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Dear WildCare Family,

To paraphrase the poet Robert Burns, “The best-laid plans of mice and men often go awry.” As many of you know, we have worked for several years planning and fundraising to renovate the site at Silveira Ranch to replace our aging WildCare facility. However, during that period, construction costs have risen astronomically due to the current building boom, and our detailed planning revealed many additional expenses that were not fully foreseen at the outset of the project. So it is with mixed emotions that I’m writing about a significant change we’re making in WildCare’s future plans.

After painful deliberations, and analyzing all costs associated with planning, construction, and longer term increases in operating costs, we have decided to terminate our lease agreement with the Silveiras through a negotiated settlement.

WildCare needs a more cost-effective solution that can provide relief to our current overcrowding and help us grow and improve our programs. The Board and I have worked diligently with our professional advisors to examine all alternatives and we came to the difficult conclusion that the development of the Silveira Ranch site would simply cost too much and take too long. It was not prudent to burden the organization with the anticipated costs, or to build such an expensive project, on a property for which we only had a 34-year lease. I know this is a disappointment on many levels, but this decision will be much better and more practical for WildCare in the long run.

So what happens next? Well, we will continue to run our amazing programs at the current Albert Park location. We will also be completing a feasibility study as to the best options moving forward. I will absolutely keep you updated as to next steps and plans.

I know all of you are strongly devoted to the future of WildCare. I will, of course, be keeping you advised as our alternative plan takes shape. We could not do the work we do for animals and children without the backing of supporters like you. We are so grateful to you for your generosity to WildCare and passion for our vital programs. We hope we can continue to count on your support and we appreciate your patience as we adjust our course.

Thank you for your wonderful support of WildCare!

Sincerely,

Vaughn R. Maurice
Executive Director

Get ready to meet our spring 2018 baby patients!

Follow us on social media for patient updates, videos and tips on how to live well with wildlife!

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WildCare advocates for wildlife for a sustainable world.

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Photo by: Holly Wallace
Editor: Alison Hermance
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Website: Alison Hermance

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wait! don’t trim that tree!

Even as you read this, wild animals are probably using your bushes, shrubs and trees as nurseries for their young. WildCare asks you to please hold off on all non-emergency tree work until autumn to give wild families the chance to grow up healthy. Always check very carefully for nests before any pruning or trimming, and call WildCare’s Living with Wildlife Hotline if you find a baby animal on the ground 415-456-7283.

celebrate california wildlife day at wildcare

March 20, 2018 is California Wildlife Day! Passed in a unanimous vote in the California State Senate, the designation of the day of the Spring Equinox every year as California Wildlife Day is meant to advance the preservation and protection of our ecosystem for future generations. On California Wildlife Day, bring or send a “baby gift” for the orphaned animals in care at WildCare, and do a craft that will help wildlife stay safe! Then join us at WildCare in the evening for a special presentation by WildCare’s veterinarian, Dr. Juliana Sorem. Learn more at discoverwildcare.org/wildlifeday.

does that baby animal need help?

Most of the baby animals that arrive at WildCare are orphaned and desperately need our care, but every so often, a baby animal is accidentally “kidnapped!” Fawns and baby jackrabbits are the most likely to be “kidnapped,” as their mothers leave them alone for up to 12 hours at a time. Use our handy “Found an Animal” chart on page 15 of this magazine to determine if a baby animal needs help or call our Hotline at 415-456-7283 for advice.

celebrate mrs. t

Join WildCare naturalists and our Wildlife Ambassadors for our first annual WildCare Family Nature Day on April 21, 2018! This will be a splendid day full of nature, animals and fun, honoring the legacy of Elizabeth Terwilliger. Learn more at discoverwildcare.org/familyday.

dine out, do good!

WildCare’s annual Dining for Wildlife event is happening this year on May 15 and 16! Make reservations through WildCare to dine at one of our fabulous participating restaurants, enjoy an excellent meal and know you’re helping wildlife at the same time! Learn more at discoverwildcare.org/dining.

MAKE IT MONTHLY!

Be part of a special group making monthly gifts to WildCare, ensuring that we can continue saving wildlife all year long.

You can change or cancel your gift at any time.

Sign up online at: discoverwildcare.org/monthly
2018 has been designated the **Year of the Bird** by National Geographic and other leading bird advocacy and research organizations.

At WildCare we know that our avian friends (which make up about 60% of the patients we see in our Wildlife Hospital) need this conservation attention, now more than ever.

This year features the centennial of the passing of the Migratory Bird Treaty Act by Congress. 100 years ago the MBTA was established during a time when hunting and killing birds was common. Several bird species were nearly or completely driven to extinction by wanton hunting. The plume trade, as it was called, very nearly drove the Snowy Egret and the Great Egret to extinction. At the end of the 1800s, fashionable women were wearing hats adorned with feathers, wings and even entire taxidermied birds. The egrets’ brilliant white plumage, especially the beautiful wispy feathers that egrets display during mating season, was in high demand among milliners. It was calculated that in a single nine-month period, the London market had consumed feathers from nearly 130,000 egrets. Observers cited that plume hunters could decimate a rookery of several hundred birds in two or three days. Hunters would kill the adult birds, leaving the chicks to starve or be eaten by predators.

In 1918, the MBTA was enacted to protect migratory bird species and make it illegal for persons to “take” (kill) or harm those birds listed. It also protects their eggs, nests and feathers. This piece of legislation was put into place in an attempt to mitigate the harm done by overhunting, and to reverse the damage to bird species. The MBTA was also intended to bring more focus to conservation efforts and the value of birds.

Fast forward 100 years, and bird populations face a terrifying gauntlet of new hazards. Each year millions of birds are killed by oil spills, wind turbines, power lines, by-catch, etc. Companies likely do not intend to harm birds, but the harm still happens. The MBTA, when properly enforced, can help provide a checks-and-balances system and ensure that companies are held accountable when birds are killed or injured.

Because the MBTA dates back to 1918, its language in the face of modern threats to birds has been interpreted differently by different courts. Historically, most MBTA cases have been brought against those who hunted protected birds without proper permits, but the MBTA also prohibits “take” of migratory birds without regard to a defendant’s intentions or even its failure to exercise care. Different courts have interpreted the responsibility of companies for “accidental” injuries to birds differently, which has meant some violations of the MBTA that have lead to bird deaths have been prosecuted in court, but others have been thrown out.

Obviously the ability to prosecute helps birds. For instance, after the 2010 Deepwater Horizon oil spill in the Gulf of Mexico, BP pled guilty to violating the MBTA. BP paid $100 million to the North American Wetlands Conservation Fund as a part of their settlement agreement. This money was put towards restoration projects in the affected area and beyond. [Article continued on page 5]
The MBTA has never been under as much threat as it is currently. As of this writing, a proposed amendment to an energy bill (H.R. 4239) would alter the previously accepted interpretation of the MBTA to say that companies will no longer be held accountable for “accidental or incidental” harming of birds. This interpretation is supported in a solicitor’s opinion from the Trump administration.

This new and troubling interpretation of the MBTA will likely lead to carelessness by corporations if there is no law to support and protect the over one thousand species covered under the MBTA. Millions more birds’ lives could be lost if this bill and amendment pass into law.

Imagine if BP had not been held accountable, and the millions of lives lost in that catastrophic oil spill in 2010 were simply ignored by our government. Large corporations that harm habitat and wildlife while conducting business need to be held responsible for their actions whether harm is intentional or not. Bird species and individual birds that are affected by human-related causes deserve action and we need to be able to pursue the prosecution of companies that harm the wildlife around us.

**how can you help?**

WildCare staff has put together a list of resources. This list offers websites, organizations and petitions that are working to protect the MBTA and our birds. You can also track the progress of H.R. 4239 and find other pertinent information. Visit discoverwildcare.org/MBTA.

