can see her with all 18 ducklings.

Yes, that’s a mascara wand! Our Animal Care staff will groom birds, like this juvenile **House Finch**, with the wands in order to remove mites, lice and other parasites.
A very rare case for our hospital, these three Merriman's Chipmunks were found orphaned in someone's car. They were immediately brought to us once they were found and spent one month in our care before being released at Rancho San Antonio.

This Common Poorwill was found emaciated in a warehouse on October 9th. It was cared for at our hospital for just a few days and successfully released on October 13th. Did you know that Poorwills hunt for insects using a similar tactic to baleen whale filter feeding? They will open their gaping mouths as they swoop through swarming bugs to get a mouthful of tasty snacks.

Have you heard about the colony of Black-crowned Night-herons who have made their home at Elmwood Correctional Facility in Milpitas? Their nests have taken over many of the trees at the facility and they are well known on the premises. This chick was one of many that had fallen out of their nest during the baby season. Fortunately, the staff at the facility are familiar with our work and have brought over 25 orphaned or injured heron chicks to our hospital this year!

This Western Pond Turtle was brought to us from Morgan Hill. The turtle's shell was cracked in the back and we suspect he may have been clipped by a car. His pseudo shell filled in quickly. He has been in care for over 250 days and will be released in the spring when his fellow turtles come out of their winter brumation.
Have you ever seen ducks in your swimming pool? Often a mallard couple’s honeymoon vacation leads to family residency! Backyard pools and ponds seem like ideal nesting sites for parent-to-be mallards. In spring and summer, females choose calm, quiet areas near water with few or no other ducks around.

Mama mallard builds her nest of feathers and twigs in a cozy spot in your yard. Then, she lays as many as 13 eggs. She incubates the eggs by sitting on them for a month—only getting up now and again for self-care. If you find a mama duck nesting in your yard, please leave her alone.

State and federal laws protect nesting mallards. It’s against the law to harm nesting ducks or ducklings, or to move or destroy nests or eggs. There are approximately 10 million mallards in North America—the world’s largest home to mallard ducks. Sadly, WCSV receives hundreds of abandoned, downy, little ducklings each spring.

As soon as her ducklings hatch, Mom takes them to the water – your pool! Mallards are precocial, which means they can eat and swim as soon as they’re born. Ducklings must leave the water to get to food, rest, and warmth. Baby ducks don’t have protective, heat-retaining, water-resistant oils in their downy feathers.

Climbing out of swimming pools – with their high edges and slippery concrete – is a struggle! Mallard ducklings may become waterlogged and drown, if they can’t climb out of your pool. Offering them a ramp is the best thing you can do. Animal ramps such as the “Skamper Ramp” can easily be found online.

Newly hatched ducklings can’t fly yet. They stay with mama for about two more months. During this time, you may be tempted to feed the baby ducks and get close to them. Please resist that urge. By feeding ducks human food, you may inadvertently weaken their immune system—leaving them vulnerable to disease and metabolic issues. Keep your distance from the duck family. Also, keep your pet’s leashed while in the backyard. Mama duck may move on and abandon her babies entirely if she is too frightened.

When the young ducks are strong enough and their mature feathers have grown in, the family flies away from your backyard. After they’ve gone, there are a few things you can do to prevent the duck family from coming back. Since mallards are looking for a tranquil, safe place to nest—discourage them by making your pool and yard seem just the opposite. Try these tips:

- Cover your pool, as often as possible, to prevent duck access.
- Float beach balls or “Scare Eye Balloons” in your pool. These can be found online from retailers such as Home Depot and Target.
- Hang visual repellents that move in the wind. Old CDs or DVDs strung from trees around the pool work.

Here’s what to do if you encounter mallards beyond your backyard:
**Family Outings in High Traffic Areas:**

It is very common to see a female duck with her ducklings in a busy residential area, street, or parking lot. Please guide mama and her babies to safety, if you see them in these areas. Mama duck will continue taking excellent care of her ducklings, walking them to the closest water source. The ducklings must stay with mother duck for their best chance of survival. Mama knows best!

**Stray Ducklings:**

If you see stray ducklings without a mother duck in the area, gently corral them into a box with ventilation holes. Secure the box with a lid. Do not feed, water, or bathe baby ducks. Please bring them to WCSV during our operating hours of 9 a.m. – 5 p.m., seven days a week.

