



giving wildlife a

Second Chance

SUMMER 2019

WHAT'S INSIDE

- Our New Rehab Tech Wildlife Releases
- A Very Strange Case
- Keeping Cats (& Birds) Safe
- New Members
- Spring Fling Photos
- Community Outreach

PWC CALENDAR

MAY FUNDRAISER
2019 Baby Shower Campaign raised over \$6,000.00

JUNE FUNDRAISERS
SLO Guild Pancake Breakfast and Mason Bar & Kitchen

JULY-SEPTEMBER
Our "Busiest" months - when we can expect to take in 1,500 - 1,800 wildlife cases

OCTOBER
20 - Annual General Membership Meeting - Watch for your invite/ballot

12 - "Morro Bay Wild" - Tours of the PWC Clinic

16-17 - OWCN - Oilpalooza

NOVEMBER
1-4 Calif. Council for Wildlife Rehabilitator's Annual Symposium

SAVE THE DATE:

9th Annual
Soupabration!
November 3, 2019



Watch for the exciting announcement for this re-imagined, larger-than-ever event

A HOME FOR ORPHANS

By Pamela Hartmann

How does one care for six newly-orphaned baby opossums, each the size of a thumb, whose mother was the victim of a dog attack? To survive, the babies needed a safe, warm place and access to milk—in other words, their mother's pouch. Failing that, Pacific Wildlife Care would need to provide a less-than-ideal substitute: soft, warm bedding and a human caregiver to hand-feed them formula every two hours.

But PWC's Veterinarian Shannon Riggs and resident Opossum Whisperer, Rehabilitation Technician Kathy Duncan, had an idea. At the PWC clinic was another family—a mother opossum (#19-403, survivor of yet another dog attack) and her three babies, now big enough to be sleeping outside her pouch, nearby. Riggs and Duncan wondered if this mama could be a surrogate to the six orphans. It had been done before, but these babies were so *small*. Would they be able to latch on? And this mother was so *angry*, so *fierce*, recovering

from her many wounds. With such an age gap between her own babies and these, would she accept them? Could she produce enough milk?

Duncan gave it a try. She moved the three larger babies to their own enclosure with cozy bedding and a dish of food mixed with formula. Then she

carefully placed the six orphans in Mama's pouch—and waited, hopeful but tense. She checked on them often. If something went wrong, she would have to remove them and start hand-feeding right away.

But it worked! One week later, when another baby of similar size was brought to the clinic, Duncan added her to the six in Mama's pouch—a member of the club. Meanwhile, the three original babies were doing well, graduating to solid food

and on the road to release.

Several weeks later, Mama had healed well enough for the family to be moved to a big outside enclosure, where they thrived—evidence of Riggs' skills, an inspired idea, and the willingness of Opossum 19-403 to raise a second family. As Duncan says, "Mama did such a better job than we could!"



Photo by Kathy Duncan

Photo by Pamela Hartmann



Update:

In a happy coincidence, Mama completely healed just as her original three babies matured enough to be released—and that's what happened. Mama and youngsters were reunited and released to the wild, together. Full circle.

STRANGE ANIMAL MONTH

April was our unofficial 'strange animal month' at the clinic with a number (10) of seldom or never seen reptiles and amphibians being admitted to the clinic.

The strangest was a Jackson's Chameleon, who was found in a residential area near the golf course here in Morro Bay.

Unbeknownst to all (except Rehab Tech, Kelley) at the clinic, there is a small population of these living in Morro Bay, who were introduced when CDFW accidentally released 10 of them during a raid in 1981.

This makes Morro Bay, a few small areas in Kenya, and Hawaii the only places on earth where these lizards survive in the wild. As these animals usually do very poorly as pets, our Vet decided releasing him back where he came from would be best for all.

Jackson's Chameleon stalking a mealworm at PWC. Photo and story by Vann Masvidal.



MEET PWC'S NEWEST REHABILITATION TECHNICIAN

Lauren Brotherton is a passionate individual that has always had a love for wildlife. She enjoyed her time as a PWC intern last summer and is thrilled to be a permanent member of our staff. Lauren truly believes in the mission of PWC as she intends to dedicate her life to being a voice for the voiceless. Lauren is graduating from Cal Poly in the spring with a bachelor's degree in Environmental Management & Protection and a concentration in Wildlife Biology. Lauren was born and raised in Orange County, CA and is happy to be living on the Central Coast.

