



NAPA WILDLIFE RESCUE

Napa Wildlife Rescue 2023 Annual Report

Our Mission:

Napa Wildlife Rescue supports and advocates for Wildlife through Rehabilitation, Education, Collaboration and Community Engagement in order to promote sustainable and healthy ecosystems in Napa County for present and future generations.

Napa Wildlife Rescue is the only organization in Napa County that is allowed to rescue, rehabilitate and release healthy wild animals back into their native habitat. NWR has helped over 13,500 animals since 2013!

In 2023 Napa Wildlife Rescue admitted 1,163 patients representing 108 different species. 72% of the patients were avians and 28% were mammals. The persistence of wet winter weather far into spring presented some difficulties as it delayed the start of many songbird's nesting by about two weeks across the Bay Area. Two-thirds of our patients arrive in "baby season" the period of time between May and September, and in 2023 the timeline was condensed, making for a super busy baby season.



The most prevalent species of patients were Mourning Doves, House Finches, Rock Pigeons, Virginia Opossums and American Crows. Other songbird species that came into care included American Robins, Barn Swallows, Brewers Blackbirds, Common Ravens, Dark-eyed Juncos, Northern Mockingbirds, Oak Titmouse, Wild Turkeys and Western Bluebirds. Our raptor patients included Red-tailed Hawks, Red-shouldered Hawks, Peregrine Falcon, Cooper's Hawks, Great-Horned Owls, Barn Owls, and Western Screech Owls. Mammals included Mexican Free-Tailed Bats, Raccoons, Striped Skunks, Grey Foxes, and lots of Squirrels!

Hawklime

Our Hawk Line (707-224-4295), the phone number that the public calls to get information about what to do with an injured animal, received over 1700 phone calls this past year. Approximately 80% of the calls are from Napa, 5% from American Canyon and 15% from elsewhere in Napa County. NWR staff or volunteers did the field rescue of 72 distressed animals. Volunteers also transport animals found by people who are unable to bring the animals to the clinic.



Tom untying fishing line from an Osprey caught in its nest.

Education in Schools

Napa Wildlife Rescue offers educational programs for elementary schools. Terra, the Education Coordinator for NWR, visited 37 K-5 classrooms in 2023. Carol took Maddie, the Red-tail hawk, to 25 presentations at schools and summer camps. Over 1,300 people got to see her. The Education program is offered at no charge as we feel it is very important for children to learn to love and respect wild animals.



Carol, Maddie and Jan at school

In a broad sense we teach students topics in ecology, biology, human impact and biodiversity that are based on Next Generation Science Standards. Our goal is to teach the next generation how to coexist with the natural world and how to care for it. In one of our K-2nd grade lessons, we teach students the importance of moderation. In this lesson they learn that we use trees in many aspects of our lives but if we cut too many down for our own uses, it leaves the habitat barren for wildlife. The activity encourages the idea of replenishing, the students get to plant native flowers and take them home to watch them grow, eventually planting them for wildlife to enjoy.

Similarly, in one of our 4-5th grade lessons, we teach students the importance of caring for the environment. We have a discussion about ways that we, as a society, harm the environment but

then discuss ways to help it. The activity allows students to collaborate with one another to come up with a message they care about, by making a poster that they can share with their school.

While we have several lessons about coexistence, we also have many lessons on wildlife ecology. In one of our 3rd grade lessons, we teach students the importance of function when looking at bird beak adaptations. This discussion allows students to use critical thinking to determine the beak style that is most effective for catching a certain type of food.



Terra at school

BOMP

The third pillar program of NWR is BOMP, the Barn Owl Box Maintenance Program. We sell, install, clean and monitor the occupancy of Barn Owl nesting boxes so pesticide free practices can be applied for rodent abatement in our agricultural community. The profits from this program help us fund our wildlife rehabilitation work. This year we constructed, sold and installed 34 new nesting boxes.

