WILDLIFE CARE OF VENTURA COUNTY

Rescue ~ Rehabilitation ~ Release
of Injured and Orphaned Wild Animals

NATURES VOICE

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P.O Box 941476 Simi Valley CA. 93065

PRESIDENTS PERSPECTIVE

Alan Pollack at our Booth at the Oxnard Farmers Market.

Anna Reams at a school program with our educational screech owl.

Orphaned baby raccoon.

The rehabilitation of wild animals is fast becoming a field more appreciated and recognized as a profession. The need for more facilities and rehabilitators is evident by the shear number of animals that are found each year in need of help.

Although we are state and federally permitted to handle and treat injured wild animals, we are not financially supported by either. The space, land, caging, supplies, food, medications, and veterinary care needed to treat wild animals and the education required to learn what a rehabilitator needs to know, is all acquired on our own time and at our own expense.

We are able to offset a lot of these costs through group fund raising, individual donations, newsletter solicitations and trust funds. The education is acquired by attending wildlife conferences, working with veterinarians, and training under other rehabilitators.

In-home rehabilitators field phone calls from and educate the public; do an intake history on each animal brought in; examine, clean and suture any wounds; stabilize and wrap fractures; start the animal on a course of antibiotics; give fluids if the animal is dehydrated. The rehabilitator must be familiar with the species in order to get each animal started on the proper diet. All of this is done out of the rehabber's home, with limited funds and space, and often juggling family and job, There is no one more respectful of a rehabilitator than another rehabilitator because they know the sacrifices that are made. The in-home rehabilitator wears many hats and provides the same service as the larger centers that have a paid staff and weekends off. The only difference is that the in-home rehabilitator does it 24 /7 with the help of only a few committed volunteers.

We are well aware that those of us who are in a position to be hands-on with the animals would not have been afforded this opportunity if it weren't for the contributions made by those volunteers and individuals who faithfully continue to support and donate to our cause. If it weren't for our supporters we would not be able to do the work we do. We definitely operate as a team.

We dedicate this issue to those volunteers, contributors and ambassadors who make this all possible. In it we share some touching stories and some really grand gestures that tell of the dedication of our supporters. Most of all, we would like to say THANK YOU to our guardian angels who make our job of saving the wild world and educating the civilized one so much easier.

A very special THANK - YOU goes to June Yanaginuma who gives so generously in memory of her husband and because of their love for the animals.

Thank you, June, for your loyal, ongoing commitment…. we couldn't do it with out you.

Anna M. Reams

Ambassador for her Species and a Special Friend, gone to soon.

Sierra
2002 - 2006
"Baby Girl"

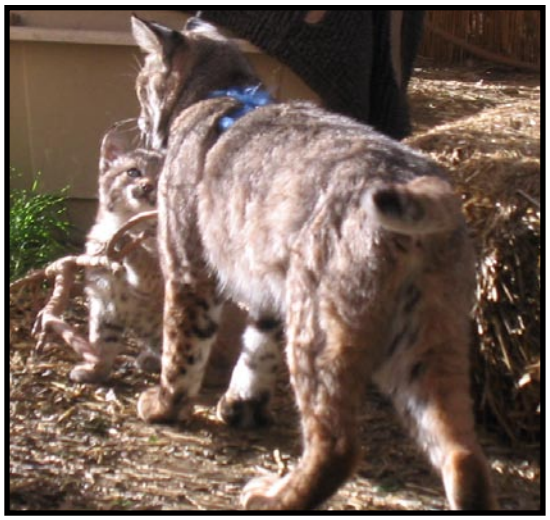
Sierra came to us at the very young age of 4 -5 weeks from the Kern River, brought in by a couple who had found her wandering through their camp during the middle of the day. On intake it was obvious that she was a little too docile and calm even for a very young bob-cat, and it had crossed my mind that they might have had her longer than they were letting on. But within a few minutes, the reason for her behavior became clear, -- she was having seizures. Our veterinarian performed many tests on her and all were inconclusive,-- there was no medical reason that they could find for the seizures. So we decided at that point to raise her as an educational animal.

We placed her on medication to control the seizures which we had to give twice -a -day for the rest of her life. In addition to her seizures, and quite possibly as a result of them, she suffered some brain damage, which caused her to be very hyperactive and limited in her capacity to interact with others. This made training her a little more of a challenge, but as time went on and she got older, by working together daily and by altering my methods of training in response to her special needs, we got it figured out . I was the one who was in training.

Sierra was, and continues to be, an ambassador for her species in so many ways. She did educational programs on and off site and served as a surrogate mother to more than a few orphaned bobcat kittens ... before they got too big for her to handle. All of this she did with her disability, --some days more grudgingly than others. But then, that is normal bobcat behavior.

Sierra reminded me that it is not always the destination that is important but the process by which we arrive , the connections we make along the way - and that the process is forever changing and so must we.

