

WILDLIFE RESCUE & REHABILITATION NEWS

FEBRUARY 2016

Dear Members,

I have always thought the expression “beauty is in the eye of the beholder” is a great disservice to Nature. In Nature, immense beauty exists in myriad forms, in the smallest, darkest cracks and crevices, at the bottom of quiet pools, and in the very depths of a tightly closed bud. Not one of these areas is readily visible to the human eye and yet the beauty is there nonetheless.

It was such beauty that a young couple saw in a small, white calf who had suffered a broken leg. The individual who was responsible for the calf saw death as the only option but this couple was determined to save the injured calf and the beauty he brought to their lives. Months of loving and laborious work did indeed save his life and once Chester was fully healed and utterly rambunc-

tious, it was time to find him a home where he could grow and roam freely.

The day he arrived at Wildlife Rescue, Chester was excited and eager to explore his new world. His large, lumbering body and massive hooves moved gingerly from trailer to terra firma and through the gate that opened into the pasture. The soft, green grass and sweeping space was occupied by a few resident goats and pigs and a colorful band of free roaming chickens were busily pecking about. For Chester this was ideal, but the residents were not quite so sure.

Being a “Brahma blend” this new bull was not only the new kid on the block—he was clearly the *biggest* new kid. But size seemed

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WILDLIFE-RESCUE.ORG



OUR MISSION

To rescue, rehabilitate, and release native wildlife, and to provide sanctuary, individualized care, and a voice for other animals in need.

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Where There's a Will...

Estate planning is one of those things that most everyone imagines they will do someday, but then find they have a hard time getting around to it. Whether you've already made your will or not, you should consider what your charitable and other goals are before you pass away.

Some folks find that they want to give large amounts to charitable organizations, but have a difficult time doing so when they are also planning for retirement. Planned giving is the perfect solution to that dilemma along with any others that you face. With the help of your financial advisor you can create a plan that works best for you and your family. There are a large variety of ways to ensure that both the people and the animals you care about will continue to be cared for after your death.

Young donors, too, should consider their estate planning options. While perhaps not as financially stable as their older counterparts, many so-called "millennials" have a sophisticated understanding of the importance of nonprofit resources in their communities. They often engage in charitable giving as a matter of course—\$50 here and there or a designated amount monthly to causes they care about. But young adults may also feel frustrated about not being able to make a bigger impact. Because many live their lives with a focus on charitable giving, it only makes sense that they should do the same in the event of an untimely death. They might also not be aware of the consequences of not making a will. In many cases, if a person dies without making a will, that person's assets will be divided and distributed strictly according to state laws, and sometimes even forfeited to the state. When that occurs, family and charitable organizations are both without recourse to get the funds the deceased person intended to share with them.

Planned giving may seem like a hassle, but with a professional's help it is actually pretty simple. With the law definitely in favor of those who make wills, perhaps now is the time to safeguard your resources for your family and others who would benefit. No one wants to think about their own passing, but it is the responsible thing to do.

Wildlife Rescue is fortunate that so many of its loyal members remember us in their wills or other planned giving vehicles. It is a valuable benefit to WRR and the animals we serve, and serves you and your family at the same time. We deeply appreciate being remembered.

Craig Brestrup, Ph.D.
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to mean less to Chester than it did to others; he was not shy in his approaches and in only moments the goats and pigs were overshadowed by their new companion. And what a shadow it was... Chester weighed well over 500 pounds and standing in close proximity to his impressive girth was an event! But for all his enthusiasm the new young bull was a gentle soul. His innocent curiosity compelled him to participate in every pasture activity. When the tall, gangly China geese waddled their way into the pasture for a dip in the pond it was Chester who was there to escort them from the gate to the waiting, blue water. The geese honked their insistent independence but the young bull, always the gentleman, would not have it any other way; they needed an escort and



he was the ideal fellow to provide it. Watching this playful youngster, pristinely white with his intense obsidian eyes, trot about working hard to make new friends was a pure joy.