We offer two annual services, one in the spring and one in the fall to our BOMP clients. In spring we visit participating clients' properties to gather data on owl occupancy and in fall we clean and make minor repairs on boxes. This is especially important for heavily occupied boxes, as the interior can accumulate hazardous amounts of debris. It goes without saying that the health of owls & owlets is very important to us, so we take extra care to emphasize the importance of annual maintenance. Our team serviced 253 boxes in 2023. They checked 99 boxes for occupancy of owls in the spring and cleaned and checked occupancy and cleaned 154 boxes in the fall. Occupancy rates were higher in the fall than in the spring.

Community Engagement

Our social media continues to engage the public about the importance of wildlife rescue and rehabilitation, as well as tell the human stories behind the organization. We educate our audiences on ways they can live in harmony with wildlife by posting Seasonal Public Service Announcements such as How to Prepare for Skunk Mating Season to When Best to Prune Trees and What to do When You Find an Opossum. From December 16-January 14th, we increased our reach by 190% to our non-followers, meaning people who had not yet followed us on social media engaged for the first time with our content. On average, we post 5 days a week and during fundraising drives increase that to several times per day. Our monthly fundraising/newsletters currently reach 2,438 email addresses.

Volunteers and Partnerships

Napa Wildlife Rescue would not exist without the hard work of volunteers. NWR has a regular presence at the Napa Farmer's Market from April through November. Our goals are to educate people about our programs and recruit volunteers. Ongoing training is an important component of our licensing. Our staff conveys their knowledge to volunteers through training sessions on animal rescue and care that are held during the winter and spring.

Volunteers care for animals, clean, transport, garden, pick up trash along Cuttings Wharf Road and photograph animal releases. In 2023 volunteers built a new fox enclosure and songbird aviary. Other volunteers glean food destined for compost from markets that deem it unsaleable. It may not look pretty to humans but our animals love it! Frozen mice for our mammals and raptors is donated by the Sacramento Zoo. Saving money also extends to the generosity of two local auto repair businesses - McGrath's and Napa Autowerke- who keep our vehicles running.

Garden

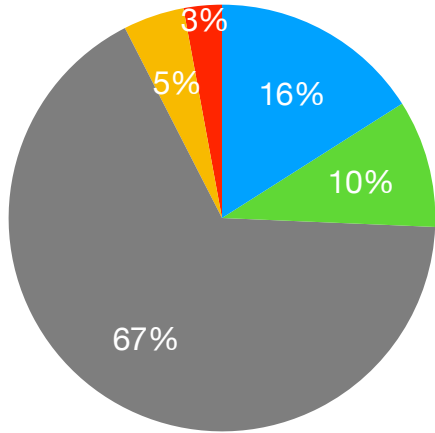
We continue to re-landscape our two properties, Julia's Refuge and the Shafer Sanctuary, with California native plants thanks to the support of the Xerces Society, Napa's Resource Conservation District (RCD) and Napa Native Plant Society. The garden project is run by knowledgeable volunteers who are learning which plants provide the best habitat and food sources for our patients.



Volunteers Jan, Deb and Lotte working in the garden.

Financials

Napa Wildlife Rescue has sound fiscal health. In 2023 we raised \$480,000 which exceeded our fundraising goal by \$30,000. Our expenses of \$426,000 were less than our projected expenses of \$440,000. We have a healthy reserve fund for property improvements and unforeseen expenses. We fully own two pieces of property: Julia's Refuge, the 2-acre clinic property in Carneros and the Shafer Sanctuary, 5 acres near Yountville for pre-release conditioning of certain species of animals.

