The hardest call we ever get are the ones from well meaning, good Samaritans that often go like this: “Hi, I’ve found a baby (fill in the blank). Will you tell me what to feed it? I’d like to keep it as a pet.” This is a difficult situation for a rehabilitator because talking someone into giving up a cute little baby animal is a little like talking someone down from a ledge. It is difficult to explain that by next summer the little critter’s wild instincts will have kicked in and they will have the equivalent of the Tasmanian devil running around their house! Instead they are thinking what a cute, little, fuzzy, adorable pet this will be. Who can blame them? Baby animals are irresistible! However, about 6 months later we receive that Other dreaded call from the same well meaning individual “Hi, I have this (fill in the blank) I’ve raised. It was really cute at first but now it’s tearing up my house and biting my kids and husband. Will you take it?"

It is understandable why so many people want to keep the little critter they’ve rescued from the family cat. Baby animals are CUTE. However, like human babies, it’s not long before those cute little young’uns become little terrors! Remember that wild animals do not have the advantage of thousands of years of domestication, as do dogs and cats. Wild babies will turn into wild adults.

Remember, a wild animal raised by humans improperly cannot be safely released into the wild. Unless an animal is introduced to others of its own species and taught the skills necessary to survive in the wild, its chances for survival are slim. An animal that has lost its natural fear of humans is also at great risk in the wild. If it goes strolling up to a hunter or someone who fears it, it will likely be killed.

So what happens to wild animals that are raised as pets?

Unfortunately many of them are doomed to living out their lives in a cage, receiving little attention or stimulation. Many are unhealthy due to improper diet. Others are released to fend for themselves, though ill prepared. Still others are simply euthanized.

It may be very tempting to keep a wild animal that you’ve rescued. But as an animal lover, you should accept that wild animals need and deserve their freedom. Find a licensed rehabilitator to care for the animal so that it can be returned to its home in the wild. Consider giving a good home to one of the thousands of dogs and cats available from your local animal shelter instead. The experience will be far more rewarding!

In This Issue:

- A very lucky Squirrel!
- Who’s at the Haven Meet some Of our newest visitors!
- Build a backyard habitat

To volunteer or learn about other ways that you can Help us Help Wildlife!

Donate online at www.HavenOnline.org

Contact us at 407-260-6137
Thank You!

As always, sincerest thanks to Dr. Robt. Hess and the staff of the Winter Park Veterinary Clinic for their time and expertise.

Thank you to Dr. Maureen Burton of Piedmont Animal Hospital for her expertise.

Thank you to all our new and veteran volunteers and their understanding spouses.

Thanks to Publix for donating much needed produce to ensure our animals have a healthy diet.

Thank you to all our foster moms and dads who helped us in the raising of our orphan squirrels.

Heathrow Elementary Ecology Club, thank you for your ongoing support in collecting supplies for the Haven. They are a great group of kids.

A Very Lucky Squirrel

A baby squirrel was found in a nest which had fallen to the ground during a storm. The person brought the nest, along with the squirrel in it, saying she could not get the baby out of the nest. It seems to be stuck on something. Upon gently taking the nest apart we found the squirrel had a string very tightly wrapped around his leg with the string also tangled in the nesting materials. After freeing the leg we noticed it was broken. We were sure he had broken it while trying to move about in the nest. The cast will have to be on for 2 weeks, then hopefully the leg will have healed and the squirrel will be able to go back in the wild along with his 2 siblings which were fine.

Help Us,
Help Wildlife!
Keep Your Environment Clean

Littering harms wildlife. Everyday items such as gum, fishing line, plastic bags and wrappers can become entangled around a bird’s beak making it impossible for them to eat or drink. Trash is also found wrapped around animals’ legs, cutting off circulation and causing infection. Please help the planet and help wildlife.

Keep Trash in its Place!

Get Your Haven T-Shirt Today for a $10 Donation!

Name ___________________________
Address ___________________________
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Number of T shirts-
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Mail to: The Haven for Injured and Orphaned Wildlife
610 Birch Blvd., Altamonte Springs, FL 32701
Building Backyard Habitat

Not only do trees play an important role in the environment by helping produce fresh air, they are also a valuable source of food and shelter for many types of wildlife! So invite wildlife to visit by planting a native tree this spring. Animals such as the eastern gray squirrel, raccoon, flying squirrel, and all types of birds take up shelter in trees. By planting trees with edible fruits or nuts, you can increase your wildlife population! A tree that is native to Florida, will require very little time or effort and should grow well on its own shortly after planting.

Besides creating homes for wildlife, there are many benefits you will reap from having lots of trees! Shady lots keep home cooling costs down in the summer. Fruit trees provide yummy treats in the winter and early spring months. The wildlife that trees attract are an endless source of entertainment during that morning cup of coffee. And tree plantings are a great family project that teach children to appreciate the environment. It is also fun to watch your tree develop over the years as the children grow.

In addition to trees try adding a bird bath to your yard. Make a small garden in front of a window with a few shrubs, an ornamental tree, some flowers and a bird bath in the middle. Then sit and watch the birds take turns flying in and out of the bird bath. The shrubs and tree will provide safety while they are bathing.

For those a little more energetic try a backyard pond which can be as simple or as difficult as you would like it to be. Most home improvement stores sell pre-formed plastic liners, as well as flat rubber liners to fit any shape. You may choose to add a pump system or instead opt for aquatic plants and animals to filter the water naturally. Besides giving small animals such as birds, squirrels and raccoons a place to cool off, you will also be providing homes for frogs, turtles and maybe even water birds!

Here are some suggested native trees that will attract wildlife:

- Oak
- Persimmon
- Winged Elm
- Red Mulberry
- Citrus
- Pine
- Black Gum
- Buttonwood
- Chestnut
- Magnolia
- Hickory
- Palms

Release sites for healthy critters

5-10 acres of land on which to expand our growing facilities

Thank you on behalf of those without voices!
Sincerest Thanks to our Supporting Members!

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Mr. & Mrs. Ed Huether in memory of Bill Huether
Maryna Barahona in memory of her mother

THE FOLLOWING IN MEM OF MIKE SIMONETTI
Scott Renaud
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Morilas familly
S. B. Hayes
Mark Prive
Mr. & Mrs. Rob Flores

HAVE A HAPPY HOLIDAY SEASON AND NEW YEAR FROM EVERYONE AT THE HAVEN
Who's at

The Haven!

This tiny orphaned bunny doesn't even have his eyes open! Though baby bunnies only stay with their mother for about two weeks after birth, this guy is far too tiny to be on his own!

Sea gull came in with a bruised breast and was unable to fly. After 3 weeks of rest everything healed and he was released back with his flock at a nearby lake.

This is a juvenile opossum learning how to climb to enable him to be released soon.

This is a young squirrel not quite sure if he is ready for exploring the world yet. He will be here another 2 months before he is put in an outdoor cage to acclimate him to his environment.

Help Us Help Wildlife!

Donate Today!

We need YOUR support!
a copy of the official registration and financial information may be obtained from the division of consumer services by calling toll-free (800-435-7352) within the state. registration does not imply endorsement, approval, or recommendation by the state

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