**Injured Adult:**

Visually check an adult duck with a suspected injury using a “hands-off” approach. Look for blood, a drooping wing, wing(s) held out from the body, or a limp or obvious leg injury. If you see any of these things, gently place the duck in a box with ventilation holes and bring it to us. Do not feed, water, or bathe the duck.

Hosting mallard duck families in your backyard may, at times, feel inconvenient. Please remember that duck residency is temporary. Enjoy the amazing wildlife experience these magnificent mallards have chosen to give to you! ♡

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**It’s a Mole in a Hole!**

*By Anne Keller*

Most of us will never encounter these furry little diggers, because California Moles, also known as Broad-Footed Moles, are the most subterranean mammals in our region. They rarely venture up to daylight, preferring to eat, sleep, and raise their young underground. They might emerge shortly after a rainfall to hunt for their favorite meal, earthworms. They’re active day and night and throughout the year, and prefer areas where the soil is moist.

Adult Broad-Footed Moles are 5–6 inches long including their short furry tail. They have thick velvety dark brown to charcoal color fur that is smooth, allowing them to move backwards as easily as forwards in tight tunnels. Their eyes are tiny and vision is poor. Broad-Footed Moles have a well-developed sense of hearing. Ear holes are hidden under fur to prevent clogging with mud from digging in the dirt. The most important sensory organ for moles is their delicate naked nose. Food is found mostly by smell or through vibrations they pick up with their sensitive whiskers. Moles have huge front feet with long claws that turn outward allowing them to virtually swim through soil. In porous soil they can move at a rate of one foot per minute.

Broad-Footed Moles are solitary creatures except during mating season and while raising young. They have one litter per year in late winter consisting of 2–4 pups, which emerge from their underground nests in June.

The ridges and mounds they make right below the surface in fields, gardens, and lawns are tunnels built for hunting. Moles eat several types of insects in addition to snails and slugs, worms, and even occasional mice, consuming half their weight daily. Unfortunately, moles have earned a bad reputation among gardeners because of their digging. Surprisingly they actually do less damage than the animals they eat, with the added benefit of aerating the soil.

Earlier this year we received a male juvenile Broad-Footed Mole who had been caught by a dog. His nose was bruised and red. Fortunately, there were no other obvious injuries. As a precaution, he was started on antibiotics – administered by injection into a mealworm – which he happily ate.

Since moles are strong and quite clever we had to house him in an escape-proof container—a large clear plastic storage box with 6 inches of soil and covered tightly with wire mesh. He recuperated in a home care setting to reduce stress, lived on mealworms and snails, and had ample soil to tunnel and hunt. After five days on antibiotics and two more days of observation, he was given a clean bill of health. On the evening of his seventh day with WCSV he was released in a safe location near the spot he was found. ♡
SPARKS FLY, FEATHERS SINGE

By Ashley Kinney

Red-tailed hawks are one of the most common birds in North America. They are found throughout North America, Alaska, Canada, and as far south as Panama and the West Indies. These large Buteos (wide-ranging raptors with a robust body and large wings), have 14 known subspecies which vary in appearance and geographic range.

Red-tailed hawks are one of the most common hawks in our area. How many of you have seen these large hawks sitting on fence posts or light poles? The answer is probably everyone! While observing these majestic birds, have you ever thought about the impact that humans have on them? Or what man-made challenges these birds face day to day? When we think about the impact that people make, we typically think of human encroachment into wild territories, animals being struck by cars, or even predators suffering from the effects of secondary exposure from poisons such as rodenticide.

However, there are many less obvious human impacts that can jeopardize a raptor’s (predatory bird) survival. Very few people are aware of the harm raptors and other species face at landfills, which contain dangerous incinerators. Many birds are compromised by these open flames every year, as observed by avian researchers; “In some cases, birds may fly over or even through an almost invisible burner flame. If a bird survives such an encounter, its burned feathers may render it unable to fly. In such situations, the bird is likely to die from starvation, infection, exposure, or predation” (Moller 2009, Siftar 2008). Early this year, we received an injured Red-tailed hawk whose feathers were severely damaged when it inadvertently flew into a methane burner at a local landfill. Fortunately for this bird, she was rescued by a concerned citizen who witnessed the shocking event and immediately brought her to us for treatment.

