

Philadelphia Metro Wildlife Center

Winter 2024

Preserving Pennsylvania's
wildlife through rescue,
rehabilitation, and education.



REHAB NEWS

An update from our Executive Director, Rick Schubert

In this exciting episode of the ongoing saga of the Philadelphia Metro Wildlife Center, our theme in Year Six is: ***built to serve, built to endure***.

We'll take a look at how much work we've done in the region over the past 12 months, how we've grown, improved and upgraded our facilities, some emerging threats to our local wildlife, and why we're an enduring community institution that's worthy of your support.

It was a busy year for us, our staff and volunteers logging in 18,000 answered phone calls and almost 4,000 animal admissions. With the ongoing threat of Highly Pathogenic Avian Influenza, we remained the only wildlife rehabilitation center in 5 counties that accepted water birds such as ducks, geese, herons, and gulls, as well as other avian species like sparrows, starlings and doves. We're very fond of these birds and are happy to go out of our way to accommodate them. For much of the year we were the only center in Southeastern PA accepting certain mammal species such as raccoons, foxes, woodchucks, and skunks. We have a deep respect for these animals and it's our great joy to have them, but far more so when we successfully release them back into their natural habitat. With these mammalian species, we've had a great success rate and prevented disease outbreaks by adhering to strict protocols of sanitation, deworming, and vaccination, as well as carefully vetting each situation over the phone to prevent the "kidnapping" of healthy wild babies.

At the beginning of the year we were gifted a wonderful, state of the art, brand new digital X-ray machine. This machine is really far out. It has vastly improved our diagnostics by allowing us to easily do radiographs at will, instead of schlepping the animals back and forth to our veterinarian. It has even allowed us to help out other local wildlife centers and rescues when they need it. Additionally, we are steadily improving in the areas of ophthalmic medicine, parasitology, and toxicology.

Dig it, with your help, we can take a stand in our increasingly out-of-balance world to say that our fellow creatures on Planet Earth deserve a place to live side-by-side with humans in peace. One little victory.

Staff

Rick Schubert, *Executive Director*
Michele Wellard, *Assistant Director*
Lisa Gruber, *Business Manager*
Ben Coleman, *Communications*
Scott Senhouse, *Facilities*

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Lisa Gruber, *President*
Carm Riggs, *Vice President*
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Lindy Snider
Emily Seymour, VMD
George Wood



Emerging threats to wildlife

Gunshots

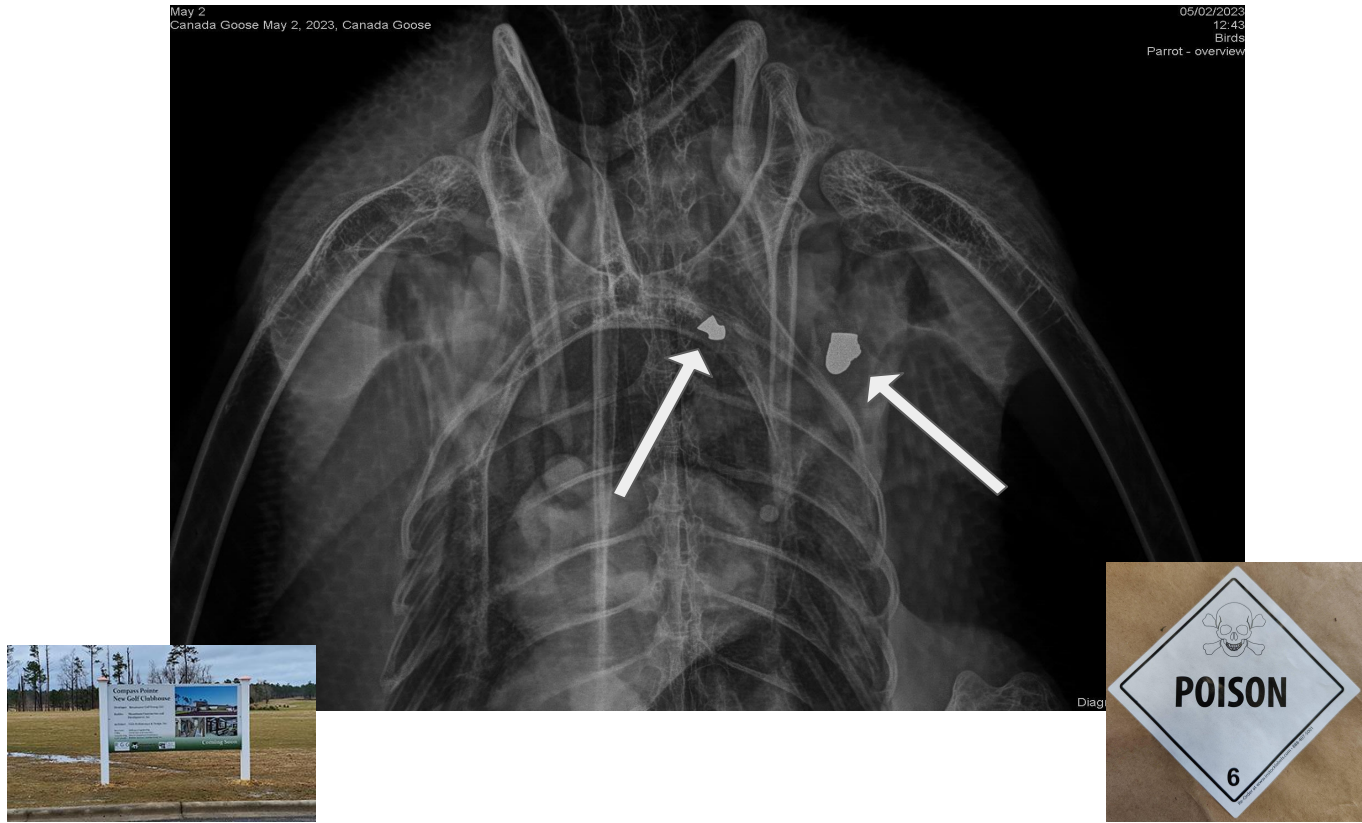
We've had an increase this year in animals cruelly and unlawfully shot, either by rifles or by .22 caliber airgun pellets. This is not lawful hunting, it's illegal and purely malicious. Our X-ray machine too often turns up bullets and pellets lodged in great horned owls, red tailed hawks, and Canada geese. Unfortunately, sometimes these animals are not able to be saved.

Pesticides

We fill our world with all sorts of toxic substances: rodenticides, herbicides, chemical fertilizers, Roundup, resmethrin, all of these take their toll on wildlife. The majority of bald eagles and herons brought into wildlife rehab test positive for lead poisoning. Rat poison winds up in wildlife and kills our raptors and other natural predators. Wildlife rehabbers are in a race against time to undo the damage to wildlife caused by humanity's addiction to profit-motive toxicity.

Habitat loss

The march of "progress" has left almost no spaces remaining for our wild neighbors, with land developers claiming every square inch of habitat for new construction. With construction comes industrial waste, pollution, ever-dwindling habitat, and orphaned and broken-up families of wild animals. Humans, surely, have a right to safe, clean spaces to live, and it's our hope that one day humanity will possess the wisdom to keep this in balance, to take what we need and no more, and to leave adequate space for our wild brethren. Until then, wildlife rehabbers must struggle to raise and find habitat for the stream of displaced wild babies brought to our door.



Stories of hope

Eastern Striped Skunk

This poor animal was brought to us with its body fully wedged and stuck in the metal end of a drainage pipe. The rough edges of the drain pipe had torn wounds into his sides which were infested with maggots. After putting the animal under sedation, we were able to carefully extract him and treat his wounds. A few weeks later, he was released back at the location from whence he came. We really dig skunks here, and even though they're often considered undesirable animals, we love to show people how they're harmless, peaceful creatures that we can all share the world with.



Great Blue Heron

This beautiful creature was all wrapped up in fishing line and had to be extracted. Although it did not have any fractures, in its struggles it had torn its pectoral muscles and tendons, so that one wing hung so low it dragged on the ground. We never lost hope, and after three months of recuperation and physical therapy, he was slowly able to build himself back to the point where he was flying effortlessly back and forth in one of our flight cages and catching and eating live fish. Watching him fly off at his release site after months of slow improvement was extra rewarding for us. We frequently get ducks, turtles, geese, gulls, herons, and other water creatures tangled up in fishing line or caught on fishing hooks. If you see hooks and lines left neglectfully in the natural environment, please do your part to save wildlife by removing them!





Philadelphia Metro Wildlife Center

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Norristown, PA 19403

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www.phillywildlife.org

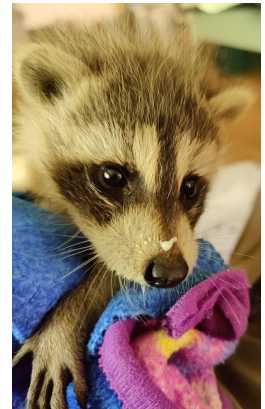
Preserving Pennsylvania's
wildlife through rescue,
rehabilitation, and education

Your donation is hope for hurt animals

Your gift allows us to address threats to local wildlife



We receive no federal, state, or local funding. It is only through your donations that we are able to do our work.



Select your desired donation amount below and mail form along with check payable to

Philadelphia Metro Wildlife Center
2815 Township Line Road, Norristown, PA 19403

Or donate securely online at:
phillywildlife.org/donate



Your support will fuel our growth in the following target areas:

- Diagnostic tools to help us identify underlying disease and injury in admitted animals - blood collection and centrifuge, fecal test and floatation kits
- Physical therapy and convalescence facilities - aquatic/waterfowl enclosure, raptor test flight enclosure, multifunctional rehabilitation enclosure
- Upgrade patient care facilities - we continue to transform the old horse farm into a world class wildlife hospital
- Staff/volunteer immunization and development

Name: _____

Address: _____

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