

Wildlife Rescue News

WILDLIFE-RESCUE.ORG / SPRING 2023



Dear WRR Member,

It was soon after we acquired the land that is now the WRR Sanctuary and base of operations that we began rescuing farmed animals. Among these wonderful beings were pigs. It is not surprising to learn that the marketing of pot-bellied pigs as the perfect pet increased the number of pigs who were being exploited and who would, in only a few years, find themselves abandoned and homeless. Tragically, many more would be abused, neglected, and even suffer extreme cruelty.

It was late one evening. Our Sherman Animal Care Complex

was still located on Earl St. and a WRR administration meeting had just adjourned. As some of us were saying our good-byes a young woman and small child walked in; she was shy and not sure what to do but she spoke up and said she had found a pig on a sidewalk near her home. The pig was bleeding so she managed, though I do not know how, to get her in the car and bring her to WRR. Upon closer examination I could see the young black and white pig had a series of deep lacerations covering her entire body. She had been slashed with a sharp knife or axe and was bleeding and nearly unconscious. After cleaning her wounds and giving

her remedies for her wounds we wrapped her in clean, soft blankets and transported her to Kendalia. She was given something for pain and allowed to rest for the night.

Early the next morning we learned the full extent of her injuries and knew that her chance for survival was slim. Being young was in her favor though and a treatment plan was established and immediately implemented. Arnica Daisy, as I had named her, was facing months of intensive care and her healing would take just as long. It was necessary to keep her indoors

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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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Search WRRTX on:



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Wildlife-Rescue.org

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Lynn's Letter

where she could be monitored day and night and where her treatment could be easily administered or modified as needed. It was also important that no flies could get to her or they would lay their eggs in the raw flesh and then Arnica would be covered in maggots. This was not going to be an easy or pleasant time for the young pig but she was strong and every time she raised her head, every time her gentle eyes met mine, I knew she wanted to live. It was understandable that she had no appetite and she was too weak to drink water. Giving her IV fluids was a challenge as the skin on a pig is so taut, and we had to avoid the area around her wounds, which were covering so very much of her small body. But we had to save her life and that meant that, while treating her for pain, it was necessary to carry out procedures that would cause her even more discomfort.

It is heartbreaking to witness such utter cruelty as this little pig had suffered. There is a part of you that wants retribution, to find the guilty party and punish them, to find some way to make justice prevail. We are rarely, if ever, given the opportunity to know who harmed many of the animals brought to our doors and it is equally rare that justice ever prevails in these situations.

For Arnica Daisy, the tragedy seemed even more pointed because here was this innocent, docile and very young pig who had been treated with unthinkable cruelty and her response to this was to behave as the perfect

patient. But if that behavior was based more on fear than trust, who could blame her?

This sweet, quiet pig would do little more than whisper her squeals of pain and softly moan every time her wounds were cleaned. She had difficulty maintaining her body's temperature and would often go between burning hot to shivering with cold. The first two weeks of care were the most difficult. Arnica had to be given light sedation in order for her wounds to be cleaned so she lived in a kind of twilight world between being fully awake and asleep. It is impossible to know her thoughts or how afraid of us she must have been. I could only hope that by treating her with kindness and very gently and always doing our best to reassure her that she was safe were having the desired effect. But there was simply no way to know how much the abuse she had suffered had colored her trust in and reaction to humans.

The poor pig's healing time seemed to pass so slowly but with such deep stab wounds we could hardly expect anything else. Finally, early in the fourth week her condition improved. Her many wounds, though deep, began to show signs of healing and Arnica was able to maintain a stable temperature. She also began to drink from a shallow bowl; the cool water was one of her favorite treats. We began feeding her a nourishing gruel that she would sniff approvingly then dip her nose into and emerge with a snout covered in raspberry or banana porridge, her pink tongue doing its best to lick up every drop. As the weeks passed, Arnica's rate of healing was encouraging. Her



spirits improved considerably once she could comfortably stand and walk about. During this time she learned quickly that even the slightest whimper would bring one of us rushing to her side; she was spoiled but that somehow seemed fitting after all she had been through.

With her tragic experience behind her and with her now being on the way to a full recovery, it would soon be time for Arnica to go outside. She had gained weight and was doted on night and day; the transition to the outdoors and less moment-to-moment care and attention could be a difficult one.

Her first day out was sunny and cool, Arnica approached the grassy area with caution but also with a sense of excitement. Wherever she had lived before, I doubt it was so clean and pretty. She was still on a liquid diet but we were now putting some slices of soft fruit in her food. She found these a real treat as

finally she could focus all her attention and effort to singling out the tasty morsel, gently balancing it between her lips, then curling her pink tongue around it and swallowing it to her great delight. Life had changed dramatically for this little pig and she was not going to squander even one moment of it.

As her days outdoors stretched into weeks, as her wounds closed and became unsightly scars, mere reminders of the horrors inflicted on her, Arnica Daisy made new friends, other pigs who had survived neglect, homelessness, and near starvation. Like each of them she was at first shy, perhaps afraid of being hurt, perhaps just being cautious as she learned to trust that this life was in fact a lasting one.