One of the most important things you can do is to contact your representatives and voice your concern and opposition to H.R. 4239 with its amendment to protect corporations from responsibility for bird deaths, and any other legislation that will harm birds, habitat and other wildlife.

**For more resources please visit:** discoverwildcare.org/MBTA

**how does wildcare help birds?**

The majority of WildCare’s hospital patients are birds. These species range from the tiny Golden-crowned Kinglet to the large Osprey. In 2017, WildCare admitted 2,425 birds. Most birds come into the Wildlife Hospital due to human-related causes—-injuries caused by domestic cat attacks, being hit by cars, electrocution, gunshot, oil etc. Wildlife care centers like WildCare all over the United States work very hard to help wildlife, to give animals second chances and to try to make up for some of the negative effects human lives have on the wild ones around us.

One of the other ways WildCare helps is in being involved in the Oiled Wildlife Care Network (OWCN). This network has participants all over California that can respond to oil spills quickly. As an organization, WildCare is also involved in advocacy, both local and more widespread. WildCare stays informed and active in the political issues surrounding the wildlife for which we work so hard to care.
a happy ending for a trapped and poisoned skunk

As a supporter of WildCare, you know how deadly rat poisons can be to the wild animals that eat rodents.

But this adult skunk showed us another way that using rat poisons can be dangerous!

This large, healthy animal got her head firmly trapped in the entrance hole of a large plastic rat poison bait box!

When her rescuers spotted her, the skunk had fallen into a ditch with the enormous box flapping and crashing around her head as she tried to remove it. A skunk doesn’t have opposable thumbs, and it is very difficult for a skunk to loop a claw under the edge of something caught around her neck or over her head.

Cutting through the tough plastic with heavy shears took WildCare’s veterinarian some time, but finally the skunk was free. An exam showed abrasions and swelling on her neck, but no open wounds. Unfortunately actual granules of rat poison were discovered in the animal’s feces the next morning. It took six weeks in care, and many injections of vitamin K, but the Wildlife Hospital was able to counteract the poison. Finally, the skunk was released back to her habitat.

Wildlife Tip: Rat poisons don’t just kill rats! Remove attractants to deter rodents and never use poison.

cackling goose survives being hit by a car

When a rescuer said that the Canada Goose she’d found had been hit and rolled by not just one but two cars, WildCare Medical Staff knew to expect a large bird, probably with significant injuries.

The bird that arrived at the Wildlife Hospital, however, was small, with a head and beak that were much more delicate than a Canada Goose’s. He was also shy and very wild.

After treating (and dodging the bites from) hundreds of Canada Geese, WildCare’s Medical Staff knew that this bird, and another admitted soon after from Mendocino, were Cackling Geese, a type of goose reclassified as its own species in 2004.

Upon intake, WildCare Medical Staff did a full physical exam of the bird. Astonishingly, no broken bones were found… it’s possible the goose’s small stature saved him from greater injury. However the bird was very emaciated.

With several days of being tube-fed an easily-digestible slurry, followed by the careful introduction of soft foods, the bird started to recover from his emaciation. Then time in an aviary to recover his strength was all he needed to return to the wild.

Wildlife Tip: Any animal that has been hit by a car needs help!

hermit thrush vs. window

Hermit Thrushes are comparatively short-distance migrants, but they still face a dangerous journey, especially when they pass through populated areas like the Bay Area.

This thrush patient was found on the ground in San Rafael looking stunned and subdued. His rescuer hadn’t actually seen him crash into a window, but the fact that he didn’t immediately fly away when she approached him indicated something was wrong.

Fortunately she lived not far from WildCare and was able to transport the bird to us immediately.

This little thrush was lucky. His exam revealed no injuries, so he was placed on oxygen to recover from his traumatic experience. He was released the next day.

