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Dear Friends,

It has been a busy and productive winter, and as spring approaches, I am thrilled to share some wonderful news about WildCare with you.

We are moving closer to our goal of securing permits and raising the $8 million needed to complete our new home at the Silveira Honor Farm property in north San Rafael. We have raised over $1.8 million to date. While this is impressive, we still have a long way to go. And along the way I continue to be amazed by what our staff and volunteers are able to accomplish in the confines of our current space.

While we work to make our new home a reality, we remain committed to our central programs and projects. It takes over $2 million dollars annually to operate WildCare, and I want to thank you, our loyal supporters, who helped us achieve a record fund raising milestone in December – over $1 million in new gifts and pledges for our current operations and the new facility!

I am also pleased that we have selected the Redford Center as the recipient for the 2014 WildCare Environmental Award. Founded by Robert Redford and his family, the Center is committed to transforming social and environmental issues into films that inspire positive change. The event will be held at Cavallo point in Sausalito, and James Redford, one of Robert’s sons, will be present to accept the award! More on this in coming months….

Our education programs are a living legacy of “Mrs. T,” and we will celebrate that legacy as we honor an outstanding Bay Area environmental educator with the Terwilliger Environmental Award (TEA) on May 3rd. This celebration will take place at our spring “Walk with WildCare” event at the Terwilliger Trail at Stafford Lake.

We continue to document the impacts of second generation anticoagulant rodenticides (rat poisons) on wildlife. Thanks to a generous grant we received from the California Department of Pesticide Regulation (DPR) in 2013, we were able to hire a research assistant, Lacey Babnick, to engage veterinarians in our study, and to expand our advocacy and networking activities to educate people about the dangers of these toxic poisons. The DPR is pleased with our progress, and we hope to continue to partner with them to end the commercial sale of rodenticides for a healthier and more sustainable environment for wildlife and humans.

Thanks to staff and volunteers who helped hold a very successful hospital volunteer orientation in January, we are ready for 2014! We welcome 120 new volunteers as we approach our busy spring/summer sessions. And we are pleased to welcome Kim Bullock as Associate Development Director. While her professional experience has been in the private sector, Kim is no stranger to WildCare; she volunteered here 20 years ago and loved it!

As I embark on my 11th year as Executive Director, I am so grateful to you for the support that sustains and transforms this wonderful organization. Thank you for all you do for WildCare!

Karen J. Wilson
Executive Director
terwilliger environmental award

Join us on Saturday May 3, 2014 at Stafford Lake in Novato for a Walk with WildCare at 10am followed by our 2014 Terwilliger Environmental Award Celebration at 12:30pm.

$20 registration for the Walk with WildCare includes a boxed lunch. WildCare members receive a discount, and all kids under 12 are free. Terwilliger Environmental Award Celebration that follows is free.

walk with wildcare at McInnis Park

Join us Saturday July 12 at McInnis Park in San Rafael to learn about the wildlife of the Las Gallinas ponds, get a sneak peek at the property that will become WildCare’s future home, and enjoy a delicious box lunch! Registration is $20 (kids are free) through Eventbrite; $5 discount for WildCare members.

wildlife prints

The curious Barn Owls featured on the cover of our Winter 2013 newsletter won photographer Gary Walter the People’s Choice Award in the 2013 Living with Wildlife Photography Contest. Now you can own an original print of these owls, or another of this year’s stunning finalists’ photos as you support WildCare. Visit www.wildcarebayarea.org/prints.

wildcare on the huffington post

Alison Hermance, our webspinne, videographer and Communications Manager, is wearing yet another hat as she adds the title “Wildlife Writer” to her blog on the Huffington Post. Look for her posts at www.huffingtonpost.com/alison-hermance/.

2014 wildcare environmental award

The 2014 WildCare Environmental Award event will take place on Wednesday, November 12 at 6pm at Cavallo Point in Sausalito. The event will be limited to 250 attendees and once again, we will first offer sponsorship opportunities before opening ticket sales to our general membership and the public. Our guest of honor will be James Redford, son of Robert Redford.

If you are interested in sponsoring this event, please call Mecca Billings Nelson at 415-295-4471, or register on our website for advance notice.

vladimir the vulture turns 30!

Vladimir, our resident Turkey Vulture, turns 30 this year as he celebrates his 30th year of living at WildCare! We will gather in the courtyard with a cake for his fans and some luscious carrion for him!

Watch for the date in our fall newsletter and email updates, but here’s a hint: It will be held close to Vulture Appreciation Day in early September!

news and notes continues on page 11
WildCare has established relationships with a number of scientific and educational institutions. Over the course of the last few years our joint projects have helped to further our knowledge in interesting ways. The projects outlined below remind us again that the different disciplines of medicine, veterinary, wildlife and environmental health are all really one health that belongs to us all.

**Aleutian disease in skunks**

Aleutian Disease (AD) was diagnosed in skunks WildCare submitted to the California Animal Health and Food Safety Laboratory (CAHFS) for necropsy and diagnostic work-up. Although Aleutian Disease has been diagnosed in captive skunks in the US, this is believed to be the first report of the disease’s natural occurrence in wild skunks, and the first report in California.

In a paper submitted for scientific publication, authored by Federico Giannitti, Branson W. Ritchie, Melanie Piazza, Denise Pesti and Mark Anderson, the conclusion was that AD is endemic in free-ranging striped skunks in California, and may represent an emerging disease in this species.

