

# WILD TIMES



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## A Lo-o-n-n-n-g Baby Season

Spring and summer are our busiest times of year because that's when there are many vulnerable infant wild animals out there. Baby rabbits need help when a dog digs up their nest, and tiny nestling songbirds are helpless if their nest is destroyed when people clear bushes in their yards.

Usually "baby season" lasts from about April through September. By October, we still have some young animals in care, but these have past the high-maintenance infant stage and are now juveniles that just need to grow and develop a bit more before they are ready for life in the wild.

This year our baby season felt longer than usual because it was extended at both ends. On March 1<sup>st</sup> three tiny, baby squirrels were found lying on the ground under a tree in Sedro Woolley. These little guys were pink, furless creatures, only a few days old, so they needed to be hand-fed every 3 hours, including late night feeds. This was weeks before our seasonal rehabber or interns started, so staff took turns feeding these little animals. Baby Season 2020 had begun!

From then on it continued as it usually does throughout the summer, with the arrival of infant cottontails, nestling robins and swallows, young owls, fawns, raccoon kits, gull chicks and baby opossums. In early September there was a lull, and we thought baby season might be drawing to a close. But no! Batches of infant cottontails, squirrels and little native deer mice kept coming in. Every time we released some, more would appear. This continued on through September and into October.

Even our seal season was longer this year. Seal pupping-time around the islands usually peaks about late June /early July, so that is often when we receive our first pup for care. This year, the first seal pup came to Wolf

Hollow on May 31<sup>st</sup>. Her early arrival was due to the fact that she was found at Ocean Shores on the outer coast of the Olympic Peninsula, where pupping season starts earlier. We had to scramble to get our seal intensive care area up and running before she arrived. Throughout the summer, seven more seal pups arrived, and by late August two had been released and six others were eating fish, swimming in pools and rapidly gaining weight. We were just considering closing our seal nursery up for the season when.....surprise! Our local Marine Mammal Stranding Network brought in another pup. People at Eagle Cove on San Juan Island heard a seal booing on the shore. When they investigated, they found a pup tangled in fishing line with a large hook imbedded in her front flipper. She

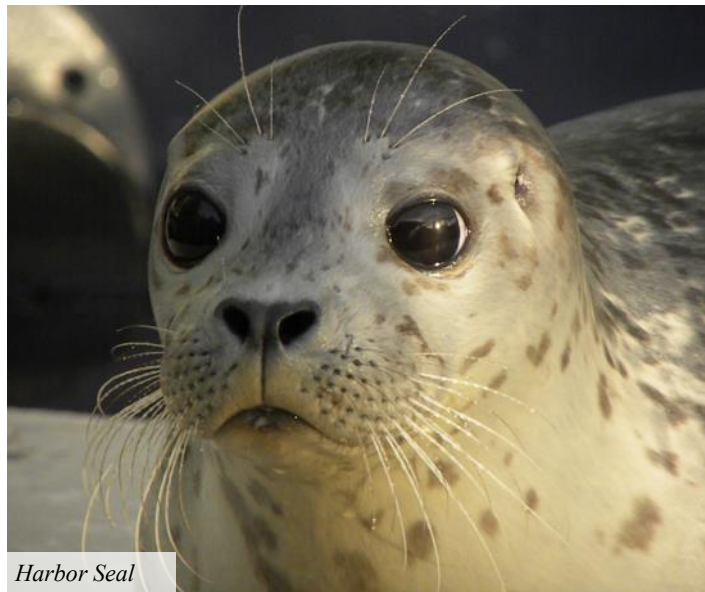
was thin and had other wounds, but after we removed the hook, she quickly recovered and made up for lost time by eating pounds and pounds of fish. It took her only 6 weeks to grow from a thin 19-pound pup to a robust 51-pound seal. She was released on October 27<sup>th</sup>.

Deer fawns and raccoon kits will be released in late November, then

baby season will finally be over (we hope!). We're looking forward to our quieter season when we can clean and repair enclosures, restock our supplies and plan for next spring, but we wonder when baby season 2021 will begin?



*Squirrel pups*



*Harbor Seal*

## Interns 2020



We thought you might like to meet the 5 animal care interns who worked with us this summer. They all came from within Washington State and spent 9-15 weeks at Wolf Hollow gaining hands-on experience of Wildlife Rehabilitation.

**Shaelyn Campbell** is currently a student at Washington State University, working towards a degree in Environmental Science, Wildlife Ecology and Conservation.

**Zoe Halliday** grew up on San Juan Island and is a student at Washington State University, pursuing a degree in Wildlife Ecology, with a minor in Forestry.

**Victoria Robertson** is a student at Western Washington University, working towards a degree in Environmental Science, specializing in Freshwater and Terrestrial Ecology.

**Alyssa Nelson's** hometown is Mt. Vernon, WA, but she is currently a senior at Oregon State University, where she will soon graduate with a degree in Animal Science, with a minor in Fisheries and Wildlife Biology.