There is no way to know the mind and heart of other beings, we can only watch and hope to gain some understanding, some insight into their complex and

beautiful interior world. But every so often we are fortunate enough to get just a glimpse into that world and, if we are paying attention, we might learn something important.

That moment came when late one afternoon as the sun was about to set I walked by to check on the small group of pigs and Arnica was among them. She and one other pig, another young female, were about to bed down for the night. As Arnica walked towards her shelter where a soft bed of clean hay waited, the other pig, Matilda, was standing in front of the same shelter. Arnica passed Matilda and began to settle herself but then she stopped and turned; she walked over to where Matilda was standing, gently nudged her neck then rubbed her head against the other pig's cheek. She did this four or five times until her new friend moved into the shelter, scratched about in the hay until it was just right, then laid down. Arnica joined her there, her head perched delicately and lovingly on the back of her newfound friend and together they fell asleep.

It was then that I knew, whatever Arnica Daisy might face in her future, she had not only survived something few of us can even imagine, she had left it behind her and chosen a new life where peace, compassion and friends were an everyday occurrence.

Lynn

Welcome to Our New Director of Administration

A Letter from Jamie Davis

Hello everyone. I would like to introduce myself as Wildlife Rescue & Rehabilitation's new Director of Administration. Let me start by saying how humbling it is to be part of the leadership of an organization so rich in the history of Animal Protection in Texas and the United States. It is a joy to have the opportunity to leave San Antonio daily and drive out into the beautiful Texas Hill Country to spend my days working at the sprawling 212-acre Sanctuary. I have only been with WRR since December 2022 yet it feels like it started long before then.

My history with WRR began indirectly 17 years ago when I met the founder, Lynn Cuny, at another sanctuary. I had just begun working with primates at this Sanctuary here in Texas when Lynn arrived one day to help relocate some of the monkeys to WRR. I was serving breakfast to the monkeys when she stopped to show me a better way to offer their food. As she demonstrated her method, I saw compassion radiate from her, and the monkey seemed to like her much more than he tolerated me. Her way worked. The brief interaction made a lasting impression on me and forever changed how I would relate to the world around me. This was an opportunity to be



an animal advocate, leading with compassion. The more I worked with animals, the more I realized that caring for them meant not eating them - any kind of them. I was a 29-year-old Texan who walked away from BBQ and switched to a plant-based diet. The diet turned into a lifestyle and a new way of thinking about the world and where what we call "food" comes from.

In 2008, I started a journey leading me from Texas to Washington State, Oregon, North Carolina, and Florida, finally returning home to my Texas roots in 2022. Along the way, I volunteered to work with chimpanzees, served as an intern for the Humane Society of the United States on a ballot initiative to improve the lives of egg-laying hens, worked with dogs & cats in animal shelters, and was the general manager of a bicycle shop in Naples, FL. I returned to Texas with the desire to immerse myself in the world of Animal Protection. When the opportunity arose to work at WRR with Lynn, I felt confident I would bring all that I had learned from the past 17 years of growth as a person

and an animal advocate to support the Mission of this organization and further its success. I came full of enthusiasm for a 46-year-old organization and with a shared understanding of its Mission and values.

In order for WRR to thrive for another 46 years, I am dedicated to expanding our reach in San Antonio and beyond. One of my visions for WRR is to appeal to the large Spanish-speaking population of San Antonio. In order to do so we must attract more Spanish-speaking staff joined with offering information on our website in Spanish and ensuring many of our published materials are also accessible in Spanish, with the hope of broadening the reach of WRR's Mission. Another vision vital to the future of WRR is to focus on engaging with young individuals while emphasizing their potential impact in sustaining this organization for years to come. Establishing a strong foundation for the next generation ensures the continued success of WRR.

It has been exciting working for Wildlife Rescue thus far. I loved seeing many of you at the *Baby Shower for Wildlife* and look forward to meeting more of you in the future. Thank you all for your continuing support of Wildlife Rescue!

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "J. Davis".

Jamie Davis
Director of Administration
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BABY SHOWER

for Wildlife

Wildlife Rescue's annual *Baby Shower for Wildlife* was a great success! It was wonderful to see everyone having such a nice time.

This popular event brought in over \$60,000 for the care of the orphans. And we have all of you, our WRR Members, to thank for this accomplishment.



We thank all WRR members and recognize our sponsors, who donated items for the raffle and auction baskets:

- Freetail Brewing Co.
- San Antonio Botanical Garden
- Ten Thousand Villages
- Wild Birds Unlimited Nature Shop
- James Avery Artisan Jewelry
- Chewy
- Devils River Whiskey
- The Good Kind
- Whole Earth Provision Co.
- Earth Burger
- Nowhere Bookshop
- Jardin
- Trader Joe's
- Massage by Kara Lemley
- And Anonymous Donors



Thanks also to Jennifer Leigh Warner for her photos of the Baby Shower.



Caring for Baby Animals

“Baby season” is now in full swing. Every week hundreds of tiny orphaned wild animals are brought to WRR. In the wild, these babies would be under the loving care of their mothers. Now, they find refuge at our Sanctuary.