**Avian trichomonosis in band-tailed pigeons**

Krysta H. Rogers, Yvette A. Girard, and Christine K. Johnson of the Wildlife Investigations Laboratory, California Department of Fish & Wildlife and the Wildlife Health Center, University of California, Davis, studied avian trichomonosis, a protozoan disease that can lead to death in many bird species. In California, trichomonosis is known to cause periodic epidemics in Pacific Coast Band-tailed Pigeons, California’s only native pigeon, a species that has been in decline over the last 40 years.

Birds from WildCare were part of the sample analyses that, among other factors, helped the project leaders to evaluate ecological drivers and population impacts of trichomonosis mortality events.

**Fusobacteriosis in fawns**

A high percentage of premature orphaned fawns were brought to WildCare in spring of 2013. Through extensive research and with the help of Dr. Cliff Shipely from the University of Illinois, WildCare’s fawn care team found a definitive diagnosis for the cause, the Fusobacteria, one also commonly found in human diseases.

This illness in fawns was thought to be linked to copper deficiencies due to the dry conditions of the winter of 2012-2013, in what appeared to be a widespread mineral deficiency in the adult Black-tailed deer population.

Copper deficiency makes the animals susceptible to secondary diseases such as Fusobacteriosis, and causes poor reproductive health among the females, such as premature birth. Necropsy results from the University of Davis CAHFS Laboratory of one five-year-old adult male Black-tailed deer indicated a nearly zero level of copper.

With both preventive and reactive treatment, our fawn team was able to successfully rehabilitate orphans that otherwise would have died. WildCare was also able to alert other wildlife centers to the symptoms and treatments.

**Canine distemper virus in wild carnivores**

While domesticated dogs are thought to be the principal reservoir of canine distemper virus (CDV), it is actually a multi-host pathogen that has devastating effects on populations of many carnivores, including marine mammals.

The Pesavento laboratory at the School of Veterinary Medicine at UC Davis has recently embarked on a project with WildCare to investigate the natural history of CDV in California. They are using histology, polymerase chain reaction (PCR), and DNA sequencing to confirm and characterize CDV infection in a cohort of mesopredators from Northern California.

The spread and incidents of CDV epidemics in dogs and wildlife here, and worldwide, are increasing due to the rise in dog populations associated with growing human populations and widespread urbanization. The discovery of how CDV jumps across and infects different species of carnivores could
lead to more effective monitoring and control of the virus, and faster diagnosis in the hospital. Infection with CDV is highly contagious, and deadly to the animals it is known to infect.

wildlife mapping

The California State University (CSU) at Dominguez Hills Department of Earth Science and Geography Center for Urban Environmental Research Spatial Analysis Lab has taken intake data from WildCare patient records to analyze changes in the distribution of different animal species in the North Bay area. Data will be analyzed and mapped as part of an effort to describe the overall health of local ecosystems, and to describe ecological change here in the urban-wildlife interface.

The mission statement of CSU Dominguez Hills calls for the formation of community partnerships that foster education, community development and environmental stewardship, one which fits comfortably with WildCare’s own education mission.

distribution of california tree squirrels

Dr. Alan Muchlinski, Emeritus Professor of Biological Sciences at California State University, Los Angeles, has been studying aspects of the distribution, range expansion, habitat requirements and behavior of the Eastern Fox Squirrel and the Western Gray Squirrel for the past 13 years.

WildCare has contributed our data (species, age, location found) on more than 2,600 squirrels admitted to the hospital from 1992 to the present.

Data from WildCare and other wildlife centers will contribute to mapping historical distributions to see where the two non-native species have increased in geographic distribution, and possibly where one or more of the native species has been displaced by the non-native species.

tumors in virginia opossums

A number of spontaneous cases of tumors were reported on opossums submitted by WildCare to the UC Davis CAHFS Laboratory, including lung cancer, brain cancer and a benign glandular tumor.

In a paper published jointly by F. Giannitti and L. W. Woods, CAHFS Laboratory; P.A. Pesavento and D.W. Wilson, UC Davis; M. Piazza, WildCare; and D. Clifford, California Department of Fish and Game, scientists stated that the apparent temporal and geographic clustering of cases warrants investigation, and that the potential role of opossums as animal models for primary pulmonary epithelial tumors should be further assessed.

wind farm mortality study

Matthew D. Timmer, Wildlife Ecologist for H.T. Harvey and Associates, conducts surveys to quantify bird and bat mortality caused by interactions with wind turbines, solar panels, power lines and other energy infrastructure at their project sites.

These field trials evaluate the efficiency of surveyors in finding dead birds and bats, and help quantify the rates at which carcasses are removed by scavengers. To help conduct the wind and solar energy project surveys, WildCare donates the carcasses of deceased bird and bat patients to help provide sufficient sample sizes to accomplish these trials.

wildlife diversity

The Museum of Vertebrate Zoology (MVZ) in Berkeley attempts to preserve as accurately as possible a record of the current diversity of wild animals for California and other selected areas. WildCare provides specimens of patients that did not survive.

Each animal received from WildCare is prepared by MVZ researchers and volunteers into a skin, skeleton, or alcohol specimen with tissue samples and data on the date and locality the animal was found. Prepared specimens are used by researchers and artists, and to educate visitors.

In return, an MVZ volunteer prepared a Spotted Owl skin as a mounted specimen for WildCare’s education department.

