

May 2017

Dear Friend of Wild Care

It's that time again. Spring - a time of renewal and re-birth. Wild Care has begun to see the telltale signs of spring in our clinic. On February 14th, we received our first orphaned Eastern Gray Squirrels of the season. They were found in the engine of a dormant vehicle. The finder left them for their mom, and she did not return. The squirrels are currently in our care, but that's not always the story! Wild Care fields over 4,000 phone calls per year, and prevents wildlife casualties through direct counseling via our Wildlife Helpline. Wild Care's helpline is available from 9AM-5PM, 365 days per year. Wild Care is also the *only* wildlife hospital on Cape Cod that is committed to rescuing animals on a daily basis. Here is a typical day of one of our staff Wildlife Rehabilitator's, Amy Webster...



*The first orphaned E Gray Squirrels of the season. Photo by Andrea Spence*



Great-horned Owl  
Amy Webster. *Released!*

"We had three baby squirrels (just days old) brought to us on March 20<sup>th</sup> after the nest was accidentally destroyed during yard work. The finder, named Heather, brought them to us at Wild care within a half hour. Knowing that the adult squirrel will continue to look for her young, we returned them to the nest site as quickly as possible! The yard work was stopped and everyone took the dogs and disappeared so I could continue to try to provide a quiet place for the mother squirrel to come back to. The homeowners were very caring even though this was inconvenient. I was able to keep a heating pad under the babies while the mother squirrel explored the situation. Finally she was brave enough to come back and take one baby at a time.

Returning young animals' to their mother is great for several reasons. One, it is the best care they can possibly receive and two, getting them back with her mother also allows us more time to care for other animals that don't have the opportunity to get back to their natural environment."

***At Wild Care, we offer animals a second chance...***

In cases like this, wildlife rescues become *reunions*, helping to prevent healthy animals from needing our care. However, some animals *do* need rescue, to alleviate their suffering, and provide them with much needed medical care. Our skilled and compassionate wildlife rehabilitators and rescue volunteers are trained and at the ready. From the Osprey caught in silt fencing and dangling from a tree for 3 days in Orleans, to an adult Virginia Opossum in Provincetown that is gravely injured with two young clinging to it's pouch, to a Great-horned Owl that was down on

the ground in a yard in Wellfleet for an entire day, these are just a few of the hundreds of examples of how Wild Care is making a difference for wildlife, one by one, through our wildlife helpline and rescue services.

***Wild Care needs YOUR help to continue to provide our critical wildlife helpline and rescue services, and provide animals the help that they need.***

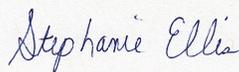
“Rescue allows faster care to the wildlife involved, states Amy Webster, Wild Care Wildlife Rehabilitator. Going out to rescue an animal can cut minutes and often hours of the time it will take to start treating an animal. I will often do the initial exam right out at the rescue site. This will allow me time to plan treatment accordingly. Having a plan and initiating faster care shortens the time of stress to the animal that is now hurt and terrified. Rescue also gives people who want to help, (but cannot) a way to help. Some people are either afraid, not equipped, or unable to transport an animal in distress. Many times while conducting a rescue, I end up educating the public on the importance of safety, conservation, species behavior, and factors that are negatively impacting animals in the wild, like lead poisoning and fishing entanglements. Most often I find that people have good intentions, but the lack of knowledge creates either fear of the animal, or is the cause of the habitat disturbance which then leads them to call us for help.”

As you can see, Wild Care provides an extremely critical and educational service to the community and to the wildlife of Cape Cod, but every phone call and every rescue takes time and valuable resources...

***Help us to continue to provide our critical wildlife helpline and rescue services. There are many ways you can help...***

- Make a **one-time donation** to help us get through the upcoming busy season.
- Help us support our wildlife patients into the future! Become a monthly **Sustained Giver**. Even \$10 per month will help us to feed and medicate a sick, injured or orphaned animal. It's easy! Sign up at <http://www.wildcarecapecod.org/donate-today/>.
- Consider leaving Wild Care as a beneficiary of your estate through **Legacy Giving**. Contact Executive Director Stephanie Ellis, [sellis@wildcarecapecod.org](mailto:sellis@wildcarecapecod.org) for more details.
- Support us at an **upcoming event!** We're always looking for sponsors or donations.

If you are already a Sustaining Giver - we are grateful for your support!  
We deeply appreciate your willingness to support the work and mission of Wild Care.  
Thank you for caring for Cape Cod's wildlife.



**“Wild Care Baby Animal Shower”**

Help us to prepare for new arrivals to our nursery. Enjoy light refreshments and take home a party favor from our 3rd Annual Wild Care Baby Animal Shower.  
July 1st from 10 am - 3 pm  
10 Smith Ln., Eastham

3-240

**“Wild Care Yard Sale”**

Join us for Wild Care's 23rd Annual Yard Sale! Come find some treasures.  
All proceeds benefit Wild Care!  
June 10th from 9 am - 1 pm  
Harwich Community Center  
100 Oak St., Harwich