But other thrush patients we have admitted this year haven’t been as lucky.

Of the 52 Hermit Thrushes that have been admitted to WildCare this winter, most were caught by cats or flew into windows, one was caught by a dog, and the others are marked simply “approachable” or “injured” signifying that the intake exam didn’t reveal a clear-cut cause.

It is always a sad thing at WildCare to see a valiant migrant like a thrush struck low by his interaction with our buildings or our pets.

Wildlife Tip: Visit discoverwildcare.org/songbirds to learn how to keep birds safe in your yard and garden!
Every week WildCare responds to hundreds of telephone calls, an average of 22% of which relate to conflicts with wildlife. Skunks, raccoons, squirrels and other animals are attracted to our homes and often find their way into crawl spaces and attics. People call about skunks spraying, raccoons digging, birds pecking—normal animal behaviors that, when in close proximity to humans, are often perceived as nuisances.

Our Wildcare Solutions department keeps these animals in their natural habitat and wild families together. One busy day in December we humanely and nonlethally removed two skunks and one raccoon from underneath three separate houses. In our region, numerous services are available to homeowners that involve trapping and killing such animals. Services that advertise themselves as “trap and relocate” are in reality often trap and kill. California law prohibits relocating animals outside of their immediate surroundings, and for good reason. Animals that are relocated may not be able to find food and water, and they may get attacked by animals already in residence. They often die.

One tool we often use after confirmation that no baby animals are present is the one-way door. After inspecting a home, locating entry points, and confirming there are no dependent young or that any young are old enough to follow mom out of the den, a one-way door is placed over the entry point. It lets animals leave, but doesn’t let them back in. After several days of monitoring to confirm all the animals have vacated, the device is removed and the entry point is secured against further breaches.

Many people who call with complaints choose to hire WildCare Solutions to humanely get animals out, which also brings in income to support our Wildlife Hospital and our advocacy work. Every animal that our Solutions department humanely “evicts” is one animal that is kept in his or her natural habitat, and spared from being harmed by people who put profit or convenience before animal welfare.

Relocating wildlife is against the law.

Secure your home and humanely keep wildlife outside before spring’s baby season.

Call our experts at 415-453-1000 x23.
WildCare honors the extraordinary generosity of Susan Doelger, the late lead trustee of the Thelma Doelger Trust for Animals. During her impactful tenure, the Trust generously supported WildCare’s operations and capital campaign.

Susan was the daughter of Thelma and Henry Doelger, who made their fortune in the 1920s and 1930s in San Francisco, bootlegging during prohibition and then in the booming real estate markets after the 1929 stock market crash. Thelma, from an early age, loved all creatures. This passion evolved, and Thelma became involved in humane activism, leveraging her influence and passion for promoting animal welfare in the San Francisco Bay Area. She worked closely with the San Francisco SPCA to educate the public to stop buying monkeys as pets. She also donated to the San Francisco Zoo to help improve housing for their animals. Thelma established the Thelma Doelger Charitable Trust, which continued to make donations to local organizations even after her death.

Susan shared her mother Thelma’s deep love for all creatures, and the family, including Susan, rescued, cared for and adopted abandoned and injured animals.

In 1999, to ensure that animal-related organizations would, as Thelma intended, always receive support from funds held by the Trust, Susan initiated a process that divided the original Trust into two trusts. The result was the establishment of the Thelma Doelger Trust for Animals, which is exclusively devoted to making grants to organizations that promote animal welfare.

Susan brought energy and commitment to tackling the issues confronting those who work to protect animals. She always had the utmost appreciation for the people on the front lines who personally give their time and love to help animals, whether by providing care, by teaching principles of humane education or by working to protect animal habitat. Her work is carried on today by her daughter, Katherine, and foundation trustees Margaret Burks and Paul Gordon.

In memoriam, we thank you, Susan!

Make your pledge today to protect wildlife tomorrow.

