

# WILD TIMES



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## Happy Endings

Wildlife Rehab can be sad at times. Some animals are so badly injured that we know straight away they will not be able to survive and return to the wild. Others look fine at first, but wild creatures are masters at hiding problems so they don't attract the attention of predators. A seemingly healthy animal can be hiding serious internal issues and it's always disappointing when one of them unexpectedly

takes a turn for the worse. Sadly this is an inevitable part of wildlife rehab work. However, to make up for the sad times there are many happy endings when injured animals recover, or tiny, weak infants grow into strong young adults

that fly, run or hop back into their natural habitat. Each release is a joyful moment, but some are more special than others and stay in our memories long after the animals are back in the wild. The best of these moments are when we are able to release an animal that we didn't think would make it. These are patients that arrive in really bad condition or suffer serious setbacks during their care. When they are strong, healthy and ready for release, it's very satisfying to know that we helped make that possible. We may not pop champagne corks or throw a party, but we are quietly delighted that our help enabled them to return to life in the wild.

Over the years there have been many of these memorable cases, from poisoned eagles that couldn't lift their heads, to severely emaciated seal pups with infected wounds, or tiny merganser ducklings that were found cold, weak, muddy and close to death. We didn't think they would survive, but they surprised us.

Earlier this year our local Marine Mammal Stranding Network brought in an adult female Harbor Seal that had been shot in the head. When she arrived at Wolf Hollow she was unconscious, her head was covered in blood and one eye was badly damaged. It seemed unlikely that she would survive. But veterinarian Dr Gaydos and Wolf Hol-



Chickadee nestlings



Adult Harbor Seal release

low staff provided urgent care, and the following morning she surprised us all by not only being alive, but also conscious and feisty. We continued to care for her for a few more days until she was stable enough to be transported in SR3's wildlife ambulance to PAWS Wildlife Center for surgery on her injured eye. Thanks to the collaboration of many people this tough seal was given a second chance to live in the wild where she belongs. She lost an eye and the pup she was carrying, but 2 weeks later she was brought back to San Juan Island for release. She took a long look around before flopping out of the transport carrier. When she finally went splashing into the water and swimming out across the bay, everyone watching on the shore had big smiles on their faces.

But it's not just larger animals that can survive against the odds. Many of our happy endings involve small creatures. A few years ago a batch of tiny chickadee nestlings was brought to us after their nest was destroyed

when people cleared trees in their yard. Unfortunately they had kept the little birds for days and fed them bread soaked in milk. The poor little birds couldn't digest this mixture, so they were dehydrated, weak and sick, and their tiny feathers were coated in mush that had set like concrete. It was amazing that they were still alive. Over the next few days they gradually improved as we gave them fluids, then introduced them to the special, high-protein diet we use for small songbirds. Cleaning their feathers without damaging them further was a delicate operation that involved lots of Q-tips and very short baths in warm water, followed by drying time under a heat lamp. To our amazement, three out of four of these tenacious little birds survived and were soon flying around in the woodland.

On sad days, we remind ourselves of the thousands of injured and orphaned animals we have helped to return to their natural habitat, and realize that, without our help, it's unlikely any of them would have survived. So we keep on going, give it our best effort and work towards Happy Endings!

