

Caring for wildlife
for 42 years!



Wildlife Matters

Quarterly Newsletter of the St. Francis Wildlife Association

St. Francis Wildlife is a local, nonprofit organization dedicated to the conservation of native wildlife through the rehabilitation of sick, injured and orphaned wildlife and public education since 1978.

Vol. 22, No. 1

Winter 2020

Oh, 'possum!

These gentle, helpful neighbors are often misunderstood and unappreciated.

By Sandy Beck

Photos by Teresa Stevenson

The Virginia Opossum, North America's only marsupial, is basically the same little guy that scooted around with dinosaurs more than 65 million years ago. Why does this species thrive while so many others went extinct?

Like many other native mammals, opossums move about under cover of darkness, and these cat-sized marsupials can feel at home in any warmish habitat, from wilderness to inner city.

They're also not picky eaters. They devour snails, slugs, roaches, crickets, beetles, rodents, snakes, carrion, and overripe fruit. Rumor has it they even slurp up ticks, but this may be because, like cats, they are fastidious—always licking and cleaning their furry bodies.



Opossums are immune to pit viper venom and have a natural resistance to many diseases, including rabies—possibly because of their low body temperature.

Talk about a baby machine—mama 'possum can raise up to 13 babies in each litter.

Just twelve and a half days after a brief rendezvous with a musky male, the female licks fur on her belly, and gives birth to about 20 bean-sized babies. Blind and deaf, they swim

up the wet fur to her pouch where the 13 strongest each swallow one of her 13 nipples.

Two months later, the fully-developed, chipmunk-size youngsters open their eyes and cautiously venture outside. Little prehensile tails and hands with opposable thumbs clutch the fur on her back while she forages.

Adult opossums use their tails as a sort of “fifth leg” to climb trees and carry dried leaves to their nests. But carrying a heavy adult opossum by its tail is inhumane and could dislocate its spine.

Opossums are pacifists. Hissing and showing its 50 sharp teeth (more than any other land mammal) is usually just a bluff. After the vicious show, one will quickly waddle off or scamper up a tree.

If it is cornered, the opossum turns on its best survival adaptation—“playing ‘possum”; but they're not playing. Stress causes it to go into shock and “faint.” The body grows limp, heart rate and breathing slow, and the mouth drops open.

Most predators will turn up their noses at this unappetizing “dead” creature. Eventually the opossum wakes up and continues on its way.

The next moon-bright night, look for your own 'possum neighbor as she works hard to tidy up your garden.



Kayla Gainer-Edwards with a blind opossum.

Photo by Sandy Beck.

Meet Kayla Gainer-Edwards

St. Francis Wildlife's new director and wildlife rehabilitator

I am excited to be part of St. Francis Wildlife. It is an honor to help wildlife here in North Florida with an organization that has worked so hard for over 40 years to earn community respect and a solid reputation for providing humane care for injured, orphaned and sick wildlife.

I have worked in the wildlife rehabilitation field for the last seven years. I was the principal rehabilitator and wildlife rehabilitation manager at the Florida Keys Wild Bird Center. After moving to Tallahassee in November 2017, I was hired as a wildlife rescuer and then as a full-time wildlife technician by Teresa Stevenson.

When Teresa retired in November, I was thrilled to be offered her position of director and principal wildlife rehabilitator.

I will work hard to take our wildlife rehabilitation organization to even greater heights, and with your support and the help of our wonderful staff and volunteers, I know we will succeed.



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We appreciate these thoughtful donations.

In Memory of

Helen Staskiew's
From
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Carolyn Franke
From
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From
Stan Tullos

All the staff at St. Francis Wildlife
From
Vanessa Larsen

Sandy Beck for her good work
From
Frank and Linda Carter

Sandy Beck
From
Michael and Judy Wilson Sheridan

Sophie's 10th birthday
From
Maria Fernanda Arauz

Phil Hughes
From
Suzanