

November 2017

Dear Friend of Wild Care  
Why Wildlife Matters



I recently had the honor of writing a compelling piece for “The Last Word”, a column featured in the monthly Cape and Plymouth Business Magazine. My topic, “Why Wildlife Matters” will be featured in the November edition. I was so honored to write this piece for Wild Care, I’ve decided to share some excerpts here...

*“Wildlife adds intrinsic value and natural beauty to our environment, and provides us a wonderful respite from everyday stressors.”*  
- SE

All around us, wild creatures carry out their lives, seemingly unhindered by the day-to-day hustle and bustle, and stressors we as humans must face in every day life. They may go unnoticed, taken for granted or thought of as pests. In our busy lives, we often forget how much we depend on wildlife to maintain balance in the natural world, and how much our wild neighbors depend on us to protect and preserve them and their habitats. Instead, we as humans have a tendency to get in their way...



In 2016, Wild Care received 1,373 animals into care. Of these animals, 45.23% were brought to our door due to known human-induced impacts, both direct and indirect. These are animals that were struck by cars, attacked by free-roaming cats, caught in glue-traps, orphaned from tree felling, displaced due to habitat destruction, sickened by lead poisoning, some injured by intentional cruelty - the list is endless. Sadly, this figure is a gross underestimate of what the unknown direct and indirect human-related impacts would be.

***We put the “care” in Wild Care!***

Now, some may wonder why Wild Care rehabilitates animals such as Eastern Gray Squirrels or Virginia Opossums, species so abundant, they seemingly don’t “matter”. At Wild Care our philosophy is, every animal matters. Every animal plays an important role in our ecosystem. Every animal teaches us about the biology and behavior of that species, and provides us with a first-hand understanding of what is affecting them in their natural environment. Only through this understanding can we educate the community, and work together to prevent human-induced wildlife casualties.



That 45.23% represents animals brought to just one small wildlife hospital in the United States in the short period of one year. Imagine the national and global human impact? Isn't it our responsibility as humans to care for and preserve these animals, and to work to educate and reduce these negative human impacts? Isn't it our responsibility to make an effort to share our environment with the wild creatures that live outside our door? At Wild Care, we believe it is...

Though it may seem daunting, there are many things that we all can do in our backyards and in our communities to reduce negative human/wildlife conflicts. Eliminating rodenticides, reserving tree felling for the winter months when animals are not nesting, assisting a turtle across the road, putting up nest boxes, planting wildlife habitat, and preserving land, are just a few things that each & every one of us can do in our daily lives to help our wild neighbors.

The next time you see a squirrel in your backyard, I challenge you to think of it not as the "furry enemy", but instead, as a reminder of the beautiful place that we live in; A place where wild creatures are abundant, and play an important role in our natural ecosystems. A place where we are all ambassadors, and our actions can make a positive

difference for wildlife. Only through our conscious efforts to reduce our large footprint, can we pave the way for their smaller ones, and ultimately lead the way towards a healthier planet. <3

### *There are many ways you can help...*

- **Make a one-time donation** - Help us through the remainder of our busy season.
- **Become a Monthly Sustainer** - Support our wildlife patients into the future! Sign up at <http://www.wildcarecapecod.org/donate-today/>.
- **Consider Legacy Giving** - Make Wild Care a beneficiary of your estate. Contact Executive Director Stephanie Ellis, [sellis@wildcarecapecod.org](mailto:sellis@wildcarecapecod.org).
- **Sponsor our "Wild Winter Night" Event** – February 10, 2018. [www.wildcarecapecod.org](http://www.wildcarecapecod.org)

If you are already a Monthly Sustainer - we are grateful for your support!  
We deeply appreciate your willingness to support the work and mission of Wild Care.

**Thank you for donating now, and helping us to keep the "Care" in Wild Care!**

Handwritten signature of Stephanie Ellis.

Stephanie Ellis, Executive Director  
Wild Care, Inc