A Fox Family Affair

by mandy FEAVEL

One of the red foxes in our care that was treated for mange. This picture was taken shortly before release in its outdoor enclosure.

During the first week of October the Wildlife In Need Center admitted two red foxes, both from the same neighborhood. Citizens in that neighborhood noticed the foxes seemed to be losing weight and fur and contacted us out of concern for the animals. After giving them advice on how to safely capture and transport the foxes in live traps, the neighborhood successfully trapped both foxes and brought them to us within the same week. They were both males, one older than the other, making them most likely related, possibly even father and son.

Both foxes were suffering from mange, a mite that is found naturally in the environment. A family of foxes commonly contracts mange because they will den together, allowing the mange to spread easily throughout the family unit. The mite gets under the skin causing itchy, irritated bumps. Animals that contract mange will often scratch their skin causing fur loss or even open sores. Dead skin cells begin to collect in the areas the mites have burrowed which causes fur growth to stop. If people are able to live trap a fox they believe has mange, the Wildlife In Need Center can attempt to treat the fox with an anti-parasite medication.
Eating/hunting. This results in the animal becoming very weak and sick. Stabilizing their body and its vital fluids are the initial steps of treatment, along with administering the anti-parasite medication to kill the mites. After several days of rehydrating and the fox is sedated for its initial exam. A small stipend may be available upon completion of a full-time internship.

INTERNS

Interested in a Wildlife Rehabilitation Career? by mandy FEAVEL

Every summer Wildlife In Need recruits interns for our summer animal care internship program. The interns get hands-on experience in wildlife rehabilitation while helping the center with its influx of summer patients. Please consider the internship if you are pursuing a career in biology, zoology or a related field.

Intern’s duties and expectations are likely to include, but are not limited to:

• Performing basic patient care and treatment, including food preparation, bottle feeding of infant mammals, hand feeding nesting passerines, and cleaning enclosures
• Administering medications and assisting with medical treatments and initial patient exams
• Learning about the anatomy and natural ecology of different species
• Maintaining accurate records on patients
• Rescuing and transporting wildlife

Qualifications: Summer interns must be available to work 40 hours a week during May-August/September. All interns will work some nights, weekends and holidays. Some part-time opportunities may be available for qualified candidates.

Requirements:

• Be reliable, punctual, and work well under pressure
• Assist volunteers, staff and public in a friendly, professional way with a positive attitude
• Must be in good physical condition (able to lift 30-50lbs) and work long hours on your feet
• Some experience in animal husbandry is recommended, but not required

If interested in applying send cover letter, resume and two professional references to:
Mandy Feavel
Animal Care Manager
mfeavel@helpingwildlife.org

Winter Wildlife Tips
by chelsea SHAPIRO

With the arrival of cold weather, here are some things you can do to help the wildlife in your yard stay healthy this winter:

1. Offer a water source. Heated bird baths provide an open water source for birds and other wildlife.
2. Keep your feeders stocked! High energy foods, like black oil sunflower and suet, can give birds the extra fat content they need to get through those bitter cold days.
3. Disinfect your feeders and bird baths weekly with a 10% bleach solution and rinse thoroughly. Diseases, like conjunctivitis, can spread more readily in winter because bird feeders are more populated when food is scarce.
4. Don’t throw away your old Christmas tree! Put it in your yard for wildlife to use for shelter. If you don’t have use for it in your yard, we will be happy to assist you!

If you have any questions about wildlife, please call 262-965-3090 and we will be happy to assist you!
Success at Fine Wine and Dine
Wildlife in Need Center held its second annual Fine Wine and Dine themed “An Evening in Italy” on October 3 at the Elm Grove Woman’s Club. Guests enjoyed fine wine complementing the evening’s five course meal. Featured was Emcee Toya Washington of Channel 12 and the Center’s Ambassador “Sova” the Barred Owl. A wine raffle, auction, and appeal for giving resulted in generating over $12,000 for WINC. The appeal was dedicated to veterinary costs and successful in producing over $6,200 in donations. Thank you to all who attended and supported our mission. Event sponsors included The Business Journal, Action Graphics and Winner, Klioman, Moter & Repp, S.C. We thank co-chairs Kim Bachtel, Abby Lorenz and Sandy Harsh for their guidance in making “An Evening in Italy” a success. Keep an eye on our website for details of next year’s Fine Wine and Dine!