When this large, feisty female hawk arrived at WCSV, staff immediately jumped into action, aware of the precarious circumstances. During its initial examination, our Wildlife Technicians and Veterinarian found that the bird had small abrasions under her right eye as well as on her right and left legs. The most visually obvious injury was all of the singed feathers on her body (see photo above and below). Surprisingly, the hawk was in decent health, all things considered.

Based on the findings of the exam, our staff’s main concern was the burnt tissue as a result of contact with the methane burner flare. When certain burns occur, they may only cause minor surface damage, while other more severe types of burns may penetrate underneath the skin or deep within tissue and can take days to become apparent. Delayed treatment can be highly detrimental to a patient’s recovery, which is why staff treated the hawk for all burn scenarios to ensure she would receive the appropriate treatment.

Staff kept the bird under close observation for five days. On the sixth day they were relieved to see that there were no signs of Laura Kurtz
Laura Kurtz
debilitating deep tissue burns. The extent of her feather damage was the only thing preventing the bird from being released in a reasonable timeframe. All of her tail and primary flight feathers were severely damaged, which meant that she would need to be in our care for an extended period of time while we waited for her to molt (shed the damaged feathers so new ones can regrow).

On day seven staff members noticed that the bird was becoming slightly depressed and more lethargic than usual. Based on these symptoms, staff decided to collect blood and fecal samples to test for internal parasites, infections, and hydration levels. When the results came back positive for Coccidia, an internal parasite, the hawk was put on anti-parasitic medication for one week. She was back to her spunky self in just a few days—which was a perfect time to move her to an outdoor flight enclosure where she would have adequate space to perch and fly while she recovered.

Over the course of the next 6 months, this Red-tailed hawk was fed a natural diet of rats and mice while volunteers checked her weight weekly to make sure she was getting enough food. Staff made sure to monitor feather condition, as well as beak and talon growth. Raptor beaks and talons can become overgrown without enough substrate, such as branches and rocks to use as a file to keep them at a normal length. At this stage of her rehabilitation process, the bird was healthy and needed nothing more than to be closely observed in her flight enclosure.

This Red-tailed hawk is not the only bird that WCSV has cared for after coming in contact with a methane burner. In fact, we treated a Cooper’s hawk that was admitted with singed feathers just last year. This hawk was in our care for 3 months before it was successfully released back to the wild. We also admitted two other Red-tailed hawks with singed feathers that year. Unfortunately, they did not have a positive outcome due to the severity of their tissue burns. They had also contracted a highly contagious illness prior to being admitted.

On September 29, 2017, after 9 months in our care, the hawk was given a beak and talon trim, a process called “coping”. Our Hospital Manager worked for an hour to reshape the bird’s overgrown beak and talons. Staff members also evaluated the feather growth again and were thrilled to see that she was in the midst of her molting process. She only had 8 feathers left to molt before she could be released! By October 3rd, the hawk had finally molted all of her feathers and was ready to be released back into the wild.

Due to the fact that this bird was in care for a year, we wanted to share this special release with a local elementary school. Laura Kurtz, one of our Wildlife Technicians, had the honor of releasing the hawk at a private event held at William Burnett Elementary School in Milpitas, CA on October 17th. The entire school sat patiently, eagerly awaiting the release of this stunning raptor.

Laura reported that the students and faculty were in total awe as the bird flew from her hands. Once the bird was in flight, everyone stood up and cheered as they witnessed this raptor begin her new lease on life.
Volunteer Corner

What is your most memorable experience while volunteering at the Wildlife Center of Silicon Valley?

“Every time has its memorable moments, but I will never forget the first time my tasks included raptor care. Seeing eye-to-eye with these majestic creatures and experiencing their reaction was something different. I still do have some healthy respect entering an outdoor enclosure while several hawks are cruising closely over my head.”
– Sigird Roemer

“Cradling the head of a beautiful Red-Shouldered Hawk while administering eye drops–what a gorgeous bird!”
– Grace Pamidi

What is the most challenging aspect of volunteering with wildlife?

