

The Ups and Downs of Wildlife Rehabilitation

The tiny kestrel was fluttering frantically but couldn't fly away because its leg was tightly stuck in a crack on the front of a nest box. One member of our staff quickly covered the bird to keep it from moving while another staff member loosened the front of the box to release the leg. Kestrels have slender little legs, and we had no idea how long the bird had been struggling, so we were sure it would be badly damaged. We imagined broken bones and torn muscles and tendons. Birds of prey rely on their legs and feet to catch their prey, so we feared the worst. However, when we examined the kestrel, we were delighted to discover that its leg was grazed and bruised but there were no broken bones and it was able to grip with its foot. These little birds are easily stressed, so we quickly gave it anti-inflammatory and pain meds and left it to rest. Next morning, we were surprised to see that it was putting a little weight on the leg and was grabbing food with its foot. After a few days of food, meds and rest, the feisty little bird escaped from its carrier, flew around the room and landed perfectly on a high shelf, demonstrating that it was ready to leave. We'd like to share a perfect photo of the kestrel exiting the transport carrier and flying out across the open fields of its home area, but it moved so fast that all we got was a blur.

Wildlife rehabilitation is like that. It has its ups and downs. Sometimes we get a pleasant surprise when an animal we think has a low chance of survival recovers, and at other times exactly the opposite happens. This summer one of our "downs" was the outbreak of Adenovirus Haemorrhagic Disease (AHD) in deer on the islands, just at the beginning of fawn season. Apparently, the first signs of the disease were noticed in early April, but we didn't become aware of the outbreak until May when we already had 4

orphaned or separated fawns in care. One fawn died suddenly and tests confirmed AHD. There is no cure or treatment for the disease and over the next 2 weeks the other three fawns died one by one. They would look fine and be eating well one evening and be dead by the next morning.

Naturally, this was very hard for the staff and interns who had been caring for these fawns for weeks.

While these situations can be depressing, other positive outcomes remind us that our work makes a difference and that it is all worthwhile.

In late June, our area experienced several days of temperatures in the high 90's and into the 100's. We're not accustomed to these kinds of temperatures in our region, so people and animals suffered in the sweltering heat. Some of the casualties of the heatwave were nestling swallows that leapt out of nest boxes or from their nests under eaves to escape the stifling heat. Most of these youngsters were not yet able to fly, so they tumbled to the ground and ended up sitting in the baking heat for hours. Wolf Hollow received 16 swallow nestlings in 4 days. Swallows appear to be delicate little birds and most of these nestlings

were seriously dehydrated, so we were concerned that they wouldn't survive. But, as we gave them tiny amounts of fluids then started popping juicy mealworms into their mouths, they gradually recovered. Within a couple of days, most of them were bright, alert and perching on the sides of their

"nests". Almost all of them made it through to release a week later.

Wildlife rehab may not be a bed of roses, but it's worth weathering the ups and downs so that these creatures have a chance of living their wild lives.



American kestrel



Tree swallow nestlings

News in Brief

- Feb 4 A Rock Pigeon fledgling was our first baby animal of 2021
- March 24 First baby mammals arrived - 4 cottontails that had been attacked by a dog.
- April 8 Elizabeth Bukovec joined us as Seasonal Rehabber.
- April 21 An Anna's Hummingbird fledgling was our first song-bird youngster of the year.
- May 5 First Intern, Liza Dreesmann, arrived at Wolf Hollow
- May 12 Renata Luders joined us as our second intern of 2021
- June 2 Our third intern Megan Milan arrived.
- June 16 Maddie Hansen started as our 4th intern of the year.
- June 24 The first Harbor Seal pup of the season was brought to Wolf Hollow
- June 30 Intern Allison Oseguera joined our team.

Follow this link to meet this years' interns.

<https://wolfhollowwildlife.org/news/meet-our-seasonal-staff-and-interns-2021>



High School Community Projects

Three Friday Harbor High School students completed community projects with Wolf Hollow this spring. Levi Wolf worked with facilities maintenance volunteer Jerry McElyea to replace our old compost bins with sturdy new bins that will last for many years to come.

Ramona Fleirl and Elanor Gislason designed two wild deer costumes for us to use in parades and events. They did a wonderful job of coming up with artistic designs and creating the costumes they are modelling. They also made beautiful animal-print masks for all of our staff.

Thanks Levi, Ramona and Elanor. We really appreciate your choosing Wolf Hollow to benefit from all your hard work.



Grants Received

In early June we were delighted to be awarded a grant for \$9,000 from **Washington Department of Fish and Wildlife** through the Wildlife Rehabilitators Grant Program. This is a 2-year grant that will help cover costs of specialized foods for raptors and enable us to carry out essential facilities maintenance projects such as replacing the special netting on our eagle flight enclosure. It will also allow rehab staff to attend conferences to keep up with their continuing education.

Animal Transport (AT) Volunteers are an essential part of Wolf Hollow's team. Without these wonderful people we wouldn't be able to get animals to the rehab center from other islands in the San Juans and from Skagit County and N Whidbey Island. We urgently need more AT volunteers and **Skagit Communi-**

ty Foundation generously granted Wolf Hollow \$4,000 to help recruit and train new AT volunteers in that county, and provide essential equipment for existing and new volunteers. If you live in that area and are interested in being an AT volunteer, we'd love to hear from you. Email wolfhollow@wolfhollowwildlife.org or call 360-378-5000.

Each year, students carry out internships at Wolf Hollow during the busy summer/fall season. Over the last few years, we had received fewer applications and feedback revealed that financial challenges stood in the way. With this in mind, we sought support from the **Orcas Island Community Foundation**. Through their GiveOrcas campaign, generous donors gave \$3,500 to provide small stipends to our hard-working interns.