## News in Brief

- 1/26 Megan Perry joined our staff as Wildlife Rehabilitator.
- 1/26 We took our educational display to the La Conner Bird Festival for the first time.
- 3/21 First baby mammals of the year – 3 infant European rabbits whose nest was destroyed.
- 3/22 Girl Scout Troop 41873 from Snohomish carried out a work weekend at Wolf Hollow for the 12<sup>th</sup> year in a row.
- 4/1 Sara Reszutek started as our Seasonal Rehabilitator.
- 4/6 Guests enjoyed tours of our facility during our Open House.
- 4/26 First baby birds of the year – 3 American Robin nestlings.
- 5/1 Kallie Feldhaus from Encinitas CA arrived as our first intern of 2019.
- 5/4 Kids had fun testing their “wildlife super powers” at our booth at Friday Harbor Children’s Festival.
- 5/15 Our second rehab intern, Elizabeth Jessmore from Idaho Falls, ID, joined us.
- 6/1, 6/2 Over 150 people tried out our educational activities at Anacortes Waterfront Festival.
- 6/5 Brett Bohnert traveled from Bend, OR to be our third intern of the year.
- 6/18 Haley Deti from Kent, WA joined us as Education Intern for the summer.
- 6/19 Our fourth rehab intern, Missy Melvin from IL arrived.
- 6/30 We took our education booth to the Lime Kiln Lighthouse Centennial Event
- 7/7 Our first seal pup of the year came from San Juan Island

For further information about our seasonal staff and interns, visit our web site <http://wolfhollowwildlife.org/news/meet-our-seasonal-staff-and-interns-2>



*Wren fledgling*

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## Sorry for our Error

Our sincere apologies to Friday Harbor Storage, LLC, who were inadvertently omitted from our 2018 list of major supporters in our previous newsletter. We are so sorry for this oversight and really appreciate all the support this company has provided to Wolf Hollow.



## New Raccoon Weaning Cage

After many years of wear and tear from generations of rambunctious raccoon kits, our Weaning Cage was falling apart. This enclosure is an essential stage for these youngsters, where they first learn to climb on low branches and handle a range of solid foods, so this winter our Facilities Manager, Mark Billington, and volunteer Jerry McElyea replaced the old cage with a new and improved version. The first raccoon kits are currently enjoying trying out the den box, jungle-gym of climbing branches and their new water tub.



## New Roof for Intern Housing

The used double-wide mobile home we acquired in 2001 for on-site accommodation for our summer interns is still in good shape, but the roof had some ominous sagging spots and needed to be replaced before the next winter rains arrived.

Fund-raising for this project started in December 2018, and San Juan Island Lions Club were the first to assist. We also planned to sell a Boston Whaler, generously donated by Michael Gallaghe in fall of 2018, to help fund the needed repairs.

But, in spring 2019 we were able to barter the boat to Olga Valley Builders in exchange for providing roofing materials and overseeing the installation of the new roof. With the help of volunteers, the old roof was removed on June 1st and replaced with a new green metal roof on June 2<sup>nd</sup>.

Wolf Hollow is deeply grateful for the generous donations and cooperation provided by San Juan Island Lions Club, Olga Valley Builders, and Michael Gallaghe, which enabled us to carry out this essential project.

## Directors Corner

The thirty-six-year history of Wolf Hollow speaks to our longevity and the continued need for wildlife rehabilitation and public wildlife education. With the human population of our area increasing and more and more visitors arriving every year, Wolf Hollow continues to meet an important wildlife and community need, now and well into the future.

The key to success for every non-profit is sustainability, which often depends on a circle of people who believe in the mission and regularly donate time or funds to assist in the success of the organization. This is certainly true of Wolf Hollow, and I'd like to say a heart-felt thank you to each person who has donated funds or services in 2019.

If you are considering supporting our work, I invite you to join this circle of friends who contribute to our success and sustainability. You can do this by:

Becoming a **monthly donor or annual contributor**. Predictability of donations is a great help when we are budgeting and planning ahead. You can set this up automatically on our website. Please feel free to contact me if you have questions or would like assistance with this.

**Remembering Wolf Hollow in your estate planning** and letting us know your plans. Charitable bequests are flexible and easy to update at any time, and are a wonderful way to create a legacy at Wolf Hollow.

Wolf Hollow's work has continued for over three decades thanks to the generosity and commitment of many people. You can be one of this group of dedicated supporters who enable us to sustain our mission for the next 36 years... or more.

Thank You!

