



# Born to Be Wild!

## Wildlife Rescue Team, Inc. Newsletter

### August & September 2017

#### NOTICE FOR SEPTEMBER MEETING

We will be meeting on Tuesday, September 12th at Grace Lutheran Church at 2225 Washington in Lincoln. The meeting starts at 7 p.m. Our October meeting will be on the 10th.

Remember that we need to fill out acquisition forms for each animal we receive. If you need forms, please contact us. Also - make sure that you fill in as much information as possible - the entire document should be completed by you, the rehabber, or your Team Leader. Even though it says "For WRT Use Only" - that is for YOU to fill out and the species needs to be specific - bird or mammal doesn't work. Please indicate raccoon, squirrel, cardinal, robin, mallard, painted turtle, Little Brown Bat, etc. We also have an online form, so if you would like the link for that to complete your paperwork, contact Vikki at [dougvikki@cox.net](mailto:dougvikki@cox.net).

#### OUTREACH

Shelly Bruntz staffed a table at the National Night Out event in Hastings on Tuesday, August 1st. Thanks to Shelly for bringing attention to WRT at Chautauqua Park in Hastings!

The Lincoln Journal-Star did a nice article about Lynne Knutzen-Young and her work with wildlife in Lincoln. You can read it here: [http://journalstar.com/news/local/cindy-lange-kubick-the-dr-doolittle-of-lincoln-and-the/article\\_db28a3e0-e513-5ca2-82b1-f5b705dc53d4.html](http://journalstar.com/news/local/cindy-lange-kubick-the-dr-doolittle-of-lincoln-and-the/article_db28a3e0-e513-5ca2-82b1-f5b705dc53d4.html)

**Customer Service** - remember that every time we interact with the public, we need to have quality customer service. Be polite, be prompt in returning phone calls (we all are volunteers, so we understand our schedules can be crazy!) and thank them for caring enough to call us.

#### ELECTION INFO

To vote, all memberships must be in good standing for at least 90 days, which means you MUST be current on dues.



**The election will be held at the Sept. 12th meeting in Lincoln. The people running for President are: Cindi Arthur; Vice President: Heather Wilkes and Lynne Knutzen-Young; Treasurer: Mary Beth Lienemann and Secretary: Vikki Henry.**

#### REHAB SEASON 2017

Even though the spring baby season is over, we are still getting calls and animals. Squirrels can have a second round of summer babies, so these will need to be released late in the fall before winter hits.

We have waterfowl like ducks and geese that we are rehabbing. They need a little more time to fledge out and then they will be on their way to a pond or lake for release.

This is the time of year when we start to see birds that are migrating through and they end up taking

If you would like to request an absentee ballot, please contact a member of the Nominating Committee: Mary Beth Lienemann at mb@dalcpapc.com or Vikki Henry at dougvikki@cox.net. Ballots must be postmarked no later than September 7th to count for the election.

breaks in Nebraska and/or getting injured, unfortunately. Nighthawks tend to get injured while eating insects “on the wing” which means flying to eat. Can you imagine having to fly to catch your food? Even drinking happens “on the wing” for a lot of birds, like swallows.

### REMINDERS

Remember at the end of our year, we nominate various members for awards, like Member of the Year, Rehabber of the Year and Rookie of the Year. As the season progresses, keep these awards in mind. It’s a great way to reward our dedicated



volunteers for all their hard work!

### WISH LIST FOR WRT

We are always in need of kennels and carriers for our animals, along with blankets and sheets to put in and over cages.

Dog and cat food is in demand, especially this time of year as we are caring for approximately 200 raccoons! That doesn’t include the dozens of opossums, squirrels and bunnies we have had this year.

Non-medicated poultry starter (crumbles) is helpful during the summer as we continue to raise the geese and ducks that we are rehabbing.

### A RESCUE STORY

Just a few days ago, a lady in Elkhorn called about a juvenile robin who had gotten stuck in a glue trap and was running around her yard with it stuck to his wing. She called WRT and we were able to talk her through using olive oil to remove the glue from the bird and then Dawn dish soap to remove the oil residue.

After a little rest time for the bird and making sure his wings and legs still worked right, she was able to place the robin back outside for his parents to care for, because she knew they were nearby. This was a happy ending for all!



### BIRD RESCUE STORY

Yesterday we were called out to help a female finch that had gotten tangled up in landscaping/sod fabric. She had gotten so tangled up it took several minutes to cut away the plastic weave and get her loose. When she did, she flew right off! Just like plastic pop can rings, please help us keep animals safe by throwing away items like that that can be dangerous to animals. Just like fishing line - we get many calls about waterfowl that are tangled up in fishing line. If you can catch them, try to get it off and if they are okay, release them right away so they can be with their families.

### NOT-SO-HAPPY CAMPERS

Recently I received a call from someone who was planning on taking their camper out for the weekend, but when they got it home from the storage lot, they discovered a nest with two baby hummingbirds! The nest itself was in such a small spot that we decided it would be too dangerous for the babies to remove them.

In the meantime, the husband took the camper back home and the mother hummingbird immediately went inside to care for her babies! The camper was parked exactly where it was before to prevent any difference in air, wind, sun, rain, etc. getting to the nest. The

family was very patient and decided they could camp in tents that weekend!

### BATS IN YOUR BELFRY

This time of year, bats will start coming into homes either to get warm or just because they get confused and don't realize where they are. If you find one, close off the room they are in and remain calm. Many times, the bat will land somewhere and it can be coaxed into a plastic container and then taken outside.

