



Merry Christmas

To all our Wildlife Friends

December 14, 2020

To

To All of Our Wildlife Friends,

Merry Christmas from Wildlife Works' staff, volunteers and patients. It is the time of year that we take a break from our animal activities to wish you and yours the merriest of Christmases and to give you a quick update of our activities. At WWI, every year is filled with amazing rehabs and unique challenges and this year's challenge has been the Covid virus!!!! Though initially we did not experience any decrease in donations we have had to tap into our savings multiple times during the past several months.

On the plus side:

- We grew by leaps and bounds this year when Morgan Barron joined us as WWI's newly licensed rehabber. Morgan hit the ground running at the start of the pandemic, treating fawns and racoons at her own rehab center in Mt Pleasant.
- Mid-summer brought us a Great Blue Heron with severe fishing line injuries to one leg and foot. Many weeks of bandaging & medications and many, many minnows later, we were delighted to release her on a local wetlands. You can watch the release video on our Facebook page.
- Finally we are so thankful for the remote cameras and monitors we purchased this year with grant monies. Remote viewing helps us to assess the wildlings progress and identify any problems in a timely manner. It is also both enjoyable and educational to watch the wildlings in an undisturbed setting. If you have time, visit our Facebook page and watch our little possums working diligently at night building their nests with their tails!

Overall, since 1993, WWI has treated more than 13,000 wildlings, releasing an estimated 70% (not including the non-treatable wildlings who did not survive the first 24 hours). On the 9th of this month we celebrated our 27th year since incorporation. Since then we have treated and released more than 6,900 wildlings and the annual average keeps growing.

While there is much to celebrate, I also have great concern as the pandemic continues to negatively impact our operations. I don't know what else to say, except that our future remains precarious - both monetarily and in terms of staffing. One thing that is a costly reality for us is our raptor census. We have three turkey vultures that will be here till April or May. We also have two red-tails, one red-shouldered, a great horned owl, a barred owl, and two screech owls. None of these patients will be short-term because of the weather. And let me tell you, feeder animals, their mainstay, are certainly not cheap. Each shipment costs us more than \$300.

As always, we are more than grateful for all of our faithful supporters who have never let us down. We have never closed to admissions because of lack of funding. We truly appreciate everything that our loyal supporters have done for us this year and in years past. If you have made a recent donation to us, please accept our thanks and disregard the appeal part of this letter. If not, and if your finances allow, please consider a holiday or year-end donation. It will help us get through the winter. If you would like to designate your contribution as a gift to someone, we would be happy to send them a card of acknowledgement.

Thank you again for supporting Wildlife Works, and may your holidays and the coming year be filled with peace, love, joy and many wonderful wildlife moments.



Beth Shoy

May your holidays be filled with joy and many wonderful wildlife moments.