WildCare has also contributed material on the genetics of the hybridization of Spotted Owls and Barred Owls to the California Academy of Sciences. Tissue samples and a partial skeleton of one owl provided a valuable modern specimen of a bird that is of great conservation concern.
wildlife and drought

by Melanie Piazza, Director of Animal Care

Water means life – to wildlife as well as to people. Even though we saw a few storms this year, 2013 was the driest year on record, and we enter 2014 with a large water deficit. When water is in short supply for humans, it is also in short supply for wildlife. Unfortunately, simply providing a drink of water won't solve the problems. Water supports the entire food chain.

less vegetation

Trees, shrubs and grasses will be under extreme stress. Plants of all varieties will produce fewer seeds, flowers and leafy greens, reducing the food supply for plant-eating animals. Deer will be especially desperate, as they seek the green vegetation that supplies much of their water.

The loss of protective cover will increase an animal’s risk of becoming prey. A drop in seed production will also mean a significant drop in our rodent population, a major food source for predators.

fewer insects and amphibians

Insects take much of their water from plants, and insect populations often explode in the spring when green plants provide both food and water, while puddles offer places to breed.

Insectivorous songbirds and bats require millions of insects each day. Even seed-eating songbirds need high protein insects to successfully raise their nestlings. Raccoons and skunks rely on the high protein in invertebrates in the spring; as creeks dry up, their foods vanish.

fewer rodents

Fewer rats, mice and voles reduce the food supply for beneficial predators such as hawks, owls, bobcats, fox, coyotes, raccoons, skunks, opossums and snakes. But we can expect to see an increase in rats and mice near our homes in search of food and water. Please don’t use poison! The rodents that survive are needed to fill their natural role – to become dinner for animals higher up the food chain.

A collapse at the base of the food web will result in the eventual crash of the species higher up the chain. Mothers unable to feed themselves will not be able to provide for their young.

at wildcare...

In the wildlife hospital, we expect to see many emaciated adult and baby wild animals whose mothers are unable to feed them, and we anticipate reduced reproduction rates for all species.

Territorial disputes between animals will be more frequent as animals range further in search of food, water and shelter. For the same reason, we expect to see more patients that have been hit by cars as they travel in unfamiliar territory.

We anticipate an increase in secondary victims of rat poisons (rodenticides). Disease outbreaks such as botulism may occur, caused by toxins that build up in drying, stagnant water sources. Similarly, we may see higher than normal parasite infestations from animals stressed, emaciated and weakened by the harsh conditions.

Finally, there is the threat of wildfires this summer and fall; for people and animals, it is the most dangerous thing of all.

Please visit our website for more detailed information.

www.wildcarebayarea.org/drought
Dear Friends,

One of the highlights of 2013 for me was meeting the recipient of our WildCare Environmental Award, Dr. Jane Goodall. Dr. Goodall said it best:

“You cannot get through a single day without having an impact on the world around you. What you do makes a difference, and you have to decide what kind of difference you want to make.”

WildCare is all about people deciding to make a positive difference in the natural world around us. Last weekend I had the pleasure of attending one of our annual Volunteer Orientation sessions. (In fact, I began my own association with WildCare as a Hospital Volunteer in 2008.) This year over 300 potential volunteers came to learn more about our programs. A select group of that number will undergo training and become members of our team in the next few months!

WildCare is an organization that can only survive through the generosity of the community – both through the volunteers who offer their time and energy and the generous donors who provide the funding to make our work possible.

Over the next few years, that support will be more important than ever. 2013 marked the year when we began the multi-year project to build a new facility to house our hospital and education programs for the future. We were fortunate to locate an ideal site, on the Silveira Ranch at the old “Honor Farm” in San Rafael. We completed all our due diligence work, signed a long-term lease, and developed our plans for the new facility. The plans are in the final review stage with the County, and we hope to receive project approvals in the next month or two. Meanwhile, we have begun the work to identify key donors to help raise the funds for the new facility, and are well on our way to drive our capital campaign forward in the coming year, and have raised 25% of the needed funds to date. You will be hearing more soon about how to help us meet our financial goals for the project.

The new facility will be the most challenging and ambitious project that WildCare has undertaken. We are confident that we will succeed, and that in a few years we will open the doors to a new WildCare that will serve the children and wildlife of Marin and beyond for many decades to come!

In addition to our new facility efforts, of course, WildCare had a very busy 2013 keeping up with our popular educational programs and caring for thousands of birds and animals in need.

WildCare’s nature education programs, classroom visits, Aventuras Familiares, and courtyard demonstrations with our Wildlife Ambassadors all helped to ensure that our children are growing up loving and respecting nature, and learning to live well with wildlife.

This year our animal hospital served more than 3,700 patients of roughly 200 species, and our 24-hour hotline took over 5,000 calls to assist people with their questions about wildlife. WildCare continues to take a leading role in animal advocacy. This past year we have worked tirelessly to raise awareness of the dangers of rodenticides to both wildlife and to those of us higher up the food chain.

We are pleased that the economy has been improving, and we have begun to see a return to philanthropy as more people are in a position to donate to important causes. In the month of December, we were thrilled to reach a new record in our fundraising, over $1 million in a single month, which allowed us to finish the year in a good financial position, despite the fact that for the first time in several years we did not receive any sizable bequests. (For more information on how to remember WildCare in your estate planning, please visit our website at www.wildcarebayarea.org)!

We embark upon 2014 with high expectations and an ambitious vision for the future of our organization. On behalf of the WildCare Board of Directors, we thank our generous supporters, along with our staff and wonderful volunteers for everyone’s support of WildCare and the important work we do!

Susanne D. Lyons
President of the Board of Directors
donor support

In 2013, more than 5,000 individuals, businesses, corporations, and foundations added to our support. While we will not list every one of our supporters, because all of them make our work possible! In 2013, thanks to all of our loyal donors, we raised more than $1 million in December! This year, we are naming by list donors to our operating funds and our capital campaign whose gifts total $500 and higher, along with the sponsors of our first WildCare Environmental Award event with honorees and special guest Dr. Jane Goodall.