Many have suffered injuries after falling from nests or being caught by dogs or cats; others have lost their mothers to motor vehicles, trapping and relocation, or other human intervention. Whether they are nestling songbirds



or infant squirrels, raccoons, or opossums, each of these little ones knows all too well the trauma of being orphaned.

Here at WRR these hungry, helpless babies are provided around-the-clock care and specialized diets to nourish them as they grow. Our Animal Care staff, volunteers, and interns prepare dozens of species-specific formulas each day! At WRR we do everything in our power to help these animals gain the strength, stamina, and skills needed for life in the wild.



Become a Wildlife Sustainer

Wildlife Rescue & Rehabilitation Sustainers are a special group of WRR supporters who make a monthly contribution to underwrite our life-saving work. Imagine the benefits that add up over the course of a year when many of you come together in this way. Every month your credit card will be automatically charged for your designated gift. But you remain in control, meaning you can change or cancel your monthly commitment anytime you choose.

The advantage to this way of helping is that a monthly gift can be made with little or no effort on your part. Over months your gifts will add up to more than you usually give in one or a few larger gifts throughout a year.

Your monthly contribution will help:

- Feed hungry orphaned babies
- Rehabilitate injured wildlife
- Provide sanctuary for native and non-native wildlife and farmed animals

As a Wildlife Rescue Sustainer:

- Your membership will continue year after year unless you request that it be discontinued
- You will have the satisfaction of knowing your monthly gift is helping save thousands of lives every year

For more information on becoming a Wildlife Sustainer, contact:

Mackenzie Perez
 Communications Manager
 (210) 538-9761
mperez@wildlife-rescue.org

Barred Owl Rescue

On a cool late-January morning, a knock on the door of WRR's Sherman Animal Care Complex brought a life in need of help. While they were unsure of the circumstances that led to this injury, in the hands of a New Braunfels Humane Society staff member was a crate containing a barred owl, whose right wing was clearly fractured. Wildlife Rescue's Animal Care staff worked quickly to ease his pain, and he was promptly transferred to the Kendalia Sanctuary to be seen by our staff veterinarian.

On examination, it was noted that the owl's humerus was fractured, exposing the bone beneath his silky feathers. Our vet staff expertly cleaned the area and placed the bone back under the skin. To have any chance of recuperating and returning to the wild, WRR staff knew that his wing must fully heal so surgery was performed the following day.

While the owl remained under anesthesia, x-rays were taken, surgical pins were placed in the fractured area, and a body wrap was applied to keep his wing stable. While the procedure went smoothly, the owl's outcome could not yet be predicted - to give him the best possible chance of full recovery, consistent monitoring and physical therapy were needed.

Two days after surgery, our veterinary staff removed the owl's body wrap and extended his wing, repositioning it within his normal range of motion to help him regain strength and movement. His physical



therapy continued throughout this recovery process, and when his fracture healed three weeks later, his surgical pins were finally removed.

More than a month after he was first brought to WRR, the barred owl was moved to a larger enclosure to begin flight testing and monitoring. After one month, it was clear that he had regained his strength and ability to fly and catch prey, and he was cleared for return to his natural habitat. A release plan was implemented, and staff prepared to take him back to New Braunfels.

After 76 long days in our care, WRR staff arrived at the Comal Trails in New Braunfels where this owl's long-awaited release would take place. As soon as the carrier was opened, he effortlessly flew to one of the highest branches of the tallest tree he could find. There he sat and stared down at those who released him. Confident in his ability to continue his life in the wild, the staff prepared to leave. As they walked away, they saw the owl fly farther into the tree line, no longer able to be seen—a subtle nod to his reclaimed independence.



MARK YOUR 2023

Calendar!

WRR Enrichment Drive (Online)

Friday, June 23 to
Friday, June 30

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WRR Food Drive (Online)

Monday, August 21 to
Monday, August 28

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Big Give (Online)

Wednesday, September 20 to
Thursday, September 21

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Giving Tuesday (Online)

Tuesday, November 28

~

WRR Artistic Animals

(In-Person Event)
December TBD



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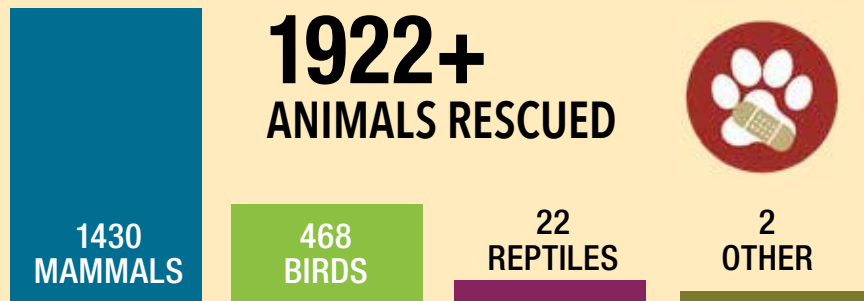
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..... **WRR 2023 Numbers in Action**

Through April 11, 2023



2000+
 HOTLINE CALLS

1700+
 VOLUNTEER HOURS

150
 VOLUNTEERS