“Probable the need to pay extra effort to everything that you do. A lot of the tasks require very specific attention to detail, and one small mistake, especially when interacting with animals, can cost a lot.”
– Ananke Krishnan

“I think the most challenging aspect is fear. It can be scary when you are faced with an angry/frightened/injured wild animal, but you have to overcome the fear to help, and the feeling when you do that, is amazing. Also, Turkey Vulture vomit is quite challenging!”
– Karen Campbell

“Seeing the injuries that come in as a result of human activity or even cruelty”
– Ellen Lovelace

“There will always be tasks that need to be done that are not exactly glamorous–such as cleaning up poop, doing loads of laundry, and sweeping up old food. And not every patient that gets admitted makes it. However, the satisfaction that comes with knowing you’re helping save lives, plus the wondrous feeling when an animal gets released, makes everything so worth it.”
– Vynnie Kong

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– Vynnie Kong
What is your favorite thing about volunteering with wildlife?

“I enjoy watching the animals get the love and care that they deserve. Working with like-minded individuals makes me feel so happy inside and I enjoy being part of this world when there is so much chaos happening around us.”

– Kiri Kennedy

“I love going outside into the “D” enclosure and seeing all the ducks, geese, and gulls almost ready to go back into the wild. It’s a good reminder about why we do what we do.”

– Ray Milkey

“Seeing them move through the rehabilitation process and eventually get released. I was lucky enough to be involved with the intake, exam, x-rays, rehab, and release of a Peregrine Falcon this year and you feel a special connection. Seeing it released was AMAZING!”

– Karen Campbell

“Wildlife unifies and strengthens diverse groups of people with the same goal to save endangered animals. The creatures teach us teamwork, love, and being responsible stewards of the environment.”

– Celine San Luis

What is your favorite animal to work with, and why?

“I used to do many different species in home care, but now only do barn owls. My flight cage and supporting structures are perfect for caring for them. I also have teamed up with a terrific guy, Lee Pauser, who has built and monitored hundreds of cavity nesting bird boxes including barn owl boxes in the South Bay. We foster owls into active boxes when we can. So rewarding to allow surrogate parents do the job for us!”

– Valerie Baldwin

“Baby birds; it’s endless caretaking and they grow so quickly that you can watch them grow from hatchling to young adult and join the wild again. When there are 30+ birds that need feeding every 30 minutes, it takes a while to get into a rhythm, but it’s incredibly rewarding.”

– Jessica Quittmeyer

“The opossums and squirrels are very cute, but I have a soft spot for the raptors. They are so mysterious and regal.”

– Karon Pasos

“My favorite animal to work with are the coyotes because I think they are an under-appreciated part of the ecosystem. They are very good at hiding and keeping a low profile because they are known to hear humans coming from a mile away. They help keep the rodent and insect population under control”

– Linda Mazzone
THE STICKY TRUTH ABOUT GLUE TRAPS

By Anna Van Patten

Glue traps are primarily used to capture unwanted rodents in or around the home. They are available as sheets of adhesive paper or trays of sticky glue and trap anything that walks across its surface.

Whether placed in attics or strung aloft in trees, this method of controlling unwanted insect and rodent “pests” around the home causes incomprehensible misery and suffering. Known by names such as glue trap, sticky trap, or glue board, this pest control method is inhumane by definition. While people may wish to catch yellow jackets or rats, they may inadvertently ensnare a wide variety of animals including song birds, small mammals, reptiles, and amphibians. You may be asking, why are they so cruel? How is this pest control method any worse than the next one? To answer these questions, it is important to understand how glue traps actually work.

Sticky traps are pre-baited, meaning that the substance that lures animals to the trap is already mixed in with the adhesive. When an animal walks across one of these sticky traps, they become adhered and are unable to escape. The more they wiggle and squirm, the more stuck they become. As these animals attempt to escape, their fur, skin, and feathers tend to rip off due to the strong adhesive. Many animals will resort to chewing off their own limbs in an effort to free themselves. These trapped animals suffer for days until starvation, dehydration, and stress lead to their ultimate death.

We receive numerous glue trap cases every year, primarily with animals that were not intended to be caught. Earlier this year we admitted a gopher snake that was tangled in a sticky mess after being lured to a mouse already stuck on the glue trap. It took several rounds of washing and a great deal of patience to untangle and unglue this snake.

