



wild things sanctuary, inc.
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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.



Look out for our new bat logo that will be used on bat-related topics and news, like our new upcoming bats911 webpages.

The Chinese symbol of five bats together represents the "Five Blessings": longevity, wealth, health, love, and virtue.

This newsletter is printed on recycled paper. Enjoy and share!

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.



Our online presence enables people to get in touch with wildlife questions from all over the country. A Vermont bat researcher studying the effects of wind turbines on bats in the Northeast, called this autumn about a Hoary bat that was found downed by a turbine in New York. I was amazed that this gorgeous migratory bat was unharmed, probably just a bit stunned. After a few days of rest, he was released to continue his migration journey. Thousands of bats are killed by turbines every year; bats may suffer over six times the fatalities at wind turbines compared to birds.

Help for a Threatened Species



My what big ears you have! Since 2006, Northern long-eared bats have declined by about 99% in the Northeast due to White-nose Syndrome. We were thrilled to be able to help two this year, including the youngster pictured here. This year the species was listed as federally threatened under the Endangered Species Act. Wild Things coordinates with federal and state agencies to report sightings of bats in trouble.

Sadly the only Little brown bat we received this year died of White-nose Syndrome before arrival. Yet, these sad cases strengthen our commitment to help bats!

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 or memory? We have fun suggestions in our website store with great gift cards available!

The Wild Times

A newsletter from Wild Things Sanctuary, Inc. • vol. 5, no. 1 • Winter 2015

Happy Holidays Wild Things Sanctuary Supporters!

"If you build it, they will come." When I opened Wild Things Sanctuary in 2008, I had no idea that a line from an 80s Hollywood movie would repeat itself again and again in my head. As soon as the doors opened, animals kept coming in. Babies, adults, feathered, furred, or even scaly, there seemed to be no end to wildlife who needed a little help before getting back on their feet and returning to the wild.

In the last nine years, as White-nose Syndrome descended upon the Northeast, wiping out bat populations, it became apparent that these little mammals not only needed help, but they desperately needed advocates. I learned that there are hundreds of bats found injured and in homes every year in New York, yet few places where they could recover. So, in 2012, I committed to helping bats, and once again that line started repeating in my head. So far this year we have admitted more than 80 bat patients from all over New York State!

With the generous help of our supporters, Wild Things Sanctuary is now one of the only places in New York State with almost everything a bat in trouble could need. Thanks to your support we were able to build a large flight cage this year, which has been an amazing addition to Wild Things Sanctuary. Having a large area to practice flying has meant bats I thought might never fly again, were able to relearn flight and be released. The cage has hosted at least 40 bats



Frosty is a Big brown bat. He was found in a kitchen sink, put outside in the snow, but was eventually brought to WTS. The icy temperatures caused some wing deterioration, but with time in the new flight cage he learned to fly again and was released this spring. He may live over 20 years and eat over 3,000 insects per night!

who would not have had a chance without your generosity. Just think of all the bugs they will eat to repay us!

Without asking for a word of thanks, bats save humans billions of dollars in pest control every year, and their voracious buggly appetites save us from eating foods doused in pesticides. Outside of the Northeast their role in pollination means that we can have plentiful fresh fruit in our grocery stores. Their pollination of the agave plant, which tequila is made from, means that this rehabilitator can indulge in a margarita when I can find time to take a break from work! Thanks to all of you, these little heroes now have a place to recover when they end up in trouble.

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



Mama Sassy, second from the right, is an older bat and was a great comfort to the pups this year, seen snuggling up with her. Read their stories below. Thanks to colleagues at the Cornell Lab of Ornithology for donating colored bird leg bands that were used as temporary ID tags on the bats (seen on their forearms).

Meet Some of the Patients

People ask, "Isn't it boring, working mostly with bats?" Absolutely not! Every case presents a new challenge and I've never worked with a group of animals that can have such individual personalities. There are shy ones, ferocious ones, scaredy cats, sweet ones, social ones, stubborn ones, etc. To ensure they have the best recovery possible, their individual needs have to be addressed. This may mean giving a shy one more places to hide, or figuring out how to handle one who gets scared more easily.

The picture above is of seven Big brown bats in one of the bat houses in the flight cage: six pups and one adult. Here are their stories:

Sassy: (second from right) Sassy arrived some time ago after suffering a wing injury from being caught in a shutter. Her worn teeth indicate that she is an older bat. Sas has always been a gentle patient and never shown aggression towards anyone, human or bat. The new flight cage gave her a chance to relearn how to fly. She had two babies this year, and all the orphaned pups would seek her out to cuddle together, as seen above.