Though the new youngster was surrounded by goats, pigs, chickens and the visiting geese, he had yet to make the acquaintance of the other bovines who called WRR home. Cows are social beings; living in the midst of great herds is part of their history and Chester was often seen looking longingly over the fence where the other cows lived. WRR had been engaged in the rescue

of farmed animals for several years. During that time we had taken in, amongst many others, a few cows who were in need of sanctuary. One of these was Osborne, a blind bull; there was also an older Longhorn and a giant Guernsey. It was time for Chester to become one of the herd members.

Our primary concern was that his dynamic enthusiasm would be seen as offensive to the adult cows and their reaction could cause damage to the youngster. When the big day arrived Chester seemed to have read our minds and be fully aware of our plans. If he had read our anxiety perhaps he would have felt it also, but I doubt it; he wanted only to be near his bovine neighbors.

As the gate between pastures swung open there was no hesitation, no worry, just utter self-assurance and an attitude of anticipation. Chester knew what he wanted. Waiting with considerably less anticipation were Osborne, the Longhorn, and Guernsey; all these residents were adults who had long ago left behind the playful days of youth. Chester, however, knew what it meant to be young and decided to liven up the herd. With jubilant advances he introduced himself to each of his new companions. With

his large, floppy, forward facing ears he was the epitome of joy as he sniffed, butted and cajoled his elders. Perhaps they were overcome by his enthusiasm; perhaps his behavior was contagious for not one bovine resident returned his advances with even a hint of impatience. In the coming months, instead of the usual sea of calm in the cow herd there was now this one



highly active member who, like a jack-in-the-box, would be seen popping up here and there filled with youthful vigor.

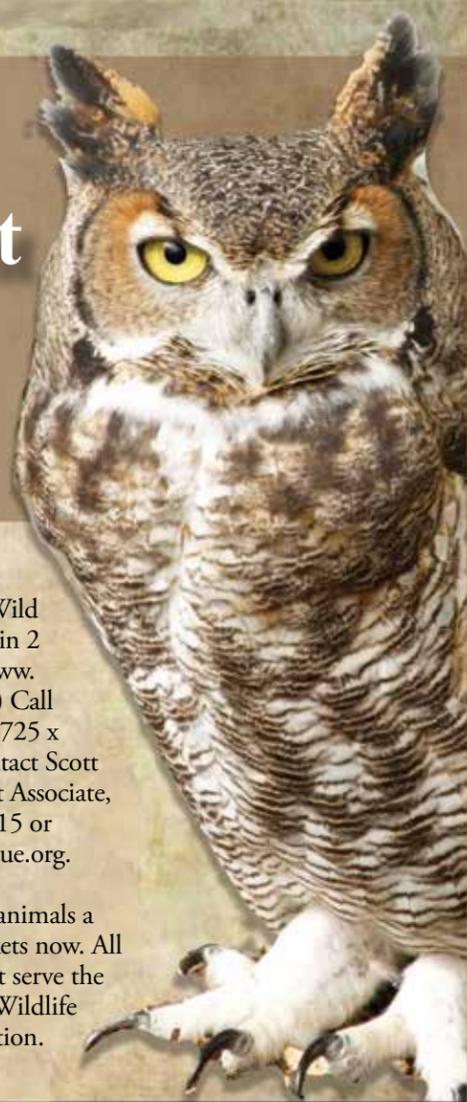
As often happens at WRR we were soon to rescue the perfect friend for Chester. Esther arrived, blind in one eye, small and endearing. Though she had to spend some time in our hospital, in only weeks she was ready to meet Chester. With her glistening, coal black coat these two young bovines were absolutely opposite in appearance. Not surprisingly that made no difference to them. These two were of a similar age, shared a desire to explore and made it their job to keep the older cows young and "on their toes."

The pastures at Wildlife Rescue were now teeming with activity. When the winter rains came you would find the goats, pigs and cows sharing space under trees and shelters, and in the spring the deep, green grass kept each resident moving and munching

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Please join us for the Win a Wild Ride for Wildlife Event at the Witte Museum on April 7, 2016!



