



PIVOTING DURING COVID-19

GOING VIRTUAL

- EVENTS
- SUMMER CAMPS
- SCHOOL PROGRAMS

wildcare NEWS

HELPING YOU LIVE WELL WITH WILDLIFE SUMMER 2020



DEAR FRIENDS,

Our latest newsletter demonstrates how WildCare has adapted to the new normal during the COVID-19 pandemic and the gratitude we all feel for the support from our community.

Our ability to adjust was made possible by the extraordinary commitment of our staff, board, loyal foundations and donors. In addition, our volunteers who, although they couldn't be onsite initially, provided us with invaluable offsite Foster Care for our wildlife patients, along with

meals and kind support, that carried our overtaxed staff through these challenging months.

We wish to thank Bank of Marin for helping us secure SBA funding. We are grateful for our partner organizations, Marin Humane, International Bird Rescue, and the Marine Mammal Center whose executive teams banded together in the early days of the pandemic. We are also grateful to Jones Day, our fantastic pro bono law firm.

Thank you to our amazing community for your steadfast belief in our mission, and for giving us the strength to continue our invaluable work.

With appreciation,

Ellen Weisel
Executive Director, WildCare

WILDCARE NEWS

SUMMER 2020

WILDCARE

415.456.7283 fax 415.456.0594

WEBSITE discoverwildcare.org

Email info@discoverwildcare.org

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9AM - 5PM, seven days a week

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WILDCARE ADVOCATES FOR WILDLIFE FOR A SUSTAINABLE WORLD

Cover photo

Medical staff test-flying juvenile White-tailed Kite

Photo by Alison Hermance

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FIRST RESPONDERS

BECOME A WILDCARE FIRST RESPONDER AND JOIN OUR TEAM OF COMMITTED MONTHLY DONORS!

Making a regular monthly donation is the easiest and most efficient way to support WildCare. Your contribution of any amount is securely deducted each month, directing administrative costs and channeling more of each dollar to saving wildlife.

LEARN MORE AND SIGN UP AT
DISCOVERWILDCARE.ORG/FIRSTRESPONDERS



ARE YOU READY TO GO ABOVE & BEYOND TO RESCUE WILDLIFE?

GIVE MONTHLY!

DISCOVERWILDCARE.ORG/FIRSTRESPONDERS

COVID-19 CRISIS: HOW WE ARE COPING

WildCare is considered an essential service under shelter-in-place guidelines, and despite the dramatic changes from COVID-19, WildCare's work continues.

IF YOU'VE EVER RESCUED AN INJURED OR ORPHANED WILD ANIMAL, YOU KNOW HOW ESSENTIAL WILDCARE IS!

Throughout the pandemic our Wildlife Hospital has continued providing care for wildlife patients with a skeleton crew of onsite staff. WildCare has always relied on a corps of over 250 volunteers in our hospital, but shelter-in-place restrictions meant we needed to operate without them. A dedicated team of off-site Foster Care and Transport volunteers made our work possible, and we have recently been able to allow a small number of volunteers back onsite.

We set up a "social distancing" intake protocol for wildlife patients when restrictions were first implemented. Rescuers contact WildCare staff via a digital camera on our front gate, and staff instructs them how to fill out the paperwork and safely place the rescued animal in an outside cage. The rescuer steps back to allow social distance as our team

comes out to collect the animal. We then disinfect the clipboard, pen, and cage clasp to be ready for the next rescuer.

PATIENT NUMBERS INCREASE DURING SHELTER-IN-PLACE

WildCare admitted 1,503 animals from March 17 through June 30. Compare that number to the 1,335 animal patients admitted during the same period in 2019, and you get a sense of how busy our Wildlife Hospital has been during the pandemic. Our Living with Wildlife Hotline (415.456.7283) has also seen a nearly 10% increase in calls over the same period.

Why the increase? Because people are home, they see and rescue the animals that fall from nests, fly into windows, or get caught by cats. People are also doing yard and garden projects just at the moment that animals need our yards, trees and bushes to raise their young. So many of the Wildlife Hospital patients we admit every spring and summer



*Baby striped skunk
being examined at WildCare
Photo by Alison Hermance*

arrive due to avoidable accidents, and that is even more obvious this year.

PATIENT #20-460 BABY STRIPED SKUNK

This baby skunk was warm and safe with mom and his siblings in his cozy den under a derelict shed, when the shed was suddenly ripped off its foundation! The homeowners had decided to demolish it.

Terrified at the disruption, the mother skunk fled, leaving her tiny babies in the destroyed den. With instructions from WildCare the homeowners attempted a reunite with mom. For reasons unknown, she took back all except this striped baby, so he was brought to WildCare. He is thriving in Foster Care, and will be released back to the wild very soon.