$500,000 and higher

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nature education

In 2013, 30,892 people from nine Bay Area counties experienced WildCare’s Terwilliger Nature Education programs.

connecting to nature initiative

16,318 children and families were served through the following programs, including 5,897 children and families from underserved communities.

terwilliger field trips

50 schools and organizations
125 field trips
2,802 participants

terwilliger nature van

46 schools
76 presentations
4,293 children engaged

terwilliger nature camps

14 camp sessions
189 children engaged

student volunteers

46 teen participants
wildlife services

In 2013 our Live Well with Wildlife programs worked to prevent injury to wildlife through public education, outreach and advocacy.

wildlife protection issues
7 advocacy issues
3 petitions circulated
9,524 signatures gathered

living with wildlife hotline
5,241 calls answered

wildcare solutions
404 home inspections
192 damaged structures repaired
882 animals humanely excluded

online and print outreach
129,000 people reached via WildCare newsletter, weekly eNews updates, social networks and blogs

hungry owl project
3,307 volunteer hours donated
123 owl/bat/bird boxes placed
75 owl box plans provided
5 baby raptors renested/rehabilitated/released
20 presentations given
14 publications/media events
49,693 individuals reached

volunteer support

In 2013 more than 380 volunteers donated over 41,545 hours of their time, valued at $515,676.

500 to 999 hours
Patricia Axon*
Melissa Bain
Lucy Burlingham***
Sarabia Dolin
Alex Godbe***
Brenda Glidden***
Kate Lynch*
Cassandra Miller
Mariana Rios***
Shelly Ross
Françoise Samuelson***

200 to 499 hours
Kim Adams
Jo Ann Ashmore
Deborah Babe*
Pamela Bait*
Anne Barker***
Martha Conway
Shelagh Creighton
Judy Dawson
Cindy Dick*****
Debbie Fisher
Veronica Furrer
Joe Fox
Vanessa Glidden****
Gaylen Groff
Adrienne Gyurcsik
Megan Hui
Cecily Hunter*
Juliana Joe*
Sandra Libreri
Melina Lenser
Kasha LaRoche*
Kelle Kacmarcik***
Linda Knight*
Juliana Masseloux***
Judith McEwen
Noam Mendelson
Cheryl Messenger*
Rory Nez
Patricia Nevis
Francis Nightingal
Anne Maczulak
Marianne O'Connell
Dianka Oster
Jeffrey and Rachel Hess
Alison Oszust
Suzanne Pappas
Tanya Perk
Maggie Pew
Regina Phelp
Melanie Palma
Julianne Palmer
Katherine Pardee
Vanessa Paxton
Melanie Pelletier
Juliana Piazza*
Mamadou Pibar
Marlene Radigue
Kim Sandholdt*
Joyce Andrews
Maximilian Borge
Cindy Bronaugh
Laurie Brown*
Marisa Cooper
Marilyn Dobert
Jenna Deibel
Tiffiny Douglas
Dariel Felger
Cynthia Folkman***
Sandy Friedmann***
Heather Gamberg
Shirley Gas***
Marge Heckalmann
Claustra Keast
Robert Koss*
Lynnda Larson****
Kay Lovegrove
Jimmy Macdow*
Jack Marshall*
Ginny McGraw
Steven Morreale
Pat Pankow
Emily Pounder-Dunbar**
Marlene Pusa*
Sarah Reynolds
Hefi Sheffer
Joel Skaggs*
Keith Smith*
Barbara Slikker*
Sonza Van Herick***
Ozra Ziermarkowitz

100 to 149 hours
Kate Anderson
Ane Ardill***
Morgan Arrington
Julie Austin

photos top to bottom by Francisco Samuelson, Alison Hermance, Jenna Deibel, Alison Hermance, James Hall

2013 wildcare environmental award sponsors

corporate presenting sponsor
Wells Fargo

premier corporate sponsor
Northern Trust Bank

supporting sponsors
PG&E
Union Bank

sustaining sponsor
Marin County Parks

platinum sponsors
Richard & Elizabeth Fullerton Family Foundation
Sussane and Jeff Lyons

gold sponsors
Jeanie and Michael Case,
Katherine and Chad Joiner
Maureen Groper

silver sponsors
Mary D'Agostino
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Susan Gray
Diane and Leslie Lynch
Jennifer Maxwell
Thomas and Marianne O'Connell
Sharon Oser
Conn and Susan Rosche
Dr. Susanna Russo
Julia Sze

bronze sponsors
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Kelly Defilto and Laura Gargano
Allison Fuller
Jeffrey and Rachel Hess
Diane Kelley and Craig Lanway
Steve and Julie Kimball
Jean Lane
Victoria Linslalent
Anne Maczulak and Marilyn Makaris
Consoulso McLaugh
Cassandra Miller
Alexandra Morrouse and Zach McReynolds
Dee Norden Norris
Eileen and Phillips Perkins
Ellie Price Price and Chris Towl
Kim Sandhold
Janelle Lisci
Karen Wilson and Todd Tash
Garson and Lorri Zimmer

Volunteer support continues on page 4

Photos by James Hall

Julian Winarski
Ingrid Woods and Steven Cummings
Sandra Young

$250 to $499
205 Donors

$100 to $249
1,128 Donors

$1 to $99
3,219 Donors

*Includes vehicle donations.

