

Wildlife Rescue Team, Inc.

Newsletter - February 2025

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



Frequently Asked Question:

If I find a bat in my house or garage, can I release it outside now?

At this time of year, a bat would die if placed outside. Not only is it too cold for them (they are mammals, remember) but they don't have any food to eat - there are no insects. If the bat has **not** come into contact with anyone in your home, call our hotline and we can care for it. Bats in particular, are one of the animals that will need to be over-wintered by us. They are released once the insects return.

OUTREACH

WRT participated in outreach events at the Prairie Hill Learning Center in Roca on Sat. Oct. 5, along with Lauritzen Gardens in Omaha on Thurs. Oct. 10. Thank you to both of those organizations for allowing us to spread the word about what we do!

THANK YOU/GOODY BASKETS

At our December meeting, we put together thank you baskets for people who helped us last year. We delivered two dozen baskets in several towns. Thank you to all the members who came to the meeting and helped put together the baskets! We had apples, oranges, bananas, chocolate, cookies, chips, etc. It was an amazing variety of goodies!

AVIAN FLU

We have had many calls about birds that seem to be sick. Those tend to be geese because a lot of waterfowl are being affected right now. If you get a call about a sick bird, you can call your Team Leader for help and advice. If you handle the animal, take safety precautions like using gloves and keep the animal away from other animals in your care. Some symptoms of AI are tremors or unsteadiness, but not all birds show any symptoms.

DONATIONS

Thank you to our recurring donors! You can set up donations via PayPal!

NOTICE FOR FEBRUARY MEETING

Our next meeting will be Tuesday, February 11th. Join us at 7 p.m., at Grace Lutheran Church, 2225 Washington St. in Lincoln. Our meetings are held the second Tuesday of each month. See you there!



Bird news - with Winter in full swing, you might be feeding your neighborhood birds. Peanuts are a great food for them! They have fat and protein. If it's too expensive to buy a big bag, mix shelled or unshelled peanuts with black oil sunflower seeds. Birds that like peanuts: Blue Jays, Woodpeckers, Nuthatches, Cardinals, Wrens, Juncos, Chickadees and Towhees. Whole peanuts or partial peanuts work too. Some birds might eat some instead of the other.

Editor's note: I get peanut pieces from my local bird store. Avoid salted peanuts. Of course, squirrels love peanuts too!

What Types of Birds Eat Peanuts from Feeders? By Sally Roth - Birds & Blooms magazine.

MEMBERSHIP DUES!

Remember that all memberships are due at the **end of March**. If you don't pay your dues you are **no longer eligible** to rehab wildlife. We will soon be reminding members to pay their dues for 2025. You can pay now by sending in a check or pay via PayPal on our website. That will save us postage on the reminders. Thx!

REMINDERS

- **VET VISITS** If you have an animal that might need a visit to a vet, contact your Team Leader first!
- **NON-PROFIT STATUS** We are a 501(c)(3) non-profit and when someone donates items to WRT, we send them a thank you letter for tax purposes. Any items, including money, that are donated need to be given to our Treasurer so our records are complete.

ACQUISITION FORMS!

For each animal we rehab, we create an acquisition form with information like rescuer, species, how many we rescued, were they released, etc. We need these acquisitions by the end of each year in order to complete reports that are then sent to Nebraska Game & Parks and US Fish and Wildlife. We need to do this in order to retain our permits to rehab.

In 2024, we cared for 1,535 animals. That is a lot of paperwork to manage and to add to our database. Thankfully, we have three members who are in charge of data entry!

We had many issues in 2024 with our acquisition forms not being filled out completely or being submitted in a timely manner. For 2025, we are reaching out to every member to remind them how to fill out the forms. In this newsletter are a blank acquisition form and a completed sample form for your use. We will have them on hand at meetings, so you can pick some up there when you need more. If you have outdated forms in your stash - **DO NOT USE THEM!**

Points to remember:

- Talk to your Team Leader about who will be completing the form - some Team Leaders like to keep the form and you as the Team Member can give them an update on the animal. Some Team Leaders will hand you the form/paperwork with the animal. Do **NOT** send us a form that says "ask my Team Leader" about this raccoon/squirrel, etc. That is a waste of paper to send us a half-completed form.
- If someone donates, make sure that is noted. The money (cash or check) needs to be given to our Treasurer.

WANT TO HELP REHAB?

Become a member of WRT. We help train, give you supplies and the support you need to raise and release the animals in our care. We could use people all across the state of Nebraska! If you have a friend who really loves animals and would like to help, have them contact us! **402-473-1951**

- Make sure all info is completed - include as much info as you can about who found the animal and where it came from before WRT received it. Some rehabbers have the public/person who found the animal fill out that information. If you get a text with the info - use that to complete the Rescuer part of the form.
- Everything that says "**For WRT Use Only**" means that the rehabber needs to completely fill out this part of the form.
- What is the animal? We need to know if it's a Red Fox, Raccoon, Cottontail Rabbit, Robin/Grackle/Pigeon, Wood Duck or Canada Goose. Be specific - "bird" is not an option. If you don't know what kind of bird it is, reach out to us so we can help identify it.
- We need to know dates that you received the animal along with dates of when the animal was euthanized, died or was released. "May of 2024" is not a date.
- There are choices on the form for the age and presenting problem - feel free to circle the answer that works for you. Be specific with ages - "baby" is not a choice in the database. If you aren't sure about the age of an animal, especially birds, reach out to your Team Leader for help.
- Communicate with your Team Leader to make sure you know how old an animal should be prior to release.