Continued on next page

TANGLED GOPHER SNAKES

WildCare has seen a shocking increase in the number of Gopher Snakes entangled in garden netting this year.

More than a dozen of these rodent-eating snakes have been admitted, often in groups of multiple snakes all horribly tangled together. This is likely the result of people doing more gardening, and using more netting, as they shelter in place. If found quickly, these snakes can recover. Luckily all of our entangled snakes have survived to be released.

Bring any entangled animal to WildCare, as constriction injuries can be slow to manifest and very severe. **DON'T USE GARDEN NETTING.** If you must, roll it up and clip it at least 6" off the ground.

Netting **MUST** be checked every night and morning for entangled animals of many species.

AMERICAN KESTREL HIT BY A CAR

This American Kestrel was hit by a car while hunting for prey on the side of the road. During the pandemic, animals have become accustomed to less traffic, and the sides of quieter roads are tempting hunting and foraging grounds for them.

This bird came to WildCare with blood in her mouth and a ruptured ear drum. With treatment for pain and infection she is recovering well.

PLEASE DRIVE SAFELY!

Be ready to stop if an animal enters the road in front of you. Animals accustomed to little or no traffic won't be prepared to move out of



the way, and remember that young animals born within the past three months have never even seen "normal" traffic patterns.

NEST OF BABY CHICKADEES CUT FROM A TREE

Five tiny newly-hatched Chestnut-backed Chickadees arrived at WildCare due to an avoidable accident.

The tree trimmers hired to remove a limb tried to check the tree carefully, but they still missed the hole containing this nest of baby birds. With a single swipe of the chainsaw, the branch containing these babies

plummeted to the ground. It is a testament to nest building that they survived their fall, but their home and access to their parents' care was destroyed forever. The worst part of their situation is that it didn't have to happen. The tree work wasn't an emergency, so it could have been postponed until after baby season.

Help prevent avoidable accidents to wildlife! **LEARN MORE AT** discoverwildcare.org/helpwildlife

*Top: Clinic Manager Brittany examines the ear of an American Kestrel hit by a car
Bottom left: Three Gopher Snakes tangled in netting
Bottom right: Baby chickadees
Photos by Alison Hermance*

WildCare's Free Virtual Wildlife Summer Camp!



GO AT YOUR OWN PACE.

- 5 days of engaging wildlife content for every session
- Explore the camp content with your camper any time that works for you - all summer long!

HAVE FUN!

- Meet WildCare's non-releasable Wildlife Ambassadors
- Enjoy hands-on creative crafts, outdoor activities and eco-challenges

BE A NATURE SUPER HERO.

- Learn about fascinating animals and ways to help wildlife in your neighborhood
- Explore ways to have a positive impact on the planet

YES, OUR VIRTUAL CAMP REALLY IS FREE.

Check out WildCare's Virtual Summer Camp Programs for kids K-7th grade!

ANIMAL SENSE-SATIONS: K-1ST GRADES
FEATHERS, FUR & SCALES: 2ND-3RD GRADES
SECRETS OF SURVIVAL: 4TH-5TH GRADES
WEIRD & WONDERFUL: 6TH-7TH GRADES

AVAILABLE ALL SUMMER LONG!

REGISTER TODAY AT

[DISCOVERWILDCARE.ORG/VIRTUALCAMP](https://www.discoverwildcare.org/virtualcamp)

in bringing WildCare into their classrooms this fall.

WildCare's Distance Learning Programs will be available to teachers in September. Based on teacher input regarding the length and delivery style of presentations, we are designing our new distance learning offerings as a combination of short recordings and live streaming video. Our new 30-45 minute presentations will support the science-based curricula of both our Nature Van and Wildlife Ambassador programs.

The live video streams will feature our Wildlife Educators showcasing live educational animals, engaging taxidermy and biofacts—in much the same way they would in a physical classroom. Supplementing these live presentations will be short, pre-recorded videos on related content to engage and excite our school groups, while imparting context and knowledge of our native wildlife and animals' important role in our shared habitats.

To make these programs affordable for all, WildCare will be offering our Distance Learning Programs at a reduced-cost or free for schools that qualify for our scholarship program.

WildCare is poised to transition back to in-person delivery of our Nature Van, Wildlife Ambassador, Nature Hike, and Center Tour presentations as we follow state, local and district standards and guidelines for COVID-19.

Our goal is to be as flexible as possible in accommodating school groups while ensuring the ongoing health and safety of students, teachers, and our own staff.

EDUCATION PROGRAM UPDATE

FREE VIRTUAL CAMPS & DISTANCE LEARNING PROGRAMS

Because of the impact of COVID-19 on schools in the Bay Area, WildCare had to cancel all spring and summer bookings for our Terwilliger Nature Education Programs. We also made the difficult decision to cancel our onsite Summer Wildlife Camps, a beloved experience for Marin youth for over 30 years.

