

# Sarvey Wildlife Care Center

Luna (photo by Nadine Fulton)



- Sarvey depends solely on public donations.
- We are **not** funded by the state.
- The average cost of care for a wildlife patient is **\$200**.
- Wildlife rehabilitation is a community effort. Concerned citizens often find animals in distress and bring them to our center for care.
- Please consider becoming a regular contributor.

## Another Wild Year

Thank you to everyone who helped make 2016 a success. After 35 years, we are still going strong and are here everyday of the year taking care of patients. We are now into the middle of January 2017, and our facility seems to be locked in a winter wonderland of snow, ice, and very cold days. On Christmas Eve, we had a tree collapse – partly due to the soaking rains earlier in the season and then compounded by the heavy, wet snow over the holiday week. While we were lucky that damage was minimal, the tree came down in our educational area. Sadly, the flight cage housing our Northern Saw-whet owl, Luna, was destroyed. When her habitat was damaged, she escaped into the night. Luna was able to fly. She was with us due to some vision impairment that she developed after being hit by a car. We hope she is doing well living as a wild owl again and will miss her.

Over 1,927 wildlife patients arrived at our facility last year. Many were orphaned babies that were raised and eventually released. Sadly, as is the case every year, the majority of the animals we see are here because of some kind of human interaction. Whether it was attacked by a cat or dog, hit by a car, injured by yard equipment, or displaced by development, we cannot deny that most of these patients are here because of us. So, it is wonderful that many people understand this is a community effort and we have a duty to help our wildlife neighbors.

There are countless organizations in need of support and donations. Some are doing great work in other countries saving glamorous animals – lions, giraffes, elephants, rhinos – but, we are working locally helping the apex predators and other wildlife species that play a key role in helping keep the ecosystem healthy in our own backyards. Thank you for supporting our local efforts. We appreciate that with all the great charitable work being done out there, you support us. We truly would not be able to do this without your continued help and ongoing support.

In 2016, you not only helped us with your generous cash donations, but you also helped us by donating over \$6500 in food. We have had bags of dog food, frozen and fresh fish, game meat, baby food, and other food we use to prepare diets brought to us as In-Kind donations. Some were collection drives by students or families, youth clubs, or others inspired to take up a special fundraising effort. Boxes and bags full of towels, sheets, and other supplies have also made their way here. Remember, you can visit our website and shop using Amazon Smile and send us items from our wish list too!

Many of our animals need special food to give them an appropriate “wild” diet. To this end, we have purchased \$19,000 in rodents for our raptors, coyotes, bobcats etc., over 750 lbs of various birdseeds, about 2600 lbs of grains for waterfowl, and 1200 lbs of special feed for squirrels, chipmunks, and other small mammals. We went through dozens and dozens of heat lamp bulbs, bales and bales of hay and straw, hundreds of thousands of mealworms, pounds and pounds of berries and grapes, jar after jar of applesauce, hundreds of pounds of walnuts, and countless dozens of eggs – just to list a few. Our total food budget alone was \$40,000. So, you can just imagine the cost of bandages, syringes, saline, antibiotics, antifungals, and the myriad of other things that are used in triaging and treating our patients.

For the Wild Ones,

*Suzanne West, Executive Director*



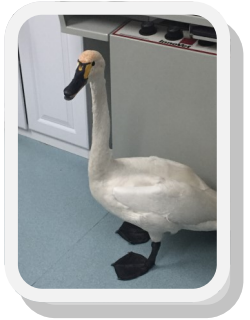
Tree damage by heavy snow

## PATIENTS OF THE WEEK



**Tundra Swan** - This poor swan was shot through the head and brought to us for help. She was fortunate that the shot passed right through the head, missing important areas like the eyes and brain.

She spent time in our ICU as a critical patient but eventually started to eat on her own. She was so happy when she was finally released and she flew and flew and flew and flew. Many other swans were there to greet her and you can see video on our Facebook page of the release. It was quite amazing and beautiful to see her soaring through the air. *Status - released.* (Note: you do not need a Facebook account to view our page or videos. Find links on our website blog page.)



This **Juvenile Merlin** was probably hit by a car. He was discovered on a road in Granite Falls. His initial exam indicated some head trauma, but nothing appeared broken. He began eating on his own, which was an encouraging sign. *Status - released.*



Northern red-shafted flicker—suffered a window strike. *Status is pending.*



**Anna's Hummingbirds** - We have two female hummingbirds in our care. One arrived on 11/28, with suspected head trauma. The other one came to us on 11/30, after losing all her tail feathers in a cat attack.

Our area has many resident hummingbirds that live here year round. If you have feeders out for these and other birds, please remember to keep them clean.

Wet and icy conditions can cause feeders to become moldy and damp. Salmonella and other diseases can be spread by dirty feeders. Keep sugar solutions and seed fresh and clean! Our feathered friends will thank you - and so will we - fewer sick birds mean fewer patients needing our help.



**Northern saw-whet owl**—he was hit by a car but survived. His head trauma resolved and he was released.

This great horned owl was stuck in a tree in Everett. Tangled in kite string, we worked with Canopy Cat Rescue to safely get him out of the tree. He was released by our winter intern, Katie (left).



These three Douglas squirrels were late-season babies and released in early November.



## COYOTE TAILS

Not all of our rescues and cases have happy endings. These two coyotes have different tales to share about their experiences in the wild, their rescues, and ultimately their fate.

On January 14, we had taken in 18 animals so far for the year. That is more than one a day. It also marked the first rescue of the year.

A homeowner called us and said that there was a hurt coyote with a trap attached to one leg hiding in their shed. The trap had a big chain attached to it. These leg hold traps are illegal and this poor guy was in bad shape.



The shed was dark and filled with tires and other things we had to move and relocate to make it safer and easier to access him. He finally moved into a better location for us to stop him with a net and we were able to cover his head and hold him down while the crate was brought into the shed.

Barred owl

We brought him back to the center and discovered that his injuries were extreme. The trap had severed his paw and also had him by the tail. We cannot release a coyote with an amputation, and sadly we had to euthanize him.

We wish the story of this rescue had a happy ending and he could be returned to the wild – but, some days all we can do is end their suffering. We cannot save them all, but we can take comfort in knowing he would not be alone suffering a terrible death in a dark shed. We share his story because he deserved better. For the Wild Ones – may he rest in peace.



Our last newsletter shared the story of other coyotes in our care. We had released 3 of the 4 we had at the time, and just after the new year – the fourth one was finally ready for release.

He came to us in September, extremely emaciated and suffering from a terrible case of mange. He literally looked like a skeleton with scabs. His big ears and the fear in his eyes made your heart hurt – we just wanted to see him eat, put on weight, and develop a healthy coat of fur.

He did. Soon, with the proper medications and a good diet, his fragile looking skin was replaced with patches of fur and he started to grow bigger and stronger. He had a beautiful coat of fur, a great body weight, and did not even resemble his former self. We hope he lives a long, healthy life.





## ***Sarvey Wildlife Care Center***

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Thank you to Cub Scout Pack #288 for  
building us squirrel nest boxes!



**Alistair**

Many thanks to  
all our  
volunteers!  
We appreciate  
you!



**Melissa**



**Tina**