When you have forms completed because the animal died or was released, please send them in so we can do them periodically instead of all at once. It saves us a lot of time at the end of the year!

You can bring them to a meeting or mail to the P.O. Box in Lincoln. Thank you for your help! If you have questions, contact Vikki at 402-669-2570 or dougvikki@cox.net.

**WILDLIFE RESCUE TEAM, INC.
ACQUISITION FORM**



Filled out by rehabber or the public. Complete as much information as you can.

RESCUER'S NAME (Person who found the animal - **not** the rehabber) and PHONE NUMBER

ADDRESS CITY STATE ZIP

Where was the animal found? (yard, street, driveway, attic, etc.)

Prior care attempted (food, water, veterinary visit, etc.)



TAX DEDUCTIBLE DONATION: \$ _____ THANK YOU! You will receive a tax receipt.

FOR WRT USE ONLY: (REHABBERS - Please complete this part of the form.)

SPECIES (Be specific - Robin, Squirrel, etc.)

Number M _____ F _____ Unknown _____

Date Received

Age(s) (estimate days/weeks/months old) Please circle the age or write it down.

Mammals (pinkie, infant, juvenile, adult) OR **Birds** (hatchling, nestling, fledgling, juvenile, adult)

Presenting Problem (cat/dog attack, hit window, hit by car, fell from a tree, nest destroyed, broken wing, nest flooded, mom killed, no parents around, etc.)

Please write down a date, not just a check mark.

1. ____ DOA ____ EOA (Euth. on arrival) ____ RELOCATED ____ DIED ____ EUTHANIZED ____ RELEASED
2. ____ DOA ____ EOA (Euth. on arrival) ____ RELOCATED ____ DIED ____ EUTHANIZED ____ RELEASED
3. ____ DOA ____ EOA (Euth. on arrival) ____ RELOCATED ____ DIED ____ EUTHANIZED ____ RELEASED
4. ____ DOA ____ EOA (Euth. on arrival) ____ RELOCATED ____ DIED ____ EUTHANIZED ____ RELEASED
5. ____ DOA ____ EOA (Euth. on arrival) ____ RELOCATED ____ DIED ____ EUTHANIZED ____ RELEASED

TEAM LEADER

CAREGIVER

CAREGIVER #2 (If transferred)

DATE

RELEASE SITE & RELEASE DATE (IMPORTANT!)

**WILDLIFE RESCUE TEAM, INC.
ACQUISITION FORM**



Filled out by rehabber or the public. Complete as much information as you can.

Tom Selleck _____ 402-867-5309 _____
RESCUER'S NAME (Person who found the animal - **not** the rehabber) and PHONE NUMBER

_____ 1234 Main St _____ Daykin _____ NE _____ 68338 _____
ADDRESS CITY STATE ZIP

_____ in my yard after a storm _____
Where was the animal found? (yard, street, driveway, attic, etc.)

_____ put in a box _____
Prior care attempted (food, water, veterinary visit, etc.)



TAX DEDUCTIBLE DONATION: \$ 100.00 THANK YOU! You will receive a tax receipt.

FOR WRT USE ONLY: (REHABBERS - Please complete this part of the form.)

_____ Squirrel _____ SPECIES (Be specific - Robin, Squirrel, etc.)

_____ 03/28/2024 _____ Number M 2 F 2 Unknown _____

Date Received

_____ 3 weeks old _____

Age(s) (estimate days/weeks/months old) Please circle the age or write it down.

Mammals (pinkie, juvenile, adult) OR **Birds** (hatchling, nestling, fledgling, juvenile, adult)

_____ tree fell down during storm _____

Presenting Problem (cat/dog attack, hit window, hit by car, fell from a tree, nest destroyed, broken wing, nest flooded, mom killed, no parents around, etc.)

Please write down a date, not just a check mark.

1. 5/28 DOA EOA (Euth. on arrival) RELOCATED DIED EUTHANIZED RELEASED
2. DOA EOA (Euth. on arrival) RELOCATED 5/31 DIED EUTHANIZED RELEASED
3. DOA EOA (Euth. on arrival) RELOCATED DIED EUTHANIZED 7/4 RELEASED
4. DOA EOA (Euth. on arrival) RELOCATED DIED EUTHANIZED 74 RELEASED
5. DOA EOA (Euth. on arrival) RELOCATED DIED EUTHANIZED RELEASED

_____ Vikki Henry _____
TEAM LEADER

CAREGIVER

CAREGIVER #2 (If transferred) DATE

_____ rural Jefferson County 7/4/2024 _____
RELEASE SITE & RELEASE DATE (IMPORTANT!)