There is a risk of rabies from bats, but it is very minimal. If you think the bat came into contact with someone who might be young (like a sleeping child) or the elderly, you should call your local Animal Control so they can decide what to do. If there is no risk of the bats having come into contact with someone, you can take it outside. They just need to be relocated to a better area. Bats cannot fly from the ground up like a bird, so placing them gently in a tree or on a deck or balcony so they can fly away is perfect. They might hang out for a while and wait until it gets darker to leave - so just put them there and then leave them alone.

### FUN THINGS TO DO

Have you been enjoying the Nebraska Passport program this summer?

According to the website "The 2017 Nebraska Passport program is focused on giving travelers truly memorable experiences. From May 1 through September 30, Passport travelers will create lifelong memories while they explore Nebraska.

The 80 Passport stops offer a mix of unique adventures; from discovering Nebraska's hidden gems to celebrating Nebraska 150, the 2017 Passport showcases what makes Nebraska special." My family and I have had fun experiencing some of these locations as we drive around picking up animals or dropping off supplies with other rehabbers! Check it out and see what's in your neck of the woods!

### INTERNATIONAL WILDLIFE INFO

Check out 5 Things You Didn't Know about Wildlife Trafficking from Conservation International.

<http://blog.conservation.org/2015/07/5-things-you-didnt-know-about-wildlife-trafficking/>

And for those of you who have read the book "The Lost City of the Monkey God" by Douglas Preston check out:

[http://blog.conservation.org/2017/07/field-notes-from-the-lost-city/?utm\\_source=enewsupdate&utm\\_medium=email&utm\\_content=072717-link&utm\\_campaign=ND&s\\_src=enewsupdate\\_email&s\\_subsrc=072717-link](http://blog.conservation.org/2017/07/field-notes-from-the-lost-city/?utm_source=enewsupdate&utm_medium=email&utm_content=072717-link&utm_campaign=ND&s_src=enewsupdate_email&s_subsrc=072717-link)

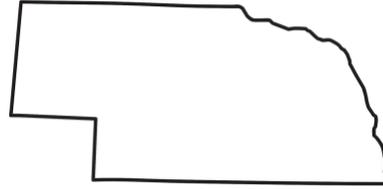


### BEING TEAM PLAYERS

We realize that since we have members across the state of Nebraska, some people might feel lost in the shuffle. We would love you to attend meetings and we would like to stay in touch with you. If you need supplies, let us know. If you aren't sure who your Team Leader is for the animals you have or your area of the state, let us know. We want to make sure that the animals are cared for properly, that you have the supplies and information you need and that everyone has paid their dues to be legal to rehab. Our permits from Nebraska Game and Parks Commission and US Fish and Wildlife Service requires that we are licensed, so if you haven't paid dues lately - please send them in. If you aren't sure when you are due, contact us.

#### Remember -

- Bad teams: individuals play for themselves.
- Good teams: individuals play for their coaches.
- Great teams: individuals play for each other.



If you are interested in a speaker or presentation please contact our hotline in Lincoln at 402-473-1951. We do not charge for our presentations, but donations are always accepted, like money or items from our wish list like towels, blankets and cages.

**FUNDRAISING EFFORTS**  
Use iGive.com and/or Amazon Smiles - go to <http://smile.amazon.com> to sign up and shop. When you shop online for your fall & winter wardrobe or kids' clothes for school, part of the purchase price goes to WRT!

We have had several comments/complaints lately about WRT members who are posting personal photos with animals to their Facebook pages and/or other social media sites. THIS IS AGAINST OUR BYLAWS! You cannot take photos of you snuggling, feeding or having other people who are NOT WRT members, handling the animals! If you have these items on your pages, please delete them or you will be contacted to do so and your membership can be revoked because of that. We need to abide by the rules we receive from Nebraska Game and Parks Commission and we cannot jeopardize our permit because of personal photos. If you take photos of the animals themselves, that is okay. We have a WRT Facebook page - share your photos with us, along with a story of the animal so we can educate the public and possibly attract new members!

**OLD WIVES' TALES & TRICKS OF THE TRADE**

- Many people think that if you touch a bird or mammal, the mother (or father) will not return. This is not true! The animals want their babies. So if you come in contact or get a call from the public about such contact, tell them to put the baby back and leave it alone. Just because they touched the baby bird does NOT mean the parents will abandon it.
- If an animal gets into a window well or egress window well, you can get it out! Tell the public to put a branch or stick in the window well so they can climb out or if it is a baby animal, like a bunny, pick it up and put it on the grass for the parents.



**JOIN THE TEAM**

Mail your completed form to: Wildlife Rescue Team, Inc., P.O. Box 80127, Lincoln NE 68501

Name: \_\_\_\_\_ Email: \_\_\_\_\_

Address: \_\_\_\_\_ City/State/Zip: \_\_\_\_\_

Phone Number: \_\_\_\_\_

**CHOOSE YOUR MEMBERSHIP TYPE AND MEMBERSHIP LEVEL**

Active - handles animals (must be 16 or older)

Associate - does not handle animals, but believes in what we do!

**MEMBERSHIP DUES**

Active Individual \$20.00 \_\_\_\_\_

Active Family \$30.00 \_\_\_\_\_

Senior Citizen (62 or over) \$10.00 \_\_\_\_\_

Associate Member \$25.00 \_\_\_\_\_

Corporate Supporter \$100.00 \_\_\_\_\_

After we receive your dues we will send you paperwork to fill out to become a member. If you are an active

member, you will receive a membership card to carry with you as you rescue/rehab animals.



Hotline Phone: (402) 473-1951



Website: [www.wildliferescueteamincne.org](http://www.wildliferescueteamincne.org)



Find us on Facebook at Wildlife Rescue Team, Inc