*15-19 years’ service
**10-14 years’ service
***15-19 years’ service
****20-25 years’ service
*****26-30 years’ service

annual report 2013
www.wildcarebayarea.org  wildcare 3
wildlife hospital

In 2013 WildCare treated more than 200 distinct species of wild animals, and gave 3,765 ill, injured or orphaned animals a second chance at life.

birds (2,854)

1 to 49 hours  
139 Volunteers

veternarians

Dr. Amy Allen  
Dr. Ken Bacon**  
Dr. Burwell  
Dr. Rebecca Duer**  
Dr. Lynne Lankes**  
Dr. La Toya Landley  
Dr. Milinda Lommer  
Dr. Shannon Riggs  
Dr. Chris Sanders  
Dr. Debra Scheenstra**  
Dr. Lynda Zucca

volunteer support

from page 3

Nancy Barbour***  
Rebecca Baumeister  
Steve Beck  
Mary Blake***  
Jo Bluestein  
Deborah Blum  
Janine Boisgart  
Marcia Cannon  
Andrea Celeni-Pera  
Kathy Cowan  
Jared Daniels  
Conner Darigo  
Carol Davis  
David Duckworth  
Kate Faulkner  
Susan Gray  
Kate Greca  
Emily Irish  
Tetsu Ishida*  
Sarah Kushner  
Tina Lee  
Mari Litsky*  
Jennifer Love  
Kosta Macie  
MaryEllen Marshall  
Sarah McArthur LeValley  
Anastasia Meadors  
Hillery Monte  
Lindsay Murphy  
Diane Nelson  
Michelle Nielsen  
Amy Parsley  
Arthur Ramos*  
Meghan Rodrigues  
Kate Rogers**  
Debra Scheenstra, DVM**  
Joel Schick  
Alice Schick  
Paul Scott  
Janet Simcock**  
Ellen Sullivan  
Nancy Swalt*  
Linda Toller  
Shiylai Tai  
Ann Ure  
Landly Vega  
Holly Wallace  
Sarah Wilbrand

50 to 99 hours

Lina Anderson  
Aurora Arcega  
Nancy Ash*  
Kyle Astroth  
Caroline Aubrey  
Jessica Baldwin  
Laura Baquerizo  
Teresa Basteich  
Megan Brubaker  
Molly Burke  
Olivia Caporuso  
Leidy Castelo  
Dave Chenoweth  
Seth Cash-Douglass*  
Emily Conrad  
Cique Costa  
Christine Culver  
Leah Davis  
Travis Delucia  
Darla Dema**  
Page Drummond**  
Rebecca Duer, DVM  
Robert Fierer  
Bob Flynn*  
Michelle Gaunle-Turner  
Sita Geroux  
Madeline Hale  
Kimberly Hall-Vassershroyen  
Brant Hindman  
Andrea Hisig*  
Cydney Howell  
Starr Ingram  
Kathryn Johns  
Sarah Lebov-Welch  
Anat Levy  
Sherri Liggeon*  
Tracy Manse**  
Kellianne Minarik  
Wendy Nolan  
Karen Paratore  
Esperanza Pimentel  
Lara Prostman*  
Cecilia Rejas  
John Robb  
Nicole Rodney

Kirsta Rodriguez-Mckee  
Andrea Rogers*  
Sharon Salisbury  
Karen Sherman  
Becky Smith**  
Jamie Spanik  
Kristen Steen*  
Scott Stender  
Alexandra Stevens  
Josephine Stipe  
Rose Thayer  
Christopher Titus  
Thalia Trotta  
Maria Vierra*  
Leah Wade  
Melisa Williams*  
Great Horned Owl  
Greater White-fronted Goose  
Green Heron  
Hairy Woodpecker  
Herrenman's Gull  
Hermil Thrush  
Hooded Oriole  
Horned Grebe  
House Finch  
House Sparrow  
Hutton's Vireo  
King Pigeon  
Lesser Goldenfinch  
Lincoln's Sparrow  
Mallard  
Marsh Wren  
Mew Gull  
Mourning Dove  
Mule Swan  
Northern Flicker  
Northern Fulmar  
Northern Mockingbird  
Northern Pygmy Owl  
Northern Saw-wet Owl  
Nutall's Woodpecker  
Oak Titmouse  
Orange-crowned Warbler  
Pacific Slope Flycatcher  
Pacific Golden-crowned  
Pileated Woodpecker  
Pine Siskin  
Purple Finch  
Pygmy Nuthatch  
Red-breasted Nuthatch  
Red-breasted Sapsucker  
Red-shouldered Hawk  
Red-tailed Hawk  
Red-throated Loon  
Red-winged Blackbird  
Rhinoceros Auklet  
Ring-billed Gull  
Ringed Turtle Dove  
Rock Pigeon  
Ruby-crowned Kinglet  
Ruddy Duck  
Savannah Sparrow  
Sharp-shinned Hawk  
Snowy Egret  
Song Sparrow  
Sooty Fox Sparrow  
Sooty Shearwater  
Sora  
Spotted Towhee  
Steller's Jay  
Surf Scoter  
Swift - Swainson's Thrush  
Townsend's Warbler  
Tree Swallow  
Turkey Vulture  
Violet-gardled Thrush  
Violet-green Swallow  
Western Gull  
Western Grebe  
Western Scrub Jay  
Western Towhee  
White-breasted Nuthatch  
White-crowned Sparrow  
White-tailed Kite  
Wild Turkey  
Winter Wren  
Wood Duck  
Yellow Warbler  
Yellow-rumped Warbler

mammals (852)

