



## Summer 2023

Dear Friend of Wild Care

We hope your summer is fabulous – surrounded by loved ones and wildlife. This year Wild Care is celebrating a very special milestone, our 30th year rescuing and rehabilitating the wildlife of Cape Cod. This incredible journey has only been made possible because of caring people like you. In these thirty years we have treated over 30,264 animals. The need for Wild Care's help has only grown with the expanding year-round population and increased housing in and around our wild spaces. From the tiniest of eggs, to the most magnificent raptor, each animal plays an important role in this beautiful place we call home. A quick look around our busy Emergency Clinic and Nursery reminds me of the importance of why we are here. Many of the current 150 animals in our care came to us orphaned, as well as adult animals that are sick or injured, all largely due to human impact. If places like Wild Care and wildlife rehabilitators did not exist, where else would they go? They deserve compassionate care, and another chance at life.

### We'd like to share some of our favorite EGGtraordinary second-chance stories from this season so far...

You may have read this story in the newspaper, or saw it on the Boston news stations... Wild Care received two sets of Osprey eggs from nests that were removed from chimneys by the USDA. With permission from MassWildlife, the eggs were incubated, hatched, and reared. All four chicks were eventually placed into suitable wild foster nests at the Cape Cod Museum of Natural History in Brewster, and Bud's Go-Karts in Harwich. The chicks were immediately accepted by their foster families

***"Hatching the Osprey eggs, rearing the chicks, and watching them grow up in the wild just as they were intended to be has been one of the most rewarding experiences in my life. This is what it's all about." - Stephanie***

### Not Too Shrewd!

In April, we received a first in the Wild Care Nursery... a litter of orphaned Short-tailed Shrews! A nest of these tiny baby mammals was displaced in a backyard during leaf raking. We attempted to reunite them with their mom, to no avail. It was no small task to provide care to such SMALL creatures with a BIG metabolism. As adults, shrews consume over 90% of their body weight in a day, and are active day and night. They are also the only venomous mammal in North America. Their venom, not enough to harm a human, is used to immobilize insects and small prey. Initially the shrews had to be nursed every 2.5 hours. In just a few weeks, they were all grown up and released back in the backyard where they were found. Shrews are important to our ecosystems. Shrews knew?

***"Whether it's a creature as common as a shrew, or endangered species like Piping Plovers and Diamondback Terrapins, our motto stays the same. Every animal matters."***

### Reunited and it Feels So Good!

We received a 3-day old Piping Plover chick that was washed over in the surf at Newcomb Hollow Beach, Truro. Our Animal Care Coordinator Jennifer, stabilized it after hours. The next day it was bright and alert. With permission from USFWS and MassWildlife, and with Cape Cod National Seashore Lead Science Technician, we reunited the chick with its parents and three siblings. We watched with teary eyes as the mother approached the chick and brooded it.

### Continuing the Life Cycle for Diamonds in the Rough

Wild Care is currently incubating eight "buckets" of Diamondback Terrapin eggs. These beautiful turtles are a Threatened Species in the State of Massachusetts due to vehicle strikes and loss of habitat. Wild Care has received several hit-by-car female terrapins this season. For the ones who could not be saved, Wild Care extracted their eggs. Under our state wildlife rehabilitation permits, we are incubating the eggs to continue the cycle of life for these important turtles. Stay tuned for hatching updates!



Osprey hatchlings are fed a nutritious diet by Executive Director Stephanie Ellis



Piping Plover chick is reunited with its mother after life-saving rehabilitation at Wild Care.



Diamondback Terrapin eggs  
The tried and true bucket incubation method is just as successful as the incubator method.

*These incredible animals have a second chance at life thanks to the care they received made possible by your support!*



#### Northern Gannet

This stunning bird was found with fishing hooks in its foot and chest, and line wrapped around its bill. With lifesaving treatment it was full of energy and released at high tide in Eastham.

Photo Kerry Reid



Photo Kerry Reid

#### Common Loon

A beautiful male Common Loon in full breeding plumage was found grounded in Chatham suffering from a puncture wound on its abdomen. With antibiotics, pain management and time in the swim therapy pool. It made a full recovery and was released.



Photo Kerry Reid

#### Barred Owl

After being hit by a car in Marstons Mills this incredible raptor suffered from head trauma, was in shock, and had embedded fishing tackle in its wing. The wire was removed and after ten days it was moved into the large flight aviary for pre-release conditioning. It is now flying free again!



#### Southern Flying Squirrel

This orphaned Southern Flying Squirrel was brought to us after it was found ice cold and lifeless on a trail in Brewster. After a week of several nutritional feedings each day, this little squirrel finally became stable and was released.

This Short-tailed Shrew sleeps between feedings. Read the story above.



*We hope that you have enjoyed these success stories as much as we have. Your support is crucial to the lifesaving care they receive.*

*Please help us reach our 30th Year Anniversary goal of \$30,000.*

## DONATE TODAY

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

### Make a one-time donation

Help us through the remainder of the year. Your donation helps provide care to over 1,800 animals.

Use the QR Code below to make a donation online!

### Become a Monthly Sustainer

Support our wildlife patients into the future!  
<https://www.wildcarecapecod.org/donate-today/>

### Become a Planned Giver

Make Wild Care a beneficiary of your estate. Contact Executive Director Stephanie  
[sellis@wildcarecapecod.org](mailto:sellis@wildcarecapecod.org).

### Volunteer Your Time

[www.wildcarecapecod.org](http://www.wildcarecapecod.org). Click : "Volunteer"

**Virtual Wild Care** - Visit our Facebook page, @WildCareCapeCod, for all the news. Join us on Facebook Live, Fridays at 2:00 PM- for patient updates, virtual tours and more.

If you are already a Monthly Sustainer - we deeply appreciate your ongoing support.

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

*Stephanie Ellis*

Stephanie Ellis  
Executive Director, Wild Care, Inc.



508-240-2255  
10 Smith Lane, Eastham, MA 02642  
[www.wildcarecapecod.org](http://www.wildcarecapecod.org)