SPRING FLING SNAPSHOTS

Photos by Joel Germond



Welcome New Members & Donors (January – April 2019)

- | | | | | |
|----------------------------|------------------------|----------------------------|------------------|------------------------------|
| Augustine Almanza | Jason Dart | Barbara & Patrick Kasper | Sophia Nelson | Mia Skelton |
| Evelyn Alvarez | Dana Denson | Autumn Klinge | Marta Nielsen | Beth Smith |
| Teah Anders | Kirsten & Ron Dillehay | Ashley Lam | Morgan Nolan | Mary Staton |
| Farah Aria | Stacey Dongan | Robin Larzelere | Laura Ochoa | Paul Terek |
| Theresa Bachoc | Angela Dunn | Alexis Leviner | Amy Parkinson | Chas Thompson |
| Verlinda Bailey | Kathy Eade | David Lindsey | Mary Parker | Frederick Thom |
| Susan Baxter | Carol Ellis | Therese Littlefeather | Chris Pelonis | Priscilla & Donald Timmerman |
| Leah Becinski | Julie Erickson | Lisa Kilburn & James Maino | Micaela Pepple | Sasha Tselikova |
| Natalie Boesen | Jody Ghione | Judy Malcolm | Gizella Raymond | Deanne Tucker |
| Sharon Bonham | Scarlett Gravelle | Annika Malmstrom-Smith | Jim Robinson | Jesse Urenda |
| Kathleen & Allen Boyd | Paul Grafton | Tess Mathews | Michael Roberson | Katheryn Vasquez |
| Juliabeth Bull | Gabi Grether | Christian Mazariegos | Omar Rodriguez | Bonnie Vogel |
| JoEllen Burgett | Evan Harling | Donna & Brook McMahon | Michelle Romo | Marie West |
| Katie Capela | Phyllis Heintz | John Michener | Brian Scally | Christine & Robert Williams |
| Paola & Christopher Carman | Robin Hendry | David Minsky | Lacy Schlieve | The Wilkinsons |
| Jasper Carman | Maya Higa | Jennifer Molinar | Larry Schiffer | Dolores Williams |
| Lourdes Carranza | Pamala & Steve Holm | Juliet & Ken Mondal | John Sheetz | Jean Woodruff |
| Skye Coddington | Julie Jarvis | Lansing Moran | Linda Shotwell | Kathleen Woodruff |
| Karen Cristanelli | Malia Johnson | Jane Morgan | Kathy Simpson | Frank Young |
| Jeniffer Cruzat | Kati Kaizen | Ginny Murtaugh | Colin Sinclair | Carol Zee |

FOR THE LOVE OF BIRDS

By Sharon Sutliff

I confess to a love for all the animals with which we share our world. Each one may be just another bird, lizard, or squirrel to most people, but to that individual creature its life is everything.

One morning as I stood watching the birds at my feeder I noticed a cat moving stealthily nearby. I shouted and clapped my hands to scare it away. *Felis sylvestris* insinuated itself into human society some 12,000 years ago when they were attracted to the mice that were, in turn, enticed by the stored grain of our agrarian ancestors. Humans learned to appreciate these felines for their skill in pest control and over time favored those that were more docile. European immigrants brought them to the New World and, thus, are the cats that we know today.

It is estimated that 59 million Americans own at least one. In just the last 40 years the number of domestic cats has tripled according to the American Bird Conservancy. *Felis sylvestris* never lost the instinct for hunting, even though—excluding feral cats—most are well fed by their owners. Cats rarely consume their prey but, rather, play with it.

As a long time volunteer with PWC, I have seen the sad results of such play. They arrive with a variety of injuries, if they're brought in at all. Often, tail feathers are missing, which serve as a bird's rudder, making them easy prey in the wild. A cat's playful bite is filled with bacteria and the bird must be confined until it completes a course of life-saving antibiotics.

Experts estimate that domestic and feral cats together kill between 1.3 billion and 4 billion birds



a year. Added to the other premature deaths by window hits, habitat loss, climate change and other types of human interference, we are facing the extinction of whole species. Many are already lost to us. It is not an exaggeration to suggest that future generations of humans may truly experience a "silent spring."

Solutions have been posited, and some are already in use in many homes. The cat itself is in constant danger when it roams free, and this can be a major motivation for cat owners to keep their cats indoors. A stimulating home environment can be created for an indoor cat. Such apparatus—limited only by imagination—allows Fluffy to explore the home, high and low and be safe from vehicles, coyotes, birds of prey, and disease.

A recent phenomenon is the "catio" [cat-patio]. An Internet search will reveal many creative styles. Most have access to and from the house and are structurally attached. They take all forms with perches, greenery, comfy shelves or chairs where the cat can observe the outside world. All have netting, wire, or other transparent material so that both the cat and bird are kept safe.

I long for a day when all people appreciate these wonderful modern-day dinosaurs in our midst and join me in protecting them.

RELEASES

January-April 2019

Acorn Woodpecker	1
American Kestrel	1
American Robin	1
Band-tailed Pigeon	1
Barn owl	1
Black Rat	1
Black-tailed Jackrabbit	1
Botta's Pocket Gopher	1
Brown-headed Cowbird	1
Common Poorwill	1
Desert Cottontail	1
European Starling	1
Golden-crowned Sparrow	1
Jackson's Chameleon	1
Japanese Quail	1
Mallard	1
Marbled Godwit	1
Mourning Dove	1
Myotis Californicus	1
Pacific Loon	1
Pallid Bat	1
Pied-billed Grebe	1
Raccoon	1
Red-shouldered Hawk	1
Surf Scoter	1
Western Bluebird	1
Western Screech Owl	1
Wild Turkey	1
Black Phoebe	2
Brown Pelican	2
Canada Goose	2
Cedar Waxwing	2
Killdeer	2
Anna's Hummingbird	3
Brush Rabbit	3
Eurasian Collared-dove	3
Horned Grebe	3
Indian Runner Duck	3
Red-tailed Hawk	3
Red-throated Loon	3
House Finch	4
Western Pond Turtle	4
Common Murre	5
Western Gull	6
Great Horned Owl	7
Virginia Opossum	11
Rock Pigeon	14
Clark's Grebe	25
Western Grebe	61
Total:	196

REACHING OUT TO OUR COMMUNITY



Mark Garman & Azul Hull staffed a PWC table at the Greenspace Earth Day event (not pictured Kerry Cox, Susan Garman). Photo by Susan Garman.



Terry Cook & "Buddy" speak to 2nd Graders at the Cambria History Museum. Photo by Consuelo Macedo

Spring sprang once again with many babies at the Clinic and in home care



Fledgling California Scrub-jays in care at the Clinic

PWC's mission is to support San Luis Obispo wildlife through rehabilitation and educational outreach. We envision Pacific Wildlife Care as an advocate for wildlife. By sharing our experiences, we inspire community participation to reduce harm to our wild neighbors.

SPECIAL THANK YOUS

Suzie Lytsell - for tireless volunteerism over many years, for serving on the PWC oil wash team and always being supportive of the PWC mission. R.I.P. - *You will be missed.*

Greenvale Tree Company - help with re-nesting

Valerie Levulett & Friends - holding a garage sale and giving proceeds to PWC.

The Mason of King Davids Lodge #209 - generous donation to PWC.

Bob Peak - (pictured here) tireless volunteerism for challenging captures, endless trips to deliver frozen fish from our supplier, and re-nesting, re-nesting, re-nesting! (Just recently over 6 baby Barn Owls in one week!)



Membership/Donations Save Lives

“ Yes, I would like to give wildlife a second chance! ”

- | | | | |
|--------------------------------------|---------|---|-------|
| <input type="checkbox"/> Benefactor | \$3,000 | <input type="checkbox"/> Supporter | \$150 |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Patron | \$1,500 | <input type="checkbox"/> Advocate | \$60 |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Sponsor | \$600 | <input type="checkbox"/> Student/Senior/Volunteer | \$30 |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Contributor | \$300 | <input type="checkbox"/> Other _____ | |

I would like information on adding Pacific Wildlife Care to my will or trust.

Visit us online at pacificwildlifecare.org to set up a monthly subscription or pay by credit card

Name: _____
 Phone: _____ Email: _____
 Address: _____
 City: _____ State: _____ Zip: _____ Date: _____

Please check: New Membership Renewal Donation I would like to volunteer
 Please mail completed form with check to Pacific Wildlife Care, PO Box 1134, Morro Bay, CA 93443

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