American Badger  
Audubon's Cottontail  
Big Brown Bat  
Black Rat  
Black-tailed Deer  
Black-tailed Jackrabbit (Hare)  
Bobcat  
Boffo's Pocket Gopher  
Brown Rat  
Brush Rabbit  
California Ground Squirrel  
California Meadow Vole  
California Myotis Bat  
Coyote  
Deer Mouse  
Dusky-footed Woodrat  
Eastern Gray Squirrel  
Felt Squirrel  
Gray Fox  
Horse Fly  
House Mouse  
Little Brown Bat  
Long-tailed Wescell  
Mexican Free-tailed Bat  
Northern Raccoon  
River Otter  
Shrew Mole  
Striped Skunk  
Vagrant Shrew  
Virginia Opossum  
Western Gray Squirrel  
Yuma Myotis Bat

reptiles and amphibians (48)

Arboresal Salamander  
California King Snake  
California Newt  
California Red-sided Garter Snake  
Coast Terrestrial Garter Snake  
Eastern Box Turtle  
Ensatina Salamander  
Northern Alligator Lizard  
Northern Pacific Rattlesnake  
Pacific Giant Salamander  
Pacific Gopher Snake  
Pacific Ring-necked Snake  
Red-eared Slider Turtle  
Russian Tortoise  
Sharp-tailed Snake  
Western Fence Lizard  
Western Pond Turtle  
Western Yellow-bellied Racer Snake

Photos top to bottom by  
Nat Smith, Kim Sandholdt,  
Michelle Ross, Amy Shipley,  
Sharon Ponsford

Photo by Robert Bloomberg
patient gallery

**brown booby (#1776)** was found on North Beach in West Marin on December 26, and easily captured by Patricia Vader of Martinez, who brought her to WildCare on the advice of the Point Reyes Animal Hospital. The bird was lethargic, but examination revealed only severe dehydration and starvation.

She was put on a gavage-feeding diet until she was strong enough to digest solid foods. Very soon she began to eat every fish offered and looked for more.

Pelagic bird specialists insisted she must be a Blue-footed Booby, a few of which we had admitted to WildCare in the past. But her yellow feet and other markings finally convinced everyone that we had a Brown Booby – the first of her species at WildCare.

Within a few days we were able to transfer her to International Bird Rescue in Fairfield with the space and pools required to complete her rehabilitation.

**bobcat (#1752)** had been seen regularly at the Del Valle Regional Park in the East Bay, eating scraps from the dumpster where fishermen cleaned their catch. Local residents became concerned at her appearance and called Lindsay Wildlife hospital. Dr. Guthrum Purdin, the staff veterinarian and a noted specialist in birds as well as a former WildCare volunteer, asked WildCare to admit the cat for treatment on December 13. WildCare examination revealed a severe infestation of ear mites, ticks and fleas, as well as an ulcerated cornea.

Once we had stabilized her, she was examined by Dr. Rebecca Burwell at Eye Care For Animals, who determined that the eye was clouded by scar tissue, but that her vision was fine.

On January 3 she was transferred to Sonoma County Wildlife Rescue (SCWR) for exercise and evaluation in their large outdoor enclosure. On March 1, SCWR veterinarian Dr. Samini gave her a clean bill of health for release, and with the assistance of Del Valle Regional Park staff, the bobcat was finally returned to her territory.

**red-tailed hawk (#1777)** was found on the side of the highway in Blackpoint on the way to Vallejo by Paul Shareshaft, who brought him to WildCare on December 26.

The hawk was severely dehydrated, starving, and unable to stand on a dangling left leg. Radiographs revealed that a lodged pellet had fractured his tibia and fibula.

With pain medications, antibiotics, and a leg splint, he began to recover. After several weeks of cage rest, his leg was still limp and we began physical therapy.

On January 15 we began daily “chase therapy” in an aviary to build up strength and coordination. Within a month, his leg had recovered 95% of its normal motor skills and we knew he could hunt successfully. He was released in a field near his original location on February 11.

**fox squirrel (#0127)** was found in Mill Valley by David Meyer, who rescued him on February 17. The squirrel had apparently fallen from a tree, but open wounds on both sides of his head just below the ears, and thin patches of fur told a further story. A skin scraping confirmed the presence of mange mites. Apparently the squirrel had been scratching so hard he had literally fallen out of the tree!

We began treatment for parasites, infection and itching, but treatments can take time, and the next day he was still scratching and not eating. There are no E-collars for squirrels, so we fashioned a “squirrel sweater” by cutting holes in a small tube sock. The rolled end made a protective padded “turtle neck” which worked as a temporary deterrent. Miraculously he tolerated it.

After three days he started eating and began to recover. We were able to remove the protective sweater and later move him to an outdoor enclosure. He was released on March 17.

View these and other patient stories and videos at www.wildcarebayarea.org/updates.
Swallows have begun their spring return to Central and Northern California from their overwintering grounds in the Southern Hemisphere. Their aerial acrobatics are amazing to behold as they dart back and forth in apparent joy, capturing thousands of insects in flight each day, seeking nesting areas and greeting each other with chirps and crackles.

We have six varieties of swallows here, each adapted to take advantage of different niches. The cavity nesters (Tree Swallows, Violet-green Swallows, Northern Rough-winged Swallows and Bank Swallows) will search for a hole in a tree or human structure in which to build their nests. The two more prolific and social species (Barn Swallows and Cliff Swallows) will nest, sometimes in colonies, on beams or light fixtures in covered spaces, and on the eves of buildings, bridges or any place they can create their mud nests. They prefer to be near a water source that furnishes both the insects they eat and the mud for building their nests.