Pups from left to right:

Little Wing: This newborn arrived weighing four grams with a cat torn wing and an abscess on her neck. She was a shy little girl who took extra time to grow and get fur. She lost the tip of one wing, but the rest of the wing healed, and after perfecting her flying abilities, she was released this summer.

Sassy's pup #1: From the moment this little guy was born, he was a confident, big little man who dominated the flight cage and was one of the biggest babies.

VB: Named herself after accidentally swiping my phone's keyboard and "VB" is what came out. The biggest and one of the friendliest of this year's pups, VB arrived as a four gram newborn, found alone in a house. The biggest challenge with her was to get her to eat and fly at the same time, and learn that I was not an appropriate landing post!

Henry: Found in a home at a week old, with no mother in sight, this little guy was small, but didn't miss a beat coming into

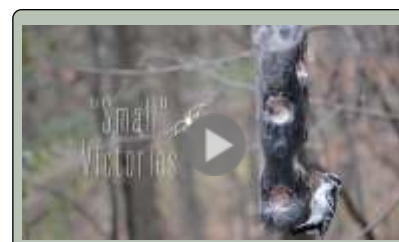
rehab. He weaned himself sooner than the others and was a lovely little flyer.

Sassy's pup #2: Sassy's younger pup was not as big as his brother and a bit shy, but really came into his own when "flight school" began. He is a beautiful little flyer and is the founder of a new bat colony that hangs around (literally) the Wild Things Sanctuary buildings. He is now settled into a hibernation area somewhere under my roof!

Little Mister: This little fellow was already a big two to three week old fledgling when he arrived. He was found grounded and unable to fly. His finders were not able to locate his bat colony, so he came here, and along with Sassy's pups, he soon dominated the flight cage and was one of the first pups to be released this year.

And we had a handful of other pups this year too; some a bit grumpy, others super friendly, and a few who seemed to like the comfort of Wild Things and didn't want to leave the flight cage even after it was left open for days at a time!

Where are the pups now? There is so little known about individual bat behavior and colony formation, so I had no idea what would happen when I released these little orphans. I was thrilled that at least seven of the ones released this year, at different times, found each other and moved from the temporary bat houses on the flight cage, to the "big kid" bat houses that are on the side of my house about 100+ feet away. Of the ones in the picture above, Sassy's pup #2, Little Wing, and VB are three of the pups who have decided to stick around Wild Things Sanctuary, where they will always be welcome! A small hole under my eaves was discovered and now most of them are tucked away in there for the cold winter months.



Want an inside look at Wild Things? Check out Small Victories, a short film made last year by students at Ithaca College:

<https://youtu.be/5dq5JJt8014>

Thanks to Mia Daniels, Sam Dellert, and Christina Lugo for doing such a great job!

Your year-end gift makes a BIG difference to Wild Things!

Wild Things Sanctuary, Inc. is a 501(c)3 not-for-profit organization. EIN#: 68-0573815

All donations are tax deductible to the full extent allowed by law.

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

Enclosed is my tax-deductible gift of \$ _____

Name: _____

Address: _____

Email: _____



This poor little fellow was caught by a cat and suffered several bad injuries, including a punctured lung that caused him to swell up like a balloon. Thanks to Wild Things supporters, he was able to make a full recovery and has been successfully relearning how to fly.



A Big brown bat pup enjoys her formula meal.



Last winter, heavy snows caused one of the enclosures at Wild Things Sanctuary to collapse (picture below). Supporters and volunteers came to the rescue, and thanks to their generosity, this amazing "bat palace" flight enclosure was built in place of the wrecked cage. Mesh inner walls allow insects to enter. Hardwire outer walls keep animals safe. Did you know fledgling bats are not great fliers when they start flying? So, padded flooring helps soften crash landings!



A HUGE thanks to Jake Hill for building the cage, Jodi McCarthy for helping with the interior (we went through 8 staple guns!), and Hollie Sutherland for coordinating efforts.



Is that an owl in a basket? Yes! Whenever I can, I try to help other wildlife in need. This young Great Horned Owl was only about two to three weeks old when she was found on the ground far below her nest. There was no way I could get back up to the nest, and it looked rather flimsy and small anyway. So, after the owl had a checkup at the Cornell Wildlife Health Center, I bought a basket, rope, and bungee cords, grabbed a stash of food and headed up the tree to secure her just below her nest. Along with a few volunteers who checked on her throughout the day, I anxiously waited to see if her parents would return. I brought up food twice a day to keep her fed if there was no evidence of the parents' return. But within two days Mama Owl was back with her baby! The picture on the right was taken weeks later when she started to venture off the nest.

