



Wildlife Rescue News

Injured Hawk Rescued From Car Dealership in Downtown Manassas.

A hawk-eyed car salesman spotted a real hawk being attacked by crows outside his dealership. A call to Wildlife Vet Care helped determine this young red-shouldered hawk was injured and needed to be rescued ASAP. But catching an injured hawk is dangerous, and can be challenging, especially if the bird is still able to fly short distances to elude capture. Animal rescuer Buck Taylor went to the scene with a net and leather gloves, and with the help of others, was able to catch the hawk and then transport him to WVC. After stabilization, this hawk needed surgery to repair a laceration on its neck and a fractured leg. After weeks of healing, the hawk recovered completely and was released.

Increasing numbers of wild species have been able to adapt to life in urban spaces where they find sources of food. For this hawk, his prey would likely be mice and sparrows hanging around the dealership. Predators like hawks and owls can be important for controlling populations of these prey species, but only if they can avoid becoming injured by cars, powerlines, window strikes, and other man-made hazards.

Goose Rescue Makes Headlines

When the freezing temperatures in early January were causing the ponds and lakes to freeze, a resident in Chantilly noticed one of the Canadian Geese on the lake behind her house wasn't moving and was calling for the rest of her

group. The group was calling back to her from open water, but she still wasn't moving. She appeared to be stuck in the ice. A call to the Wildlife Rescue League mobilized local animal rescuers, who enlisted the help of the Fire and Rescue crews of the Dulles South Fire Department and the Aldie Fire Department.

The ice was still too thin to walk on, so these Fire and Rescue teams sent in their divers to rescue the goose. Once freed from the ice, the goose was unable to walk so she was transported to Wildlife Vet Care for treatment. Radiographs showed she had a hip fracture, perhaps from a rough landing on ice or a run-in with a car. After a few weeks of recuperation, she was released back to her lake where she joined the rest of her group. This wonderful animal rescue story made headlines across the country. Read the Washington Post Story here: https://www.washingtonpost.com/local/public-safety/loudoun-firefighters-save-stranded-goose/2017/01/09/07943b18-d62a-11e6-9a36-1d296534b31e_story.html?utm_term=.d3dd527707a4

Flying Squirrel Captured by Cat

Flying squirrels are secretive nocturnal rodents that are common in this area, but rarely seen. They hibernate during the winter, but will wake during warm spells and venture out to seek food. On one of these recent warm nights, a cat captured this flying squirrel and took it home to its owner, who then called Wildlife Vet Care. This small squirrel sustained numerous bite wounds to his body but is expected to recover.



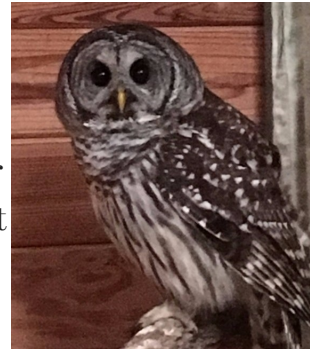
These squirrels store food to sustain them for the winter, but in this case, we don't know where the cat found this one or where his stores of food are, so we will keep him until spring and release him when the foods he needs to survive are abundant again. Learn more about these unusual squirrels at: <http://www.ncwildlife.org/Portals/o/Learning/documents/Profiles/southflysqu irrel.pdf>

Barred Owl Needs Emergency Care

A seriously injured barred owl was dropped off at a local veterinary clinic which immediately contacted Wildlife Vet Care for help. A WVC volunteer transporter quickly picked up the owl and transported it to [Roseville Veterinary Clinic](#) where Wildlife Veterinarian Belinda Burwell began stabilizing care.

This owl had severe head and eye trauma after being struck by a vehicle on

Route 690 in Hillsboro. After 5 weeks of care, the owl recovered completely from her injuries and was able to be released back to the wild. The only problem was the Good Samaritan who rescued her did not leave a name or the exact location where the owl was found, so we did not know exactly where she lived. She was taken back to a healthy forest near that area and released.



It's very helpful when caring for these rescued wild animals to have as much information as possible, so please, if you're involved in a rescue, leave your contact information in case more information is needed.

Wildlife Rescue Statistics

We just finished our Annual Wildlife Rescue Report and would like to share some of our statistics with you.

Of the 350 wild animals receiving veterinary treatment at WVC last year, 46% were birds, 43% were mammals, and 11% were reptiles.

The most common reasons these wild animals needed veterinary care were: 20% were struck by vehicles, including 2 struck by trains. 15% were attacked by cats or dogs, 11% were diagnosed with a wildlife disease, 5% flew into windows, 4% were injured by trees being cut down, 3% had been injured by lawnmowers or weedeaters, 2% had been shot, 2% were rabies suspects, 2% had been injured in traps, and 1% had been injured by fishing line or hooks.

For many of these rescued animals, it was impossible to determine exactly what caused their injuries or illness because no one was observing them. On every rescue, we gather as much data as we can and look for clues that may give us insight into potential wildlife disease outbreaks or environmental hazards.

***Wildlife Veterinary Care
thanks you for your support of its mission.***

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