Please include WildCare’s Tomorrow Fund in your estate plan.

discoverwildcare.org/tomorrowfund
challenges in treating wildlife by Juliana Sorem, DVM

Those of us with pets are familiar with what happens when we take them to the veterinarian’s office for a visit. The veterinarian will ask questions to determine how the problem started, how long it has lasted, how the patient is acting, his or her appetite, existing health conditions, medications, etc. Then the vet will perform a thorough physical exam, gathering as much data as possible. Based on the patient’s history and the physical exam, the veterinarian will try to establish a specific diagnosis and make a plan to best address the problem.

For an ill or injured wild animal, a visit to WildCare’s hospital is dramatically different from that of a pet visiting a companion animal veterinarian. Because our patients are wild, they present us with some unique challenges in evaluation and treatment.

A patient’s health history and detailed account of the condition for which the animal is presenting are among the most important pieces of information needed to establish a diagnosis. Because our patients have no “owners” to tell us a full history, we at WildCare rarely have access to any but the most basic information about our patients; we’ll know species, have a rough idea of age, and know the location found... [Article continued on page 10]

Dine out, do good!

Join us for WildCare’s 33rd annual Dining for Wildlife event at one of our fabulous participating restaurants!

Tuesday, May 15 and Wednesday, May 16

To request an invitation, visit discoverwildcare.org/invitation.
...and the assumed cause of admission. However, in many cases, the condition for which the animal presents is only part of the story. A coyote who was hit by a car may have been hit because he was already disabled by poison or slowed by a previous injury or illness. A raccoon trapped in a compost bin may have been tempted there in the first place by hunger resulting from an inability to hunt or severe parasite infestation.

A comprehensive physical exam usually provides the most valuable information. Diagnostic tests such as x-rays, blood counts, fecal exams and infectious disease assays complement the physical exam findings and help us to reach a diagnosis and formulate a treatment plan. Here, again, wild patients present challenges; while the patient might be sitting right in front of us, a thorough exam and/or sample collection may not be possible. Our wild patients are wary of humans and unaccustomed to being in captivity. They employ all strategies and resources at their disposal—teeth, claws, venom and even odor, in the case of skunks—to discourage us from handling them. This can limit our ability to gather information. In some cases we can sedate patients to allow for a more thorough exam, but even when we can perform a full exam on a conscious patient, we must do so in a quick and efficient manner. In some instances the stress of being handled by humans can actually kill our patients. We may sometimes only accomplish a complete exam over the course of several days.

Finally, after gathering as much information about our patient as possible, we make a diagnosis and start appropriate treatment. Depending on the diagnosis, treatment might involve any combination of medications, surgery or hospitalization, or simply supportive care (appropriate diet, hydration, heat support, etc.). Here again, the animals’ stress levels must always be taken into consideration. While in our care, patients are shielded from the sight and sounds of humans in enclosures that mimic as closely as possible the animal’s natural environment. We must also consider their natural predators: we wouldn’t house a vole and a hawk, for instance, in close proximity. We make a plan that involves the most infrequent handling and the shortest period of confinement possible to still address their medical needs. We will choose an antibiotic that can be administered once every 48 hours over one that must be given three times daily, if we have the option. For surgical procedures we generally use suture material that will dissolve on its own to avoid having to restrain the animal for suture removal after the site has healed.

Our wild patients can present us with daunting challenges. To provide them with the best care we must remain creative, resourceful and dedicated to continually learning about both advancements in medicine and the individual requirements of the nearly 200 species in our care. WildCare’s medical staff is committed to surmounting obstacles and doing everything possible to return animals to health and back to their lives in the wild.
wildcare’s wildlife hospital intern program

People are drawn to WildCare’s Wildlife Hospital Internship program because it offers hands-on training in a friendly, energetic atmosphere. Interns at WildCare work alongside medical staff, assisting in a wide range of procedures, including microbiology, radiography, diagnostic techniques and meeting species-specific requirements. WildCare interns gain a broad understanding of wildlife medicine that can only come from working in a hands-on teaching hospital.

