



wild things sanctuary, inc.
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Address Service Requested

Mission Statement

Wild Things Sanctuary, Inc. (WTS) is dedicated to helping native wildlife through rescuing and rehabilitating debilitated and orphaned/displaced animals until they are ready for release back into the wild. Eventually, WTS is also aiming to provide a sanctuary for non-releasable native animals.

WTS is also committed to improving the well-being of wildlife through public education; focusing on how humans can safely and peacefully coexist with native wildlife, and on wildlife's importance to man and the environment.



We got caught by cats, but are recovering at Wild Things Sanctuary. Thanks for helping us and giving us a second chance, we'll eat lots of bugs as a thank you!

The Wild Times • Volume 4 • #1 • 2014 • Page 4

Keep up with us!

Want to learn more about Wild Things Sanctuary or follow the stories of our patients? Here are a few ways to keep up with our latest news, see updated pictures of patients, and get wildlife tips:

- * "Like" Wild Things Sanctuary on Facebook.
- * Follow [WildThingsNY](#) on Twitter
- * Become a Friend of Wild Things by signing up on our website. As a Friend of Wild Things you will receive our online and printed newsletters.



This picture went viral on our Facebook page, was shared hundreds of times and brought in many new Wild Things Facebook friends. However, I have a feeling that this little Big Brown Bat cared less about his internet popularity and a lot more about recovering and being released! He was found skinny and dehydrated in someone's home during the winter and had a safe place to hibernate at Wild Things until spring. "Like" our Facebook page to keep up with all our news and patients.

Plans for 2015

With your support, here are a few things we are planning for the coming year:

- * Continue efforts to help injured, orphaned, and sick wildlife.
- * Continue to be a resource for the public, both local and non-local, for wildlife concerns and questions.
- * Strengthen outreach to help educate the public about wildlife
- * Build a large flight cage. This will be primarily used for bats, but will also be able to welcome songbirds.
- * Re-design website for better usability.
- * Develop a "trivia night" collection of questions for fund-raising opportunities. Once developed, supporters can host a Wild Things trivia night at local venues and raise money for Wild Things Sanctuary.

How do donations help the wild things?

All donations made to Wild Things Sanctuary go directly to animal care and wildlife education. This includes animal food, medication, caging and enrichment. Donations also help fund animal transport and the development of wildlife education programs and material. We also believe that we should "share the love" and every year, if we have the funds, we also help support other rehabilitators and their work with wildlife patients.

Please consider making a year-end gift to Wild Things to help animals in trouble. Why not make a donation in someone's honor? We have fun suggestions in our website store with great gift cards available!

The Wild Times

A Newsletter from Wild Things Sanctuary Inc. • vol. 4, no. 1 • Winter 2014

Happy Holidays Wild Things Sanctuary supporters!

It's been another successful year made possible by all of you! For the past seven years, together we have made a difference to the lives of hundreds of animals. I am so grateful for everyone's support in helping Wild Things Sanctuary become a place that helps wildlife have a second chance to live, thrive, and return home. Wild Things is a small rehabilitation center with no paid staff, but we strive to help all animals in trouble. If it is beyond our capabilities to take in an animal, we point callers in the right direction so every wild thing can get the help that it needs. Though Wild Things has come to specialize in native bat care, we regard every wild animal as a special part of this world, entitled to help. In addition to handling hundreds of calls and emails a year, I am proud that our website and online resources have helped people and animals all over the country and even abroad!

Although we handle many animals every year, one case in 2014 was an important reminder of how Wild Things supporters work together to help animals. "E3" is a young Red-tailed Hawk who sustained a badly broken wing after getting it trapped in a greenhouse vent shortly after leaving the nest. This young bird has quite a following as his hawk family is featured on the Cornell Lab of Ornithology's Bird Cams 24/7 live streaming cameras. As soon as he was trapped, members of the public called the facilities department to open the vent, they also contacted me and I was able to get on the scene shortly after the accident.

"E3," a young Red-tailed Hawk may not look like your typical celebrity, but he has thousands of fans all over the world! Together, we rescued him; read his story to the left.

In this picture E3 attends his first event as a Hawk Ambassador at the Cornell Lab of Ornithology's Migration Celebration in October. He did a great job greeting hundreds of people and inspiring the public to learn more about wildlife.

E3's rescue and rehabilitation highlighted what we can achieve by working together: the public, wildlife rehabilitators, and vets were all part of his rescue and recovery.

For more about the Cornell hawks: <http://www.allaboutbirds.org/cornellhawks>



Volunteers kept onlookers away until I was able to capture the young bird and bring him to the Janet L. Swanson Cornell Wildlife Health Center. The vets did a great job repairing his badly broken wing and the Cornell Raptor Program worked to get him flying again.

Though E3 is able to fly short distances, it is unlikely that he would be able to hunt in the wild, so he is now a hawk ambassador with the Raptor program and has already inspired thousands of people to learn more about these beautiful birds and to care for our shared environment. When we work together we can make things like this happen, and slowly the world can be come a better place. Way to go Wild Things supporters!

I am wishing all of you the very best for a wonderful holiday season and great year ahead. May our good work continue!

Victoria Campbell, President & Founder

What's All This About Bats?

When I opened Wild Things Sanctuary back in 2008, I was determined to help any wild animal who was in trouble. Within a few years I had to come to terms with the fact that running a wildlife rehabilitation center out of my home as an unpaid rehabilitator, accepting hundreds of patients every year, and trying to keep a job, was a little bit impossible. So, I decided that for the time being I had to refine my objectives to make Wild Things more manageable. I thought long and hard and came up with two important goals:

- 1) to figure out what animals needed the most help, and help them
- 2) to assist the public with wildlife concerns, education, and awareness

One group of animals cried out for attention: *bats!*

People don't often think about these secretive little mammals, but bats are in trouble and need our help. I never set out to be Batgirl. I thought bats were neat, but I certainly didn't think that I'd wind up with a houseful of them. They need such specialized care that finding volunteers can be tough, so it is a lot of work on my own. But I soon found out that these personality packed animals are well worth the time and care, and they are in dire need of help.

