

Wildlife Rescue Team, Inc. Newsletter - August 2020



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Follow us on Instagram at [wildlife_rescue_team_inc_ne](https://www.instagram.com/wildlife_rescue_team_inc_ne)

Helping injured, orphaned and abandoned wildlife in the state of Nebraska since 1979.

RECENT OUTREACH

Vikki H. recently presented at Homestead National Monument in Beatrice at their Saturday night Campfire Program. Even though the weather was extremely warm we had a nice group of attendees and enjoyed the evening which included music by Frailin' Hearts! Thank you to the Homestead for inviting us to share what our group does!



Penny V. did an outreach event for kids at St. Mark's KidZone in Lincoln. They made bird feeders with pine cones and Penny showed them how to make fake bird nests to use in case baby birds fall out of the nest too early, like during a storm. Thank you to St. Mark's for inviting us to teach the kids some tricks of the trade!



NOTICE FOR AUGUST MEETING

Our next meeting will be Tuesday, **AUGUST 11th!** Our meetings are held at 7 p.m., at Grace Lutheran Church, 2225 Washington St. in Lincoln. We will be meeting in the parking lot like we did during the July meeting. Feel free to bring lawn chairs!

ELECTIONS

We will be voting for the 2020-2021 Officers' positions at the September meeting. If you would like to run, we need to know by the end of our August meeting.



Positions available:

President, Vice President, Treasurer and Recording/Corresponding Secretary.

- For voting purposes, we will send out absentee ballots if requested. Your dues must be current in order to vote either by absentee ballot or in person at a meeting. Family membership = two votes.
- If you are interested in running, but have questions, feel free to reach out to your Team Leader or 402-473-1951 and we will connect you with someone who can help.

NEWSLETTER INFO

If you have photos or stories to share, send them to Vikki at dougvikki@cox.net. If you currently receive the newsletter via the Post Office, and you have an email address to share, please send that to us and we can save postage. We use Mailchimp to send the newsletter to over 800 people each month!

RECENT DONATIONS

Thank you to all of you who have recently donated money and other items like fur coats. Monetary donations help to pay vet bills and purchase supplies like the formula that we use for the babies. Also - our baby animals like to snuggle in the furs while they are small and even older animals like the warmth of old fur coats. My squirrels love to snuggle in them during the Fall when it starts to turn colder and they are in outside cages. Here are just a few of our latest donors: Margaret B., Samantha H., Kari M., Michele W. and Jason & Amy. We appreciate your support!

RECENT RESCUES

Our Hastings rehabber, Shelly, got a call about a young duck at Heartwell Park in Hastings a couple weeks ago. When the lady saw the duck struggling to keep up with mom and siblings she could only see the clear fishing line trailing after him. Five hours later, the fishing line was tight above the leg joint. They were able to net the moss that you see below, which was being dragged around by the duck, along with the line and twigs and leaves. They got the duck to shore and used nail clippers to cut off all the fishing line and moss and released it back to mom and sibling in the water. It swam away free again and is doing great! **PLEASE** remember to pick up fishing line, etc. that can end up causing injuries to animals! We receive dozens of phone calls each year about waterfowl, in particular, who are tangled in fishing line.



ANIMAL NEWS FROM OTHER PLACES

Did you happen to catch the news about the Yellow Turtle that was found in India? Click on the link below to see more about his story. Some people think it's due to albinism, which is why his coloring isn't the typical green that we would see. His eyes do look a little pink and his skin is very pale.



<https://www.coasttocoastam.com/article/watch-raise-yellow-turtle-found-in-india/>

ACQUISITION SHEETS!

Remember that Acquisition Sheets/forms need to be completed for each animal we rehab. We need these forms to complete the reports that we do yearly. Please send them to Vikki Henry by the end of the year so we can complete reports for Nebraska Game & Parks and US Fish and Wildlife. You can bring them to a meeting or mail to the PO Box in Lincoln.