a wildlife teaching hospital
Interns must apply and be accepted to work under the supervision of medical staff for a seasonal term of twenty-four hours a week (unpaid). Program participants come from within WildCare’s existing volunteer pool, from other wildlife care centers, or they are veterinary students who wish to gain experience with wildlife. Interns have the opportunity to work with a diverse spectrum of animals from tiny mice and songbirds to the more intimidating raptors, coyotes and rattlesnakes. But it isn’t all glamour. There is a lot of cage cleaning and food preparation, and plenty of laundry and dishes, too.

applied science
The projects that interns do for us during their terms contribute to some aspect of animal care at WildCare. Intern projects have included creating a diet procedures manual, a study of cat-caught birds, a campaign against glue traps used in trapping rodents and a study of seizures in Canada Geese.

where are they now?
Interns frequently translate the skills they learned at WildCare into successful careers. Most of the staff wildlife technicians at WildCare began as interns. WildCare’s internship program has also served as a launching pad into veterinary school for many interns, and successful completion of a WildCare internship looks great on a student’s resume.

Applications are now being accepted for 2018 Wildlife Hospital Internships. Visit www.discoverwildcare.org/intern for details and the internship application.

salute to jessica kwan

When Jessica Kwan started at WildCare in July 2017, she had just graduated from San Francisco State University, earning her MS in Physiology and Behavioral Biology. Her background is in disease ecology research with an emphasis on tick-borne diseases, such as Lyme disease, but she has always been enthusiastic about animal welfare and medicine. She became particularly interested in wildlife medicine because of field work that gave her the opportunity to interact with wild animals in their natural habitats.

However, it was her days spent wrangling squirrels for examination and tube-feeding pelicans that ultimately convinced Jessica to take on wildlife rehabilitation wholeheartedly. She feels fortunate for the opportunity to be a WildCare intern, marking her third wildlife internship of the 2017 season. Being at WildCare has its perks with regards to continuing her research on ticks. As an intern working hands-on with our wildlife patients and assisting with medical treatments, she can also collect ticks from a variety of wildlife for research.

With her background in disease ecology and interest in wildlife rehabilitation, Jessica hopes to become a veterinarian with a focus on wildlife medicine and research. She has been hired at WildCare for 2018’s baby season as a Wildlife Assistant.

We are so glad that part of Jessica’s journey toward such an illustrious career has been an internship in WildCare’s Wildlife Hospital. Thank you Jess!

2018 internship terms

May—July:
Applications accepted through April 1

June—August:
Applications accepted through May 1

July—September:
Applications accepted through June 1

Trish Carney

2018 internship terms

May—July:
Applications accepted through April 1

June—August:
Applications accepted through May 1

July—September:
Applications accepted through June 1

Trish Carney
Does your inquisitive child love animals? Wildlife Camp is a fun way to stimulate learning about wild animals and instill a life-long respect for nature. Weekly camp programs are designed to captivate, engage and challenge young people, building environmental knowledge and values.

Watch a pelican training session, experience animal visits from our live non-releasable animal ambassadors, prepare a meal for our Desert Tortoise, search for wild animal tracks out on the trail, play wildlife-themed games and create nature crafts—it's a camp experience that is sure to leave a lasting impression.

**Here are some of our favorite comments from Summer Camp 2017:**

“My child is always learning from the camp, and sharing her new knowledge with the rest of the family. In addition to learning facts, she also has been able to understand processes and can apply them to other situations. She loves WildCare Camp, and always wants to stay until the very end of ‘pickup time.’”

“Loved the art projects and the off-site days! I felt my son was well-cared for, engaged in activity and has a great appreciation for the animals at WildCare. Loved the animal cards, too! The week was great fun for our son!”