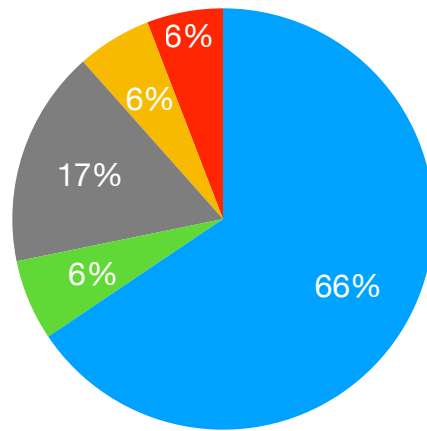


2023 Income \$480,000

- Grants & Foundations
- BOMP
- Private Donations including CanDo Give!Guide
- Special Event
- Interest

2023 Expenses \$426,000

- Animal Care
- Education Programs
- Insurance, Office & Fundraising Expenses
- Property Expenses including utilities
- BOMP Expenses



Staff (paid) Linnaea Furlong, Manager; Emily Scott, Animal Care Technician/BOMP Coordinator; Terra Standish, Animal Care Technician/Education Coordinator; Charlotte Staub Hensler, HAWKLINE/ Volunteer Coordinator; Sara Walhovd-Gonzales, Animal Care Technician; Maria Gomez, Animal Care Technician; Alex King, Animal Care Technician.

Board Members (volunteer)

The current members of the Board are: Carol Poole, President; Tom Clark, Vice-President; Linda Howard, Secretary; Debbie Haverstick, Treasurer; John Comisky; Hal Hensler; Breanna Martinico; Dean Vanech; and Vivian Wehner.

Napa Wildlife Rescue (NWR) was established as a 501(c) 3 nonprofit corporation in 1991 and operates under permits from the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service and the California Department of Fish and Wildlife.

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www.napawildliferescue.org
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Napa Wildlife Rescue Donors 2023

\$20,000 +

Anonymous, The David and Jane Gotelli Family Fund, The May Foundation, Richard R. Reed Foundation, Julia Winiarski

\$5,000-\$19,999

Anonymous, Alice & Richard Anderson Fund, Bhaskaran Dubey Charitable Fund, CA Department of Fish & Wildlife, Morgan Louise Morgan, Napa County Wildlife Conservation Commission, Monty Sander, Doug and Annette Shafer, Winiarski Family Foundation

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And many more! It is too difficult to list all the donors, but we are so appreciative of all of our supporters. We know people give according to their means and every dollar and every hour of volunteer work improves our organization and helps further our mission to help wildlife! Thank you for making 2023 a successful year!



March 2024

Greetings, fellow wildlife lover!

Every year offers different challenges for wildlife rehabilitators to overcome, and 2023 was no exception. We experienced climate change and excessive late rain that impacted baby season. For the past two years we have contended with HPAI, Highly Pathogenic Avian Influenza. Not to mention the ubiquitous impact of human beings: Loss of habitat and food resources, pollution, poison, and automobile and window collisions present an array of threats to Napa County's diverse wildlife. But obstacles were meant to be overcome, and hope is the most important resource we can deploy to defend the future of our region's wildlife.

With the challenges facing wildlife today, it is critical to ensure a sound financial footing for Napa Wildlife Rescue. We are the only organization in Napa County that is there for wildlife when they are sick, injured, or orphaned. They need our help today – and will need it going forward. With your support, we can continue to be there for them.

In 2024 we also commit to the exciting and vital initiative of building our education program. We will have two more ambassador animals to introduce at schools and at our clinic. We're also planning for the construction of a new raccoon house - in 2023 we had more raccoon babies than ever before! Last but not least, we will continue to improve the care and housing of our beautiful songbirds.

As we forge ahead, we're also educating ourselves and our supporters about different donation strategies. Recurring monthly donations, qualified charitable distributions, and legacy bequests all can help Napa Wildlife Rescue have a more stable financial future. So, we commit to providing you with information in these areas in the year ahead, and welcome your input on them.

We are on the cusp of our "baby season" for avians, mammals, and opossums (the only North American marsupial). Soon, our clinic will swell with over one thousand patients. I am proud to share our 2023 Annual Report with you, and hope you'll join me in being inspired by the crucial work you're helping us do on behalf of Napa's wildlife.

Thank you for your continued support. It is humbling and deeply appreciated.

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Carol Poole". The signature is fluid and cursive.

Carol Poole, President
Napa Wildlife Rescue

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Administration: (707) 685-5411

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