Suggested humane alternatives to glue traps:

- **Eliminate food sources:** Keep surfaces clean, food sealed away, and never feed pets or wild animals outside your home – it’s an invitation for unwanted wildlife!
- **Deter pests with ammonia:** Ammonia soaked cotton balls or rags around the perimeter of your home give off a distasteful scent that discourages rodents from visiting.
- **Seal all pest entrances:** Seal all entry points using foam sealant, steel wool, or hardware cloth so that there are no cracks or openings for rodents to enter from.
- **Install an owl box:** Provide an owl with shelter and have a natural exterminator in your backyard!
- If you’ve exhausted all your options and nothing seems to be working, contact your local humane animal exclusion service before resorting to inhumane traps!

By Anna Van Patten
These pictures are graphic, yet vividly depict the cruelty of this pest control method. A total of 20 animals were brought to us this year stuck on glue traps, and included a brush rabbit, an opossum, lizards, rats, squirrels, birds, snakes, and bats.

Brush rabbit stuck to a glue trap

This unsuspecting bat flew into a hanging glue trap meant for flies and other insects.

**Match the Baby to the Adult**

Draw a line connecting the baby animals on the left to the adult on the right. Answers below.

1. Brush rabbit stuck to a glue trap
2. Opossum
3. Rats
4. Flying squirrel

Answers below.

1C (Merganser)  2D (Eastern Gray Squirrel)
3B (Virginia Opossum)  4A (Red Tailed Hawk)

Match the Baby Answer Key
**Wildlife Crossword**

**Across**
1. The most common species of wild duck
2. I help pollinate flowers and love eating insects!
3. Opossums and raccoons eat both plants and animals; this is called being a what?
4. An animal that has opposable thumbs and is local to our area
5. Hawks, Falcon, and owls are birds of prey, also known as
6. These are the only known birds that can fly backwards
7. When an animal’s fur or feathers are colored in a way that helps them hide from predators
8. The most common species of squirrel in the Bay Area (2 words)

**Down**
1. Opossums are in the same family as Kangaroos and Koalas; what are these mammals called?
2. Bobcats got their name from their stubby, or ‘bobbed’ what
3. The scientific name of a coyote (2 words)
4. Another word for baby foxes
5. A group of crows

Created with TheTeachersCorner.net Crossword Puzzle Generator
**Release Highlights**

After a trip to Death Valley National Park, this juvenile **Ord’s Kangaroo Rat** was found hiding out in the back of a camper trailer. Upon initial examination by our hospital staff, he was found to be cold, lethargic and thin. He was provided with some heat and fluids and he perked up immediately. The rat then spent a couple of weeks of recuperation with an experienced Home Care volunteer. Luckily, the family who discovered him was making a trip back to the site where he had originally come from and they were able to successfully return him back home! Fun Fact: Kangaroo rats have long hind legs that allow them to jump 9 feet in one leap, and their tail helps them to balance.

We suspect that this female adult **Gray Fox** was brought to us after being hit by a car and had severe head trauma, causing her head to tilt to the right. She was in our care for 49 days, where she was monitored closely to evaluate any neurological damage. After gaining strength and showing signs of improvement, she was moved to one of our outdoor enclosures to be observed in a larger area. Soon she was live hunting and her head tilt had begun to correct itself, shortly thereafter she was released back into her natural habitat.

This adult **Turkey Vulture** was brought to us in January after it was found in San Jose, unable to fly. There were no apparent injuries but was found to be dehydrated, weak, and unsteady. After being closely monitored and fed sufficient food and water, this Turkey Vulture was on the mend. After 28 days in our care this now healthy and strong bird was released.

This juvenile **Virginia Opossum** was brought to us in October after being caught in a snap trap. Her front right forearm and paw suffered deep puncture wounds and her digits were purple due to poor circulation from the pressure of the trap. This opossum was in our care for 50 days while her wounds were treated and wrapped to ensure healing. Thanks to the hard work of our hospital staff and volunteers, she was released back into the wild.
Thank You! To Our Invaluable Partners in Service

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- Service Unit 661
- Silicon Valley Animal Control Authority
- Sunnyvale Animal Control
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In Memory of Masako Howard