“My daughter was jumping out of her skin every day after camp and couldn’t wait to get there the next day. Her knowledge of wildlife and her surroundings has increased dramatically and her love of nature has become even more pronounced.”

Visit discoverwildcare.org/camp to register. **Scholarships are available!**

### 2018 Summer Camp Schedule

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<tr>
<th>DATES</th>
<th>SESSION NAME</th>
<th>FOR AGES</th>
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<tr>
<td>June 4-8</td>
<td>Animal Neighbors</td>
<td>Minimum age 3 1/2 to entering kindergarten</td>
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<tr>
<td>June 11-15</td>
<td>Wild California</td>
<td>Entering 1st and 2nd grades</td>
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<tr>
<td>June 18-22</td>
<td>Watery World of Wildlife</td>
<td>Entering 2nd and 3rd grades</td>
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<tr>
<td>June 25-29</td>
<td>Animal Sense-sations</td>
<td>Entering 1st and 2nd grades</td>
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<tr>
<td>July 9-13</td>
<td>Conservation Camp</td>
<td>Entering 4th through 6th grades</td>
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<tr>
<td>July 16-20</td>
<td>Feathers, Fur and Scales</td>
<td>Entering 3rd and 4th grades</td>
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<td>July 23-27</td>
<td>Weird and Wonderful</td>
<td>Entering 1st and 2nd grades</td>
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<tr>
<td>July 30-August 3</td>
<td>Secrets of Survival</td>
<td>Entering 2nd and 3rd grades</td>
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<td>August 6-10</td>
<td>Growing Up Wild</td>
<td>Minimum age 3 1/2 to entering kindergarten</td>
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<tr>
<td>August 6-10</td>
<td>Growing Up Wild</td>
<td>Minimum age 3 1/2 to entering kindergarten</td>
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Celebrate Earth Day by joining WildCare to learn about our local wildlife. Go for a hike, catch and release frogs and newts, have exciting encounters with WildCare’s Wildlife Ambassadors (non-releasable wild animals you can meet up close!), learn about Mrs. Elizabeth Terwilliger’s nature education legacy and bring a picnic to enjoy on the lake shore.

for the birds! by Marco Berger

For the past seven years, Richardson Bay Audubon Center and Sanctuary and WildCare’s Family Adventures have partnered to host the annual Family and Youth Winter Bird Count in San Rafael. Teams of birders are comprised of youth and families, amateur birders, naturalists, as well as veteran and junior ornithologists from all around the Bay Area. The groups are given tally sheets, binoculars, birding books and spotting scopes as they proceed to meander along the bay for a great day of birding. Bilingual naturalists assist with bird spotting, with birding books available in both Spanish and English. Burrowing Owls, Ospreys, Great Blue Herons, Black-necked Stilts, Great and Snowy Egrets, Anna’s Hummingbirds, and many more species have been spotted.

The data from these counts is incorporated into National Audubon’s bird count database. By participating in a count, participants make an enormous contribution to conservation.

Visit discoverwildcare.org/familyadventures for information on the next WildCare Family Adventures/Aventuras Familiares program.

Our wild friends need your wheels...
Donate your vehicle!

Easy process
Free pickup
Tax deductible

Call 855-500-ride for more information

Saturday, April 21, 2018
from 10 am to 2 pm
FREE Event at Stafford Lake Park,
Group Picnic Area #2
Novato, California

Activities:
• Go on a naturalist-led nature hike
• Create an arts and crafts project that helps wildlife
• Net aquatic life in Stafford Lake
• Explore and touch the taxidermy from WildCare’s Nature Van
• Meet our live Wildlife Ambassadors
• Take the nature scavenger hunt challenge
who eats what?

Can you tell what each of these birds prefers to eat based on their bill shape?

Draw a line to connect the bird to their favorite meal!

House Finch: ____________________________

Anna’s Hummingbird: ____________________________

American Robin: ____________________________

Nectar Flowers: ____________________________

Earthworm: ____________________________

Seeds: ____________________________

Can you give a reason why each bird would be best at eating the food choice you picked for them?