**Chanda Stone**

Executive Director

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360-378-5000

## Thank You Girl Scouts

In mid-March, Girl Scout Troop 41873 from Snohomish carried out their spring work weekend at Wolf Hollow for the 12<sup>th</sup> year in a row. With lots of smiles, enthusiasm and hard work, they cleaned carriers and enclosures, planted flowers, weeded, cleared debris from paths, pressure-washed concrete walkways and helped spruce up our facility in preparation for our coming busy summer season. The girls also donated all kinds of great items from our Wish List.

For a couple of hours on Saturday afternoon, they were joined by youngsters from San Juan Island's new Girl Scout Troop 46486, who enjoyed scrubbing an aviary, digging up thistles and picking up fallen twigs around our front yard.

THANK YOU SO MUCH GIRLS!

### Wolf Hollow Staff

Chanda Stone – Executive Director  
Penny Harner – Wildlife Rehabilitator  
Megan Perry – 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.*

## Statistics thru June 2019

### Number of Animals

Birds	187	70.0%
Mammals	80	30
Amphibians/Reptiles	0	0
<b>Total</b>	<b>267</b>	

### Causes

Orphaned/Separated	72	27.0
Cat Attack	25	9.4
Dog attack	10	3.7
Hit by car	15	5.6
Nest destroyed	42	15.7
Hit window/building	16	6.0
Fell from Nest	1	0.4
Unknown	58	21.7
Other	28	10.5

(shot, fishing line or net, barbed wire, peanut butter jar)

### Results

Released	80	30.0
Euthanized	73	27.3
DOA	26	9.7
Died in Care	26	9.7
Transferred	11	4.1
In treatment	51	19.1
<b>Total</b>	<b>267</b>	



### Wolf Hollow Board of Directors

Marc Brown, President	Chris Minney
Susan Oseth, Vice President	Julie Knight
Cindy Hansen, Secretary	Susan Waters

## New DR System

The long-awaited Digital Radiograph (DR) System is now up and running at Wolf Hollow. Rehab staff, Penny and Megan, are delighted with the new system because it doesn't require chemical processing, produces clearer images, and is much faster, so reduces stress for our animal patients. It also makes it easier for us to share images with vets and other wildlife rehabilitators.

We would like to say a huge THANK YOU to the following people and organizations for the financial support that made this important upgrade possible: NOAA Prescott Marine Mammal Grant, Norman Archibald Foundation, Orcas Island Community Foundation, San Juan Island Community Foundation, the Pohlad family, Paul Richter and Liz Verdier, Nancy Nordhoff, Charles and Nancy Givens, Christiana Diamond and Barbara Rodgers.

Thank you all so much!



## Wolf Hollow Wildlife Rehabilitation Center

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Address Service Requested

*36 Years  
Caring for Wildlife*



*Barred owlets*



## Help Fill the Gap

Cats, dogs, cars, landscaping during nesting season, and even discarded dirty peanut butter jars, all take their toll on our wild neighbors and Wolf Hollow is here to help them out.

But we are currently experiencing a funding gap during the height of our busy summer baby season. Donations are down and costs are going up. Wildlife needs your help today.

Wild animals don't have pockets or wallets. When we release them back into their natural habitats, they don't return to thank us and donate to Wolf Hollow. That part is up to caring people – like you.

There are many ways you can help.

- **Make a donation** of \$10, \$50, \$100 or more. Mail a check or donate on our web site: [www.wolfhollowwildlife.org](http://www.wolfhollowwildlife.org)
- Become a member of **The Pack**, by **donating monthly**.
- Check to see if your **workplace will match your donations** and double your impact?
- Donate your car, boat, or other salable item to Wolf Hollow.
- Join our **Business Support Program**



*Young Bald eagle*

If you'd like to help us fill the gap, we'd love to hear from you. You are welcome to contact Executive Director, Chanda Stone. [director@wolfhollowwildlife.org](mailto:director@wolfhollowwildlife.org)