Imagine the excitement in the air as the Emcee announces: a lucky person just won a new Lexus! For only \$250 you can be a Patron ticket holder. Each ticket entitles 2 to attend the magical gala event and enter to win the grand door prize of a Lexus CZ Hybrid.

Only 350 tickets will be sold for the car giveaway, so you have a great chance at winning. The evening's offerings include delicious fare from the area's finest restaurants and local breweries and

wineries, live music, and silent and live auctions of many unique items.

If you would like to attend the event without participating in the drawing, our members may purchase event-only tickets for the price of \$50 each.

This is our major annual fundraiser—we appreciate your support and for being a part of what makes WRR great! The event and drawing will be at the Witte Museum on April 7 from 6:00

to 9:30 p.m. You can order your event or Wild Ride drawing tickets in 2 ways: 1) Online at www.wildlife-rescue.org; 2) Call Debbie at 830-336-2725 x 308. Questions? Contact Scott Sticker, Development Associate, at 830-335-2725, x315 or [ssticker@wildlife-rescue.org](mailto:sssticker@wildlife-rescue.org).

Do yourself and the animals a favor—buy your tickets now. All proceeds of this event serve the animals cared for at Wildlife Rescue & Rehabilitation.

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and the two young bovines striding about enjoying their favorite season. With summer came the heat and as the grass gave way to the drier months, the giant, round bales of hay became climbing platforms for the goats while Chester and Esther looked on in envy wondering how they too could climb to such heights. Autumn brought swirling spheres of falling leaves, cooler days and signs that our two youngsters were growing up.

The passing of time cannot be ignored when you are caring for the likes of Esther and Chester. They grow so very large and do so before your very eyes and yet it seems that suddenly they are these huge, majestic beings. A sadder element that accompanies the passing of time is the aging of those in our care. Our bovine

herd lost some its cherished members over the many years, old friends who finally succumbed to the inevitable. Chester and Esther were always there, offering their support and in the end, their good-byes. And when that horribly sad day came for Esther to leave her world of green pastures, there was Chester, looking on, worried when he knew she could no longer stand and stride about as they had always done...together. He broke our hearts as he gently and tenderly nuzzled her and knew their time together had passed. In only weeks he would follow his beloved Esther and again break our hearts by leaving this world.

They are both gone now. These two incredible beings who brought only joy, laughter and now tears to our lives. Chester and Esther

who found each other here at WRR, who shared bonds, secrets and so many things we shall never know but who shared it here, under our watchful and caring eyes, eyes that fill with tears when we speak of them but eyes that also smile at the wonder and magnificence of these two beautiful bovines.



Lynn Cuny

One Coyote's Extraordinary Story

BY LYNN CUNY, FOUNDER/PRESIDENT

What becomes of a poor, sick, beleaguered animal who is in desperate need of help but because she is thought to be a coyote is simply left to suffer? Too often the result is a needless death, but some animals are more fortunate. Such was the case with one female coyote in Arkansas.

She had been seen for months, ill, starving, and in dire need. Many felt that if she were a coyote she was no concern of theirs; some said she was a "chupacabra." But then there were others, a few kind ladies, who could see her only as someone who was suffering. These caring souls took action, caught the unidentified animal, and found her the help she needed. Once she was contained, Wildlife Rescue was called on to help. We agreed to take her, if in fact she was a coyote; if she turned out to be dog, a home and treatments would be found for her in Arkansas.

Even if some dog genes were present in her history, her face was that of the noble coyote. Once she was evaluated, it was clearly time to transport her to WRR so she could begin her rehabilitation. Once we had her in our care we had no doubts that she was indeed a coyote. Being a wild animal, she was not thrilled to be confined in our hospital, but she had a private room, and it was here where she was treated and cared for.

She arrived well hydrated and with a healthy appetite. She had an open, bleeding sore on her tail and her skin was one black mass; mange had taken over and she was swollen and hairless. The most we could

learn was that she had been seen in this condition for 18 months. We were pleased to see that in addition to a hearty appetite she also possessed a healthy fear of humans. This fear is an absolute necessity for a coyote's survival.