Finch: ____________________________________________

Hummingbird: ____________________________________________

Robin: ____________________________________________

House Finch - Seeds    Anna’s Hummingbird - Nectar Flowers    Robin - Earthworm
I found a wild baby animal. Now What?

Is the baby sick or hurt? Is she bleeding, weak, shivering or crying? Is she alive, but unresponsive or cold to the touch? Are her wings dropping or her legs crooked? Are there insects on her? Has she been attacked by a cat or dog? Did she approach you?

Is the baby orphanned? It is extremely rare for a wild animal to abandon her young. Are you certain the mother is dead?

Is the baby behaving normally? All wild mothers are afraid of people, but the maternal instinct is very strong, and they will not abandon their young even if the baby has been handled. If people or pets are near she will not approach her baby.

Fawns and rabbits sleep or hide in the grass during the day. Mothers only return to nurse periodically, leaving older babies for longer periods. Babies know to remain quiet until their mother returns.

Opossums travel with their mothers and leave to forage alone when they are 7-8 inches long (excluding tail).

Raccoons play and make chirping or trilling noises in their denning area at the age of 5-8 weeks. They leave the den to travel with their mother at the age of 8-10 weeks.

Fledgling (feathered) birds hop around on the ground while parents call or feed them.

Is the baby behaving normally? 

Bring the baby to WildCare

Can you transport her immediately?

To transport an injured or orphaned baby to WildCare

1. Prepare a container. A shoebox with air holes in the lid, lined with a small towel, works for most babies.

2. Protect yourself. Wear gloves if possible. Even small, sick birds may try to protect themselves with their beaks or talons. Animals may have parasites or carry diseases. Wash your hands after handling.

3. Put the baby in the box. Cover the baby with a light cloth and gently put her in the shoebox.

4. Keep her warm. If the baby is cold, put one end of the shoebox on a heating pad set on low.

5. If you can’t transport her immediately:
   - Call our hotline at 415-456-SAVE
   - Bring the baby to WildCare or your local wildlife hospital between 9am and 5pm.
   - Keep the baby in a warm, dark, quiet place.
   - Do not give her food or water.
   - Do not handle her.
   - Keep children and pets away from her.

6. Transport the baby to WildCare. Keep her in the shoebox, keep the car quiet (radio off, etc.).

Not in the San Francisco Bay Area? Visit discoverwildcare.org/wildliferesources to find a wildlife center near you.

Is the baby in danger? Are cats, dogs, children or cars creating a hazard? 

Does the baby need help? Most mother mammals can carry their babies back to the nest or to an alternative nest. Birds and bats cannot carry their young.

Visit discoverwildcare.org/resources for a center near you. (Marin County residents can call Marin Humane 415-883-4621)

Is the baby in danger? Are cats, dogs, children or cars creating a hazard?

Does the baby need help? Most mother mammals can carry their babies back to the nest or to an alternative nest. Birds and bats cannot carry their young.

Is it safe for you to help the baby? Never put yourself in physical danger. Bats, foxes, skunks and raccoons can potentially carry rabies and bite. Never handle them with bare hands.

Can you find the nest? Is it intact? Is the baby warm to the touch?

Get the baby back to the mother. Call WildCare for species and age-specific guidelines on how to reunite/renest a baby. After the baby has been returned, watch from a distance, keeping pets and children away from the area so as not to frighten the mother. Is the mother visiting the baby? Does the baby seem ok?

Leaves the area. Baby is okay.

?? unsure ??

Call WildCare 415-456-7283 (SAVE)

Fawns and rabbits sleep or hide in the grass during the day. Mothers only return to nurse periodically, leaving older babies for longer periods. Babies know to remain quiet until their mother returns.
Love Your Neighbor
HELP US HELP WILDLIFE
Text WILD to 415-338-9453
DiscoverWildCare.org