**protection for swallows**

Last spring those mud nests built over the Petaluma River were endangered by construction work on a highway-widening project. A contractor for the California Department of Transportation (Caltrans) installed exclusionary netting to keep them out, but instead trapped, killed and injured scores of Cliff Swallows and other migratory birds.

Although a lawsuit against Caltrans brought by the Animal Legal Defense Fund, Native Songbird Care & Conservation, and the Madrone and Marin Audubon Societies was unsuccessful last summer, Assemblyman Marc Levine (D-San Rafael) inserted a provision into the state budget requiring Caltrans to do more public outreach and detail its efforts to protect birds during the highway widening project. Caltrans agreed to remove the deadly nets, and negotiated a safer way to work on the Petaluma and Lakeville bridges going forward. Success!

**swallows in rehabilitation**

Swallows come in to WildCare for a variety of reasons: babies have fallen from their nest, a nest was destroyed or a parent...
6. Pillbugs drink with both ends! They drink with mouths, and can also wick up water through tube-shaped “uropods” at their back ends.

7. Pillbugs curl into tight balls when threatened.

8. Pillbug blood is blue. Instead of hemoglobin which contains iron, theirs has hemocyanin which contains copper.

9. Pillbugs eat their own poop. They lose copper in their feces, so they recycle!

10. Sick pillbugs turn bright blue when they catch an iridovirus.

Ceres Community Project of Marin recently donated a virtual feast of “fresh from the farm” produce to WildCare. The bounty was originally donated to Ceres by generous farmers at the Civic Center Farmers Market.

Since opening in 2010, Ceres Community Project of Marin has provided nourishing meals to over 25,000 cancer patients who are struggling with the challenges of their treatment. Ceres brings local teen volunteers into the kitchen, educates them about food, and teaches them cooking skills.

Last year, 83 teens volunteered nearly 1,600 hours to lovingly prepare and deliver 200-250 meals each week to clients. There is no cost for this incredibly healing experience, as Ceres is funded solely by donations.

On the many occasions that Ceres receives more from the farmers than they can use, Ceres Community Project of Marin generously donates their surplus produce to WildCare. WildCare treats more than 200 species of animals - all of whom have different diets.

Food costs at WildCare run a hair raising $50,000+ annually and they increase every year! Whether it’s strawberries or kale, bananas or cherries, our WildCare patients appreciate every stalk and every berry Ceres donates!

Thank you, Ceres Community Project of Marin, for all the good work you do for humans and for animals! www.ceresproject.org
found a wild baby animal

Is the baby sick or hurt? Is it bleeding, weak, shivering or crying? Is it alive, but unresponsive or cold to the touch? Are its wings drooping or its legs crooked? Are there insects on it? Has it been attacked by a cat or dog? Did it approach you?

Is the baby orphaned? It is extremely rare for a wild animal to abandon her young. Are you certain the mother is dead?

Is the baby behaving normally? All wild mothers are afraid of people, but the maternal instinct is very strong, and they will not abandon their young even if the baby has been handled. If people or pets are near she will not approach her baby. Fawns and rabbits sleep or hide in the grass during the day. Mothers only return to nurse periodically, leaving older babies for longer periods. Babies know to remain quiet until their mother returns.

Opossums travel with their mothers and leave to forage alone when they are 7-8 inches long (excluding tail).

Raccoons play and make chirping or trilling noises in their denning area at the age of 5-8 weeks. They leave the den to travel with their mother at the age of 8-10 weeks.

Fledgling (feathered) birds hop around on the ground while parents call or feed them.

Bring the baby to WildCare
Can you transport it immediately?

NO

YES

In Marin County, call
The Marin Humane Society
415-883-4621

To transport an injured or orphaned baby to WildCare

1. Prepare a container. A shoebox with air holes in the lid, lined with a small towel, works for most babies.

2. Protect yourself. Even small sick birds may try to protect themselves with their beaks or talons. Wear gloves if possible. Animals may have parasites or carry diseases. Wash your hands after handling.

3. Put the baby in the box. Cover the baby with a light cloth and gently put it in the shoebox.

4. Keep it warm. If the baby is cold, put one end of the shoebox on a heating pad set on low.

5. If you can’t transport it immediately:
   - Call the Marin Humane Society 415-883-4621
   - Keep the baby in a warm, dark, quiet place.
   - Do not give it food or water.
   - Do not handle it.
   - Keep children and pets away from it.

6. Transport the baby to WildCare. Keep it in the shoebox, keep the car quiet (radio off, etc.).

7. Complete WildCare’s intake form. Provide complete information on the circumstances of your rescue. Provide your personal information clearly in the event we need to contact you.

Is the baby in danger? Are cats, dogs, children or cars creating a hazard?

Does the baby need help? Most mother mammals can carry their babies back to the nest or to an alternative nest. Birds and bats cannot carry their young.

Is the baby in danger? Are cats, dogs, children or cars creating a hazard?

Does the baby need help? Most mother mammals can carry their babies back to the nest or to an alternative nest. Birds and bats cannot carry their young.

Is it safe for you to help the baby? Never put yourself in physical danger. Bats, foxes, skunks and raccoons can carry rabies and bite. Never handle them with bare hands.

Can you find the nest? Is it intact? Is the baby warm to the touch?

Get the baby back to the mother. Call WildCare for species and age-specific guidelines on how to reunite/renest a baby. After the baby has been returned, watch from a distance, keeping pets and children away from the area so as not to frighten the mother. Is the mother visiting the baby? Does the baby seem ok?

Leaves the area.
Baby is okay.
coyote hunting contest

California’s Fish and Game Commission voted unanimously on February 5 to consider a ban on hunting contests such as the secretive coyote drive in Modoc County.