In the last few years, White-nose Syndrome has wiped out millions of bats in the Northeast and continues to spread across the continent every year. This deadly fungus is possibly the most devastating wildlife disease ever recorded (see <http://www.wildthingssanctuary.org/bats--white-nose-syndrome.html> for more information). Imagine waking up one day in your town and everyone is gone; that is what surviving bats have experienced when they wake up from hibernation and find thousands of their fellow cave dwellers dead.



"Lola" may look like a baby alien, but she is a Big brown bat pup. Her mother died giving birth to her twin. I didn't know if this tiny newborn would survive. But Lola bounced back and was among the biggest and healthiest of the orphan pups this year! On the left, she is a day old sucking on a tiny sponge as a pacifier. On the right, she is almost four weeks old lying on top of her adopted brother "Frankie." We are learning a lot about specialized bat care: from infant formula to adult care and medications.



Northern long-eared bats have been wiped out by White-nose Syndrome, and these forest dwellers are under the additional threat of habitat loss. In the next few months they may be federally listed as an endangered species under the Endangered Species Act. This little girl arrived at Wild Things at only 4grams with an injured tail. She is now up to 8grams and healing well. She will have a safe place to hibernate with us this winter.

Bats troubles don't stop at White-nose, most species are threatened by habitat loss and they are also being killed in enormous numbers by wind turbines. We often hear about turbines threatening bird populations, but few realize that for every bird killed there are about 8 bats killed. In addition to all of this, many members of the public think of bats as horrible, dirty, aggressive, disease carriers that rank on par, or even below par, with other nuisance wildlife such as mice or insects. A bat lost in a house all too often means a dead bat at the hands of a misinformed human. Putting all of these facts together inspired me to build a safe haven for these little mammals, and to start spreading the word that bats are, actually, pretty amazing!

Bats are like little superheroes flying through the night skies eating tonnes of insects that would otherwise destroy crops or spread disease. In the U.S., they save us billions of dollars every year in pest control. Without bats your grocery bill would be a lot more expensive, and being outside with multitudes of more bugs would not be a nice experience. Studying bats has also led to breakthroughs in science, in fields such as sonar and epidemiology.

Bats are not flying rodents that carry rabies. Bats are mammals and are more closely related to humans than rodents. They are furry and nurse live young, often with the babies tucked up into their wings. In the wild some species of bats can live 15-20 years or more. They usually have 1 pup per year, sometimes twins. Females of some species will summer together every year for decades and raise their young. Like humans, they seem to seek out the companionship of the same individuals: they have friends. Science is learning more about them, and from them, all the time. Recent investigations reveal that some species may have something close to language and even culture.

Your Year-End Gift makes a BIG difference to Wild Things!

Wild Things Sanctuary, Inc. is a 501(c)3 public charity. EIN#: 68-0573815. All donations are tax deductible.

Please send to: Wild Things Sanctuary Inc., P.O. Box 713, Ithaca, NY 14851

You can also donate online at www.wildthingssanctuary.org

Enclosed is my tax-deductible gift of \$ _____

Name: _____

Address: _____

Email: _____



A Big brown bat after surgery to repair a broken wing.

(Continued from Page 2)

You always should be cautious when interacting with wildlife, and bats are no different. In general a bat can be quite vocal if upset, but they are not aggressive and rarely bite. *Bats do not "carry" rabies*, like other animals, they die of rabies if they have it. In the wild, on average, maybe about 1% of bats have rabies, less than many other species. Have a bat flying around your house? It probably just got in by mistake. I have never seen a rabid bat that can fly, so just open a window and let it find its way out on its own. During the colder months, call a rehabilitator for guidance.

In the coming year, I plan to add to the Wild Things education collection by adding new material focusing on bats. I am also hoping to build a large flight cage where bats can learn to fly and hunt as well as recover flying abilities after injury. Once built, Wild Things Sanctuary will be one of the only full service bat rehabilitation centers in the Northeast.



A young Great Horned Owl chick was found after her nest was destroyed in Ithaca, NY. After unsuccessfully trying to reunite her with her parents for several days, I brought the baby to Wild Things Sanctuary.

To have a chance at being wild, I knew she needed owl foster parents. The Adirondack Wildlife Refuge, six hours away, has several adult owls and agreed to take her in.

She was successfully raised by her foster parents and was released a few months ago. She is doing well and stops by from time to time if she needs an extra snack while she perfects her hunting skills.



Rexy, pictured here hanging upside down, is an Eastern red bat. Like many birds, these handsome little bats may migrate hundreds of miles every year. For all I know Rexy has spent winters in Mexico! Other individuals chose to stay north and hibernate, often sleeping in piles of leaves under the deep snow.

Rexy was found a few hundred miles away with an injured wing. Thanks to a series of volunteer drivers, he is now recovering at Wild Things. Red bats live in trees rather than caves or crevices and their colored fur keeps them camouflaged in the leaves. They are one of the only species where males and females look different, males being a brighter red. They can have up to four pups a year.

Sadly, this species is one of the most affected by wind turbines, and they are killed by the hundreds during migration. But this winter, Rexy has a safe place to call home. He particularly likes hiding in the decorative fall leaves bought at a craft store for him by a Wild Things supporter. Thank you!

Photo by Michael Freifeld



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