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Photo Competition

During Earth Month in April, Wolf Hollow held a Photo Competition to celebrate the wildlife of the Pacific Northwest.

There were so many beautiful photos that we had a really hard time selecting a winner in each category. But, after lots of discussion, we finally selected the following winners:

Young Photographer – *Short-eared Owl* by Milo Martin (aged 10).

Insects – *Bumble Bee on Red Flowering Currant* by Brad Pillow.

Sea/Shore – *Shore Life* by Alexandra Walton.

Humor – “*There’s something stuck between my toes*” *Chestnut-backed Chickadee* by Gene Helfman.

Amphibians/Reptiles – *Sharp-Tailed Snake demonstrating crypsis* by Christian Oldham.

Mammals – *Fox Mom and Kit* by Mike Rauwolf.

Birds – *Red-breasted Nuthatch* by Kevin Culmback.

Please visit our web site to view all the winning photographs.

wolfhollowwildlife.org/events

Our congratulations to all of the winners, and a huge thank you to everyone who shared their wonderful photos. Thanks for joining us to celebrate the beauty of local wildlife.



Bumblebee on red-flowering currant
by Brad Pillow

Statistics thru July 2021

Number of Animals

Birds	224	64.2%
Mammals	123	35.2
Amphibians / Reptiles	2	0.6
Total	349	

Causes

Orphaned/Separated	78	22.3%
Cat attack	52	14.9
Hit by Car	23	6.6
Dog attack	25	7.2
Hit Window / building	17	4.9
Nest Destroyed	34	9.7
Fell from nest	18	5.2
Unknown	59	16.9
Other	43	12.3
(human interference, fence, shot, disease)		

Results

Released	123	35.2%
Euthanized	101	28.9
DOA	43	12.3
Died	59	16.9
Transferred	0	0.0
In Treatment (end July)	23	6.6
Total	349	



Red-breasted Nuthatch
by Kevin Culmback

Director’s Corner

Our busy summer baby season has been a blur of robins and swallows, owlets and eaglets, otter kits and seal pups. Some are here a few weeks while others will be with us through till fall, but there is constant coming and going as animals are released and new patients arrive. Our rehab staff, interns and volunteers continue to be busy, feeding cleaning and caring for these wild creatures. While all that activity goes on, I have been applying for new grants, reporting on completed grants, meeting with donors, sending thank you notes, and fundraising to keep the operations humming along.

Although there are no large summer events again this year, our Education Coordinator has been active teaching at outside venues in several local parks and leading hands-on, outdoor activities for local children’s groups.

Our work at Wolf Hollow continues and we are so thankful for the many people who make it possible. Whether you sent us something from our wish list, donated funds, called to report an injured animal, transported an orphaned creature, or donated an item for our online auction, YOU are the key. You make it possible for all of us at Wolf Hollow to continue our valuable work. You are Wolf Hollow.

Chanda Stone

Executive Director

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Wolf Hollow Staff

Chanda Stone – Executive Director
Penny Harner – Wildlife Rehabilitator
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Shona Aitken – Education Coordinator
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Susan Waters – Volunteer Coordinator

Wolf Hollow Board of Directors

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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.



River otter kit

Welcome Elizabeth

In late March, Wolf Hollow welcomed Elizabeth Bukovec as our Seasonal Wildlife Rehabilitator for 2021. Before joining us for the summer months, Elizabeth worked at Mercer County Wildlife Center in New Jersey. She has expressed interest in moving to the Pacific Northwest to continue to learn about different species and to eventually work towards getting her wildlife rehabilitator's license in Washington State. Throughout spring and summer Elizabeth has become an essential part of our staff, and is involved in rescues, admitting animals, providing care, and training interns.

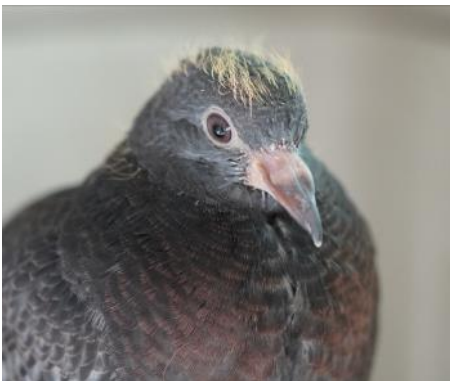


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Address Service Requested

*37 Years
Caring for Wildlife*



Young Rock pigeon



Six Swifts

One morning in July a Mt. Vernon resident found 7 small dark birds lying in her fireplace among a pile of twigs. She took the birds outside to let them fly away but only one bird (presumably an adult) took off, so after a few hours she called Wolf Hollow. When we opened the transport box, we discovered that they were nestling Vaux's Swifts. Their eyes were still closed, and they were a bit dehydrated, but other than that they seemed to be none the worse for their mishap. Swifts are interesting little birds. They don't perch on twigs like other songbirds, but cling to vertical surfaces, so we had to set up a small enclosure with hanging fabric they could cling to. We soon became accustomed to their loud chittering calls when we went to feed them every 30 minutes. Now they are practicing their flying skills in an indoor aviary and we plan to send them back over to the mainland soon so that they can join the local Vaux's Swift population before they start heading south for the winter.



Interesting facts – Vaux's Swift nests are made of small twigs cemented to a vertical surface with saliva. They used to nest in big hollow trees, but as these became scarce, they began to also use chimneys occasionally. When they gather in large numbers in fall for their migration south, thousands can roost together overnight in big old chimneys.