The 4-0 vote initiates a formal rule-making process, during which public comment will be solicited as the Commission considers a ban on such contests in California.

Last year WildCare helped Project Coyote generate more than 20,000 letters and emails to oppose the gratuitous slaughter of coyotes, and to bring this issue to the attention of the Department of Fish and Wildlife.

wildcare interns

Former WildCare intern Ben Coltreaux writes, “I have been meaning to send you this picture for a while now. Last summer, and again this coming summer, Stephanie Helbig is working as a field technician for me in Virginia as part of my Ph.D. work assessing the sustainability of snapping turtles. I thought I would share this because how often does WildCare have two former interns/volunteers working together years later in a different part of the country?”

heart of marin

Congratulations to Melissa Bain and Marianna Riser for their nominations for the Heart of Marin Award for 2013!

In Memoriam
Alma Clara Robinson
1926-2013

Alma Clara Robinson always looked to animals for solace. As she grew older and less mobile, she would sit outside for long periods of time, watching and listening to the wild birds and animals that lived near and visited her home in Napa. She found them a continuing source of comfort and inspiration.

With a desire to continue to support our work to give sick and injured wild animals a second chance at life, Alma made a significant legacy gift to WildCare in the form of a bequest from her estate. When baby season begins in our wildlife hospital each spring, we will remember Alma and her generosity with unending gratitude.

Please read more about Alma’s life and legacy at www.wildcarebayarea.org/bequest

Leave a Legacy

You’d like to help build the long-term financial strength of WildCare, but feel you cannot make a significant gift today? Your solution may be a charitable bequest.

A bequest is a gift from your estate — a transfer of cash, securities, real estate or other assets made through your estate plans. You can make a bequest by including WildCare in your will or trust by leaving a portion of your estate, or by designating WildCare as a beneficiary of your retirement account or life insurance policy.

The benefits of making a charitable bequest include:
- Receiving estate tax charitable deduction
- Lessening the burden of taxes on your family
- Leaving a lasting legacy of your love for wildlife

Including WildCare in your will or trust memorializes your lifelong commitment to wildlife conservation and education for years to come.

It’s easy to support the WildCare of tomorrow by making a bequest today...

Please contact Jan Armstrong at 415-453-1000 ext. 13 for more information, or to schedule a meeting to learn more about bequests and other ways to include WildCare in your estate plans.
schedule of events

museum and courtyard programs

wildlife ambassadors FREE
Pool bird feeding
daily at 12:30 & 4:30pm
Meet the Trainer
daily at 11am and 2pm
Visit our website for daily scheduled ambassadors at wildcarebayarea.org/courtyard

nature education programs
Call 415-453-1000 ext.12 to register.

terwilliger nature guide orientation*
August 2, 11am-12:30pm

family adventures/aventuras familiares FREE
Saturday mornings, 10am-noon
April 27 (Sunday): Birding at San Pablo Bay, Bahia Trail, Novato
May 10: Redwood Creek Migratory Birds, Muir Woods
June 21: China Camp, San Rafael
July 19: Rush Creek, Novato

summer nature camps*
Animal Neighbors, ages 3½- K
June 9-13, 9am-noon
California is a Wild Place, grades K-1
June 16-20, 9am-2pm
Feathers, Fur and Scales, grades 1-2
June 23-27, 9am-3pm
Helping Hands for Wildlife, grades 3-4
June 30-July 3, 9am-3pm
Into the Woods, grades 2-3
July 7-11, 9am-3pm
Helping Hands for Wildlife, grades 5-6
July 14-18, 9am-3pm
Animal Senses, grades K-1
July 21-25, 9am-3pm
Wet and Wild, grades 2-3
August 4-8, 9am-3pm
Growing up Wild, ages 3½-K
August 11-15, 9-noon
Growing up Wild, ages 3½-K
August 11-15, 1-4pm

events

terwilliger environmental award*
Stafford Lake, May 3, 12:30pm

walk with wildcare*
Stafford Lake, May 3, 10am - noon
McInnis Park, July 12, 10am - noon

point reyes bird festival
ecmamm.org/point-reyes-birding-festival
Bilingual Birding by San Pablo Bay, April 27, 10am-1pm

wildcare at international migratory bird day FREE
Muir Woods, May 10, 8am-2pm

dining for wildlife*
May 20 and 21, 5-9pm

living with wildlife photo contest
Deadline for entry September 12

wildcare environmental award*
November 12, Cavallo Point

spring/summer 2014

wildlife rehabilitation programs

new volunteer orientations*
Orientation for adult volunteers ages 15 or older is offered annually in January. Other orientations and basic skills classes may be added in the summer. Please call WildCare or visit our website for status updates on orientations and new volunteer classes.

student volunteer orientations*
Please visit our website for volunteer opportunities for students ages 12-15.

classes for volunteers*
6010 - Wildlife Ambassador Orientation
April 2, 7-8pm
2040 - Captive Care for Opossums
April 5, 1:30-3:30pm
2030 - Captive Care for Ducklings
April 12, 1:30-3:30pm
3120 - Captive Care for Rodents
April 17, 6-8pm
3150 - Captive Care for Squirrels
April 23, 6:30-8:30pm
4200 - Raccoon Rehabilitation
April 26, 1:30-3:30pm
6120 - WildCare Interpretation for the Public
April 27, 10am-1pm
6014 - Animal Enrichment
May 6, 6:30-8:30pm
2020 - Captive Care for Corvids
May 21, 6:30-8:30pm
2077 - Captive Care for Lizards
June 7, 1:30-3:30pm

*Pre-registration is required; call 415-453-1000.