DAPHNÉ’S DISPATCH
WINC’s Wish List
Did you get everything you wanted for Christmas? Our patients certainly enjoyed the bountiful donations that people contributed to our Center during the holiday season. Donations from the public are critically important to our life-saving efforts for the animals in our care. Even though the holidays are over, our patients are still in need of some “gifts” – be a part of our mission by donating items from our Wish List! Here is a list of the items that we need most at this time.

• Nut Meats
• Whole Nuts (Often on sale during this time of year)
• Puppy Chow
• Knova EVO (Cat & Kitten Food)
• Flavored Pedialyte®
• Earthworms
• Gram Scales
• Extension Cords (indoor & outdoor)
• Calcium Chloride Ice Melt (plant safe)
• Artificial Plants and Trees
• Simple Green® (concentrate and spray bottles)
• Paper Towels

Though these items won’t go directly towards helping the animals, our office staff could use a few “gifts” too!

• Postage Stamps
• Copier Paper (color-coded and brights)

A full Wish List can be found on our website. If you have any questions about the items listed above, or come across an item in your house or in the store that you think would be of use to our Center, please don’t hesitate to give our office a call at 262-965-3090. Thank you!

WHAT’S THE BUZZ development
Remembering Special People
During the past year, donors have made gifts to WINC in honor or memory of special people in their lives. This issue of WILDLIFE TRACKS recognizes those very special gifts.

In honor of Rome and Aimee Edelstein
Jack Edelstein and Sharon Lawon

In memory of Susan M. Ritter Zweinstein
Danny Houch

In memory of Virginia Wittmann
Total Weld Systems LLC
Mary Jo Wells

Linda Maner
Dakota Edmondson
Craig and Sandy Karrerarczak

In memory of Rachel Richardson
Dr. Tom and Mary Roberts

In memory of “Lady” Reinders
Summer Sperry
Laurie Reinders
Richard Reinders

In memory of Danny Wiedmann
Cow Branding
Beth and Ken Wels

Robert and Mary Hudetz

In honor of KT Baden-Jones
Dr. Tom and Mary Roberts

In honor of “Bake” and “Stafe” Held
Dr. Tom and Mary Roberts

In memory of Bob Richards
Jim Evans

In memory of Resolved Kopute
Susan and Perry Kitz

In memory of Lauren Thompson
Barry Berman

In memory of Kathy Drew
Joseph Hurcar

In memory of Michael Salentine
Judy Salentine

In honor of Leslie Smith
William Hansen

In memory of Nancy McConnell
Caroline and John McConnell

In honor of Dr. Tom Roberts
John and Lisa Drewes

In memory of Wally Heene
Donald and Maryl Monteckono

In memory of Lucille Gasz
Ging and Marilyn Baker

In memory of Martin R Calabret
Lori Chaddel

Eastern Gray Squirrels, like the little guy in this picture, love when they are offered whole nuts in their diets.

FROM THE DIRECTORS
2014 - Inspirational Service for WINC by lisa ROVE
WINC moved into our wonderful new building in the summer of 2012. However, our building funds did not cover landscaping and the grounds around the building were merely bare dirt. Board of Director member Dr. Tom Roberts stepped up to help. Tom and his wife Mary are longtime supporters of WINC, Mary is a licensed rehabilitator. Tom is also an avid gardener and in 2013 built paths and planted grass, shrubs, and trees to make our outside cage area a place of tranquility and beauty for our patients, staff, and volunteers to enjoy. He created a water garden area to deal with rainwater runoff from the caging area. In 2014, he unveiled the yard in front of the building, creating beautiful gardens with many native plants to provide seed and berries to our local wildlife. Many thanks to Tom (who alone has volunteered over 750 hours) and his many helpers including Lauren Cranewald, Pat Herrmann, Joel Reinders, Rose Knapp and her Lad Lake students, and Chance Biller. MSgt and his team from 128th Air Refueling Wing (who came out for work days). For 2015, he plans a wildflower prairie on the west side of our building.

2014 is a milestone for Rose Knapp, a volunteer who started volunteering with WINC in 1994, our first year. In addition to volunteering personally, Rose works at Lad Lake and involves her students. Rose and her Lad Lake Team have helped WINC with yard work, maintenance, construction, and just about any dirty, hard labor job we have. Rose is also the force behind WINC’s annual Pancake Breakfast. Rose and her team are active in our community, helping so many other organizations and people as well. Rose celebrated 35 years of working at Lad Lake in November 2014! We can only imagine how many students, their families, and people in the community she has helped. Congratulations and many thanks, Rose!