Make sure you are putting in as much info as you know about the person who called about the animal, along with what happened to it - did it die, was it relocated?, was it released? How old was it when you got it? When did it die or when was it released? Did it go from one rehabber to another for final care and release? Do not put another rehabber's name for the rescuer unless it actually came from their yard. If you don't know - put "public" but hopefully you have a name, town, phone #, etc. Thank you for helping keep our records accurate!

OUR OWN VERSION OF A DIFFERENTLY COLORED ANIMAL

Did you realize that animals can be albinos or leucistic which is a loss of pigment in their skin. That means instead of their eyes being pink and their skin being light like albino animals, their eyes and ears are dark! This opossum was rescued this summer and is currently still in rehab. See how dark the eyes are! And so adorable, besides!



MEMBER OF THE YEAR AWARDS

We are accepting nominations for awards. We typically do Member of the Year, Rehabber of the Year & Rookie of the Year. We have had many new (and old) members step up this year to help with animals, especially with COVID-19 changing people's schedules and day-to-day lives. Send nominations to the Nomination Committee at contact@wildliferescueteamincne.org. We will decide the recipients in Dec. and award them in January or February.

WILDLIFE FOOD

We are always in need of dog and cat food for the animals. If you know of any businesses that would be willing to donate to us, please have them call the hotline at 402-473-1951. Also, as you garden this year, think about donating some of that food to wildlife!



BIOSECURITY WEBINAR

Your editor recently took a webinar on Biosecurity and wildlife. It was given by The Raptor Center through the University of Minnesota and was very interesting. Although we do NOT handle raptors in a headquarters-type facility, much of the info is still pertinent. And especially with concern over COVID-19 and keeping ourselves safe, the cleaning info was a good reminder for us all.

ONLINE LEARNING FOR FUN

The Nature Conservancy is doing a series of online learning happening the first Wednesday of the month and going from Aug. 5 through Dec. 2nd.

- Sept. 2 12:30 p.m. CT on Zoom - Who Says Nebraska Can't Lead on Climate?
- Oct. 7 12:30 p.m. CT on Zoom - An Unexpected Development in the Old Market
- Nov. 4 12:30 p.m. CT on Zoom - Reintroducing an Icon: American Bison
- Dec. 2 12:30 p.m. CT on Zoom - Veterans' new Mission; Sustainable Agriculture

Go to Nature.org to learn more!

Correction to our last newsletter: the photo of the duck release should have had the following info: Judith, who owns the Mission Arts building, Emme Forsberg, Lynne Knutzen-Young and Mike Selting.

Biosecurity Highlights for us:

- Diseases can spread from animals via aerosol, oral or direct contact. i.e., If an animal licks the food bowl, make sure you clean it prior to putting it in another animal's cage.
- Especially for the public - consider how you carried that animal away from danger or to a rehabber - did you put it in your shirt? Was it in your house or car? Be aware of diseases and fleas and wash your clothes and your hands after handling wildlife.
- When you as the rehabber get in a new animal, have a separate area for new animals so they aren't close to others and possibly spread diseases or fleas or mites.
- When you have handled animals, do you go make a sandwich or pet your dog or cat? Make sure you clean up first!
- Consider having a dedicated area to wash dirty food and water dishes. Maybe for us, the outside hose is best and keep your kitchen for only human needs.
- Remove bedding and organic material (urine & feces) and apply a disinfectant afterward. Do spot cleaning periodically if you can't clean the entire cage.
- Mark cages as "dirty" so you know they need to be cleaned & disinfected.
- When you do laundry - use high heat.

JOIN THE TEAM - We will send you paperwork to fill out and once we receive your membership dues and the completed paperwork, we will send your contact info to a Team Leader in your area so they can get you involved!

Mail this 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 (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 _____



Hotline Phone: (402) 473-1951



Website: www.wildliferescueteamincne.org