In the coming weeks she began to look more like other coyotes; soft, short fur began to slowly reappear on her long muzzle, her eyes were brighter and her posture more straight and self-assured. Her once blackened flesh was taking on the look of healthy skin. Finally it was time to let her live outdoors. One of our small native mammal areas was furnished with shade cloth to provide her the privacy necessary to keep her calm, and an above ground den and soft bedding hay made up her larger living quarters. Now her days and nights were filled with the sounds of other animals, birds calling in the overhead trees, squirrels darting about, deer, sheep and donkeys meandering by, and most importantly, her sharp ears could now enjoy the howls and yips of nearby coyotes. We hoped this would be the most comforting of all sounds and it is our hope that in the coming weeks she will meet another coyote who lives here at our sanctuary and that the two of them will bond and share the mystery of what only coyotes know...what it means to be the animal Native Americans called God's Dog.



Above: The coyote after much-needed rehabilitation.



Above: The female coyote early in her rescue.

Even if some dog genes were present in her history, her face was that of the noble coyote.



Can It Be... Baby Season again?

CRAIG BRESTRUP, PH.D., DEVELOPMENT ASSOCIATE

If you've been receiving this newsletter for long, you will have heard us talk about Baby Season. It is the time when our wildlife hospital's "cup runneth over" with little ones. And in 2015, as always, it was filled with challenges and rewards. At WRR our busiest time of year begins in late February or early March. That is the time when the native wildlife begin having their young...and when humans, dogs, and cats begin to pose problems for parents and babies.

The opossums, cottontails, and squirrels are always the "early birds" in this process, which is interesting as they are also the "latecomers" since they have additional babies in the early autumn. As 2015 saw the first blush of Baby Season, the thumb sized pinkie squirrels, barely furred opossums, and infant cottontails were brought to our doors by the dozens. Soon after, the raccoon infants took center stage, then the birds...mocking-birds, jays, finches, cardinals, doves, wrens, titmice and others were keeping us on our toes, when the fawns began arriving, and in the midst of all these were bobcat kittens and coyote pups and all were filling incubators, net cages and carriers and occupying special needs rooms at both the WRR Sherman Animal Care Complex and our hospital in Kendalia. Whew!

Baby Season is always a rush of activity, with round the clock feedings, cleaning, cleaning, and more cleaning, and attending to the medical needs of birds, mammals and reptiles. WRR is in constant, life-saving motion. And that motion takes on new meaning when native wild animal babies begin arriving with deadly viruses, upper respiratory infections, and other ailments. Every year we see our share of such problems and 2015 was not only no exception, but we observed some new and more perplexing illnesses as well. It is to the credit of our Veterinary Staff, Dr. Ellen Haynes, Diane Thovson, WRR Vet Tech, and Ashely Kees, our WRR Hospital Supervisor, as well our dedicated animal care staff and hardworking apprentices, that we were successful in saving so many lives. Lives who would have otherwise been lost if WRR and those who work tirelessly for the animals were not here when those lives needed us.

This is the time of year when more volunteer help taking care of the babies is always needed. It is also the time when your donations are needed as we put food in those mouths, tend injuries and illnesses, and watch over an always full hospital. As spring approaches, please think about all that goes on out here and of how you can be involved in helping.





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(Address Service Requested)



Wildlife Rescue Donation Registration Form

You may use the enclosed envelope (filled in) by itself or fill in, clip and send this coupon.

ONE-TIME GIFT DONATION

- \$35
 \$50
 \$100
 \$250
 \$500
 \$1,000
 \$ _____

WRR SUSTAINERS (minimum of \$10/month)

- I want to be a WRR Sustainer and make a monthly gift of: \$ _____

Your card will be charged this amount on approximately the 5th of each month.

Name _____

Address _____

City _____

State _____ Zip _____ Phone _____

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Payment Enclosed: Check Cash Charge (Check card type below)

Visa Mastercard American Express

Card# _____

Expiration Date _____ *CVV Code _____

Signature _____

*3-4 digit security number on the back of the credit card