These cancellations have resulted in a significant revenue shortfall for our Education Department, but WildCare feels strongly that continuing to educate youth on the issues affecting wildlife and our shared environment is among the most urgent needs of

our time. To that end, we are shifting our delivery to a free Virtual Summer Camp experience and Distance Learning Programs for Bay Area youth.

While the structure of Bay Area classrooms this fall has yet to be determined, it seems clear that there will be a need for distance learning programs. WildCare is dedicated to supporting students and teachers by delivering programs in ways that meet their needs.

In May, we surveyed 700 Bay Area teachers and more than 90% of those that responded are interested



Need help keeping
those little hands busy?

TIME TO GET A WILDCARE WILDLIFE CRAFT KIT!

Includes all you need to make:

- Fox Mask • Raccoon Mask
- Hummingbird Spinner • Snake Mobile
- Birds & Windows Template
- Paper Bag Otter Puppet + Pup
- Owl Finger Puppet
- 4 3D Woodland Critter Cutouts
- + 2 Nature Scavenger Hunt Booklets
- + 6 California Wildlife Cards

**PRICE: \$30 (INCLUDES
SHIPPING & TAX)**

GO TO OUR WEBSITE TO BUY:
[DISCOVERWILDCARE.ORG/CRAFTKITS](https://discoverwildcare.org/craftkits)

UPDATE ON OUR 2020 EVENT SCHEDULE

WILDCARE'S ANNUAL GALA GOES VIRTUAL!

Since we will be unable to gather together and celebrate in person, we hope you will join us online on Saturday, August 29 for our largest fundraising event of the year!

This year's event includes a take home Gala To-Go in a box, a spectacular silent auction, visits by WildCare's wildlife ambassadors and more!

For more information and to purchase tickets or sponsor our event visit discoverwildcare.org/gala



DINING FOR WILDLIFE

Our 35th Annual Dining for Wildlife is scheduled for Tuesday, September 29 and Wednesday, September 30. Dine out (or pick up take-out!) and support WildCare's programs! For more information and to make your reservation visit discoverwildcare.org/dining

*Dining for Wildlife art by Mary Blake
Barn Owl photo by Gary Walter*



LIVING WITH WILDLIFE PHOTO CONTEST

Get outside with your camera and enter your best California wildlife photographs in WildCare's 14th annual Living with Wildlife Photography Contest! Deadline to enter is Friday, September 25. For more information visit discoverwildcare.org/photocontest

SUMMER AND FALL EVENTS

Sign up for our eNews to be notified about our upcoming events! Currently in the works are a Virtual Wine Event, our Fall Online Trivia series, and more! Please visit discoverwildcare.org/eNews

DONOR SPOTLIGHT: NORTHERN TRUST



**NORTHERN
TRUST**

WildCare is thrilled to recognize our long term partnership with Northern Trust. They have been a generous supporter and champion of WildCare for nearly 10 years.

Although Northern Trust is a preeminent global financial institution, community involvement is deeply rooted in their culture.

For over 130 years, Northern Trust has actively advanced a culture of caring and a commitment to invest

responsibly in the communities they serve worldwide. Northern has proved this commitment with its significant impact on regional wildlife through their support of WildCare.

Northern's support has been varied and meaningful. Through our Wine, Wills and WildCare series, Northern Trust provided multiple free estate planning seminars for our supporters interested in learning how to include their loved ones or WildCare in their legacy plans. Years of sponsorships

contributed to many wildly successful WildCare events where individuals and businesses eagerly committed to becoming loyal WildCare supporters.

We couldn't have dreamt of a more meaningful partnership with a Bay Area business leader. For all the ways, and the many years, you have supported WildCare, we thank you, Northern Trust!

KEEP YOURSELF & LOVED ONES SAFE WITH A WILDCARE FACE MASK!



SHOW YOUR LOVE FOR WILDLIFE WITH ONE OF OUR NEW FACE MASKS
Choose from designs featuring your favorite birds and woodland mammals!

PRICE: \$15 (INCLUDES TAX) + FREE SHIPPING within the continental US

**TO PURCHASE, VISIT
[DISCOVERWILDCARE.ORG/MASKS](https://discoverwildcare.org/masks)**



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**INVITE YOUR FRIENDS OVER FOR AN ELEGANT EVENING
TO CELEBRATE THE WONDERS OF WILDCARE!**

Reserve your "Gala In a Box"
with hors d'oeuvres, signature cocktail, wine, dessert & surprise gifts,
& join us for a LIVE virtual event featuring close-up encounters with
WildCare's Wildlife Ambassadors, an exciting auction & more!

SATURDAY, AUGUST 29, 2020