**Abby Severns** has just graduated from Western Washington University with a degree in Environmental Science.

Thank you ladies! We appreciate all your hard work and flexibility this summer.

## Unusual Eagle

Have you ever seen a Bald Eagle that looks like this? In our 36 years of operation, we had never seen one with such pale cream/brown body and wing feathers. A bird like this is described as *leucistic*. The pale coloration is a result of partial loss of pigmentation in the feathers. Its eyes and feet are the normal color, but the feathers are very pale.

This eagle was seen sitting on the ground in a field in Skagit County. When it arrived at the center, we discovered that, in addition to its unusual color, there were other mysteries about this bird. It had a bulging crop, so it had just eaten an enormous meal, the feathers on its underside were matted and oily with what smelled like fryer oil, and it had swelling around one elbow. What had it been up to?

Luckily the wing injury was minor, so after a day to digest its meal we gave it a bath to clean the oily feathers and moved it into an outdoor enclosure. It quickly progressed to flying further and up to higher perches, so after just 6 days in care, the eagle was sent back for release. Since then this distinctive eagle has been spotted several times in the Skagit Valley.

## Director's Corner

We have all heard it or said it — 2020 has been a difficult and challenging year.

While some aspects of the human world have slowed down, our wild animal calls and patient numbers are higher than in 2019. We are so thankful to each individual volunteer and supporter who has made it possible for us to continue our work throughout this year. With your help we have kept on saving wildlife and helping people who find injured creatures or have wildlife questions.

In 2020 our animal patient numbers are up, but individual donations are down.

Your year-end donation will make all the difference. It will keep our professional staff working to care for wildlife into the future, and support our local ecosystems when these animals are returned to their natural habitats where they belong.

Thank you for caring about wildlife and ushering Wolf Hollow into 2021 safely and securely.

Happy Holidays!

*Chanda Stone*

### The Eagle

by Alfred Lord Tennyson

He clasps the crag with crooked hands;  
Close to the sun in lonely lands,  
Ringed with the azure world, he stands.

The wrinkled sea beneath him crawls;  
He watches from his mountain walls,  
And like a thunderbolt he falls.

[www.familyfriendpoems.com/poem/the-eagle-by-lord-alfred-tennyson](http://www.familyfriendpoems.com/poem/the-eagle-by-lord-alfred-tennyson)



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## Education Program

As you can imagine, our education outreach activities have been seriously curtailed during 2020. In most years we do interpretive work at local parks each week throughout the summer, take our education booth to numerous events, give presentations, and lead hands-on activities for children's summer programs. Altogether we usually interact with around 4,000 people each year. Of course, 2020 was very different. Events, activities and most presentations were cancelled.

But our outreach program hasn't completely ground to a halt. Like everyone else, we're adapting to reach people in different ways. We've had fun putting together quizzes for our Facebook page and working with the wonderful folks at Friday Harbor LIVE earlier this summer to provide virtual wildlife activities for families. We're grateful that San Juan Island Library continued their Wild Side series through virtual programming, so we were able to give our "Changeover Time" presentation this fall.

You can view our "Changeover Time" presentation by going to [www.sjlib.org/event-recordings/](http://www.sjlib.org/event-recordings/) then scrolling down to find the video.

If you would like to watch our Friday Harbor Live presentations and have a Facebook account, go to [www.facebook.com/fridayharborlive](http://www.facebook.com/fridayharborlive) and search for "Wolf Hollow".

We're glad technology allows us to partner with other groups and reach people in a much wider audience. But our Education Coordinator admits that she can't wait to get back to talking to people face to face and giving kids the opportunity to actually feel how soft owl's feathers are. That's something to look forward to.



Barn owl feathers

## Thank You, Volunteers!

This summer has been tough for everyone, but we kept on going and provided care for just as many animals as we have in previous years. None of this would have been possible without our wonderful volunteers. For 2 months in spring we didn't have animal care volunteers on site, but as we got busier and restrictions in our county relaxed a little, a few of our local, long-term volunteers returned. We all wore masks and minimized contact, but they were a huge help in feeding lots of mouths, keeping enclosures clean and dealing with mounds of laundry throughout the summer.

Transporting animals to Wolf Hollow from other islands and the mainland is always a challenge, but it was even more so this summer. Flights were fewer, ferry schedules were limited and there was the added issue of arranging transport for animals while maintaining social distancing and keeping everyone safe. It was not an easy task, but our volunteers weren't daunted. They adapted, kept on going and managed to get animals to Wolf Hollow or to other rehab centers throughout the summer. We can't say a big enough THANK YOU to each of these volunteers. The phrase "we couldn't do it without you" is such a cliché, but in this case, it is absolutely true.

### Wolf Hollow Staff

Chanda Stone – Executive Director  
 Penny Harner – Wildlife Rehabilitator  
 Abby Fuhrman – Wildlife Rehabilitator  
 Shona Aitken – Education Coordinator  
 Mark Billington – Facilities Manager  
 Susan Waters – Volunteer Coordinator



### Our Mission

*To promote the well-being of wildlife and their habitats through rehabilitation of injured and orphaned wildlife, public education, and non-invasive research.*

Wolf Hollow Wildlife Rehabilitation Center is licensed for wildlife rehabilitation by the Washington Department of Fish and Wildlife and the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service, and is a registered 501(c)(3) non-profit organization. All contributions are tax-deductible to the extent permitted by law.

## Statistics through October 2020

### Number of Animals

Birds	272	57.6%
Mammals	199	42.2
Amphibians or Reptiles	1	0.2
<b>Total</b>	<b>472</b>	

### Causes

Orphaned / Separated	120	25.4%
Cat Attack	71	15.0
Hit by Car	56	11.9
Nest Destroyed	35	7.4
Dog Attack	31	6.6
Hit Window / building	29	6.1
Unknown	91	19.3
Other	39	8.3
(fishing gear, shot, glue trap, fence, oiled)		

### Results

Released	183	38.3%
Euthanized	162	34.7
Died	59	12.5
DOA	57	12.1
In treatment	11	2.3
<b>Total</b>	<b>472</b>	



Band-tailed pigeon

### Wolf Hollow Board of Directors

Marc Brown, President  
 Susan Waters, Vice President  
 Bex Bishop, Secretary  
 Chris Minney  
 Cindy Hansen  
 Sarah Boden  
 Albert Barsocchini

## Help or Harm?

This summer we noticed that more people were keeping wild creatures and trying to care for them themselves. Was this because people were at home more, or didn't think we'd be open? Who knows! But the end result was often that an animal didn't get the specialized care and diet it needed in time. We'd get a call from someone who'd had baby swallows for 3 days, had been feeding them honey water, and now they weren't looking so lively. By the time they reached Wolf Hollow, the little birds were weak and lethargic, so we struggled to get the appropriate high-protein diet into them to keep them alive. Over the summer this pattern was repeated with baby squirrels, a fawn, a young dove, and even a hawk with an injured wing.

We deeply appreciate people caring about injured and orphaned wild animals and wanting to help, but without knowledge about each type of animal, and access to specialized diets or medications, it can be extremely difficult to meet their needs and give them the best chance of survival. It's amazing just how much incorrect information can be found on the internet when it comes to caring for wild animals, and sadly the outcomes can be dire.

You can help by spreading the word to friends and neighbors that:

- Wolf Hollow, and many other Wildlife Rehabilitation Centers, are open for business.
- Trying to care for a wild animal yourself is not easy and often doesn't turn out well — and it's illegal!
- Calling a rehab center quickly gives an injured or orphaned wild creature the best possible chance of getting the care it needs and returning to the wild.

Thanks for your help.

## Wolf Hollow Wildlife Rehabilitation Center

284 Boyce Rd / PO Box 391  
Friday Harbor, WA 98250  
(360) 378-5000

Address Service Requested

*36 Years  
Caring for Wildlife*



*Young raccoons*



## Wish List

- |  |  |
|--|--|
| <input type="checkbox"/> Sunflower hearts                            | <input type="checkbox"/> Masking tape  |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Copier paper (high re-cycled content)       | <input type="checkbox"/> Bathroom tissue (unbleached)                          |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Frozen meats (beef, lamb, chicken, venison) | <input type="checkbox"/> New hose nozzles                                      |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Frozen seafood (salmon, shrimp, crab, etc.) | <input type="checkbox"/> Laundry detergent (septic friendly, unperfumed)       |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Nuts in shells (almonds, walnuts, pecans)   | <input type="checkbox"/> Hand soap ( <b>not</b> antibacterial)                 |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Energizer rechargeable batteries (size C)   | <input type="checkbox"/> Sheets (flat, not fitted)                             |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Dry kitten food (high quality)              | <input type="checkbox"/> Dish soap (low perfume, biodegradable)                |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Pruners, clippers, shears                   | <input type="checkbox"/> Wood chips for paths                                  |
|  | <input type="checkbox"/> Gift Cards for Ace, Browns, Friday Harbor Pet Supply. |

## A Gift for Wildlife

Do you know someone who likes Flying Squirrels? If the answer is yes, we have the perfect gift for them. A Wolf Hollow T-shirt or sweat-shirt featuring a flying squirrel in full glide. This original work by local designer Jennifer Rigg was specially produced for Wolf Hollow.

If a shirt won't do the trick, how about a ball cap, cards, stickers or a coloring book? All of these, plus our Adoption Packets, can be ordered on-line. Visit our web site for a link to our on-line store: [wolfhollowwildlife.org/news/](http://wolfhollowwildlife.org/news/)

Each purchase will help Wolf Hollow care for injured or orphaned wild creatures in 2021.