Sierra passed away in my arms in Sept of 2006. amr



Sierra with a Bobcat Kitten.

Anna Reams with Sierra at a school program 2005.

A LOSS OF LIFE ...

It was a sunny Saturday morning when James, one of the rehabilitators working with Wildlife Care of Ventura County, received the panicky call from a lady in South Pasadena. The woman had found a sick, wild parrot and was eager to find help for it. James urged her to bring the bird right in to his Burbank "clinic", which consisted of a small portion of his garage, and which, in earlier days, had functioned as a work out room and music studio but which was now mostly a storage area. She did as he suggested and stood by as he examined the bird on his makeshift examining table, surrounded by animal carriers containing more of Mother Nature's small, injured and orphaned wild critters. He soon determined that the bird was seriously ill, perhaps poisoned and as he shared his impressions with the good Samaritan, he noticed how upset she was getting. He tried some playful teasing in an attempt to lift her mood, but it didn't work, and when the bird died moments later, her upset was replaced by more intense weeping. Apologizing, Mieke Kramer reveals that her 14 year old daughter, Marieke Douridas, had died a few months before. Like her mother, Marieke had always been very concerned about the wildlife around her and, together, they had often taken care of stray animals they had found. Now she was suddenly and tragically gone and the death of a wild parrot had brought back a flood of emotion.

In loving tribute to her memory, many friends, relatives and even strangers had sent Marieke's family money to pay for emergency medical and funeral expenses. After these expenses were paid off, a sizable sum remained in a memorial fund and the family had not yet decided how best to use this money. Not until, that is, Mieke took another look around the very limited, cramped space in which James was doing the best he could to heal the wild creatures brought to him for care. She suddenly knew exactly where to put those funds to work,- a way she knew Marieke would be delighted with: they would help James create a large, modernized treatment space for him to do his healing work. Without too much difficulty, she was able to get her long time companion, Jim Tavares, and Marieke's father, Chris Douridas, to agree with her idea.

With the family's generous donation, James immediately set to work designing his new clinic. Rallying his friends and supporters, within weeks his garage had been emptied and gutted, new drywall and paint applied, new lighting, plumbing and cabinetry installed. He even had a friend add 5 inches to the legs of a new examining table so that his back would be spared the aches associated with leaning over a table that was too low.

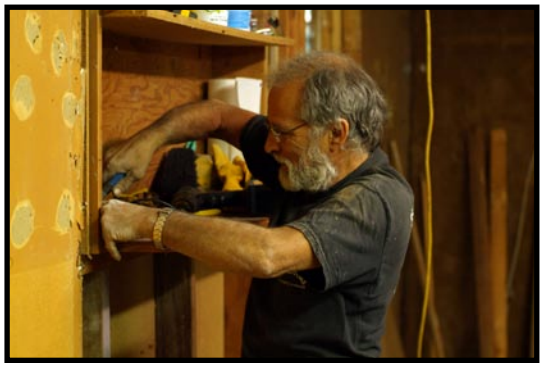
On February 18th ,2007 all those who had lent a hand in it's creation gathered to dedicate "Miss Marieke's Memorial Critter Clinic". James provided a ceremonial blessing of his new, efficient work space and Marieke's mother unveiled the plaque which will remain hung on the clinic wall, reminding us all and forever that "The light of her love lives on".

Alan Pollack

Mieke Kramer

Clinic Dedication & the Douridas family

...MEANS NEW LIFE FOR A WILDLIFE CLINIC



Just a few of the patients that have passed through our

Juvinile Squirrel... Showing Off

Hi All,

These are pix of the raven we found and took to James. She was suffering from malnutrition and dehydration and couldn't fly when we found her. James brought her back to life, kept her for about a month and then returned her to us so that we could release her back to her family on our property.

The family flew over her and encouraged her. They were showing her where they all hung out and what she should do. It was amazing and my husband and I felt so privileged to witness it. When we last saw her, she was on top of the roof.

Thanks to all of you for being there and knowing so much. We live in a rural community and we're sure this kind of thing will happen again.

Best to you all,
Lynne and Chris Willingham

Baby Squirrel

Raccoon that was hit by a car and sustained a fractured jaw.

Baby Opossum

" May all of our spirits soar ...

Burbank Facility and Marieke' Memorial Critter Clinic ...

Juvinile Squirrel

Kestrel

If you would like to make a donation to help support the rehabilitation and release efforts of native wild animals.

Please send to:
WCVC
PO Box 941476
Simi Valley, Ca. 93065

For Volunteer Oportunities
Call 805 -581-3911

1. **Volunteer at one of our in home facilities**
2. **Rehabilitate animals in your own home**
3. **Transport animals with in your work route**
4. **Web page**
5. **Photography**

Juvinile Barn Owl

.. next to those with mended wings " amr

WILDLIFE CARE OF VENTURA COUNTY

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The Marike Douridas Foundation
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