2014 - Wildlife Highlights
In 2014 the DNR allowed the rehabilitation of deer again in confirmed Chronic Wast- ing Disease counties. While WINC doesn’t have the large outdoor pens to raise fawns, we tagged and transferred 4 orphaned fawns to wildlife rehabilitator Judy Stephanson in Washington County who raised and released the deer. Thank you, Judy! WINC also evaluated several fawns and re-united them with their mothers, one of which was from Rose Glen Elementary School’s playground in Waukesha.

• A very large Common Snapping Turtle admired June 11, 2013 will be overwintered again in 1 of WINC’s 2 aquatic rooms. A large section of her carapace (upper shell) was missing from trauma and is slowly growing back. The shell over the center of the wound is still too soft to risk releasing her; she will so spend another winter at WINC with a hopeful spring release.

• On June 20, 2014 WINC released a Broad-winged Hawk that was transferred from Four Lakes Wildlife Center - Dane County Humane Society. The hawk came to the Dane Center with a fractured wing, but by the time it healed, migration had passed. These hawks winter in South America so this bird needed an indoor winter enclosure in Wisconsin which Four Lakes did not have. We accepted the transfer in November 2013 and turned our baby mammal nursery room into an indoor enclosure for the Broad-winged that was released when hsi species returned to Wisconsin this summer.

MISSION STATEMENT
To provide wildlife rehabilitation to Wisconsin wildlife with the intent to release back to the native habitat, conduct research designed to further the positive impact of rehabilitation, and provide quality community education programs and services.
VOluNTEERS

Celebrating a Few of WINC’s Finest by Lisa Rowe

On November 11, 2014, Wildlife in Need was proud to honor Leslie Kiehl and Paul Matson at the Association of Fundraising Professionals 36th National Philanthropy Day Celebration luncheon. Leslie Kiehl started with our center as a volunteer in 2001. She became staff in 2003—at that time we had Dakota, a Great Horned Owl, and Slither, an Eastern Fox Snake, as our only Education Ambassadors and presented programs using slides. Leslie grew and developed our Education curriculum. WINC added other Educational Ambassadors and Leslie works with all of them to develop the relationship of trust needed to work with them on programs. Since 2005, WINC has presented 1,059 programs to 122,571 people from pre-kindergarten thru seniors and Leslie has scheduled and presented over 90% of these programs! In addition to her main job of education, Leslie helps staff the office. She also assists Animal Care staff in restraining patients and handling our Educational Ambassadors for their quarterly in-house health exams.

Paul Matson became a volunteer with WINC in 2005 when his daughter Chelsea Shapiro became staff. Paul has been an Animal Care volunteer, helped build our outdoor caging, done various maintenance tasks, and helped out wherever needed. Paul is also a generous donor and regular attendee at all our fundraisers, often bringing guests. Although not a baker himself, Paul encourages co-workers to bake cookies for the World’s Greatest Cookie Sale, delivers the cookies to WINC, buys and eats them.

Our great thanks and congratulations to these wonderful WINC team members!

Winc’s mission: Education

Meet Meadow: WINC’s Newest Ambassador by Leslie Kiehl

What is black, yellow, and reddish brown, can grow to over 8 feet long and rattles its’ tail when threatened? Our newest educational ambassador, Meadow! Last November Meadow, a 2013 captive bred bull snake hatchling, was donated to WINC by board member Kim Banach. With the retirement of Slither, our Western Fox Snake, WINC was looking for a new snake to join Maze, our Corn Snake, as an educational ambassador. When Kim heard of our need for new educational reptiles, she made quick work of finding us an excellent specimen. Jared, Kim’s son, who is well-versed in reptile husbandry, fostered Meadow and ensured that she was healthy and accustomed to handling before she became an educator.

Meadow has more than tripled her weight since coming to WINC and weighs in at a healthy 1 1/2 lbs. Although bullsnakes are named for their “bullish” temperament, Meadow has been a delight to handle. Her unique color pattern, making her appear to be three different snakes, makes her an exceptional specimen for education. Please stop by our Gathering room at WINC and pay Meadow a visit or book an education program for your school, church or civic organization to see her in action. To schedule/book a program visit our website and fill out the education program request form or contact Leslie Kiehl at lkiehl@helpingwildlife.org.

Vision Statement

It is the vision of the Wildlife In Need Center to become a nationally recognized Wildlife Rehabilitation Center that serves as a hub for other satellite facilities and is financially stable. WINC will work in collaboration with the University of Wisconsin-Waukesha and the University of Wisconsin Colleges and Extensions to be identified as the number one resource in the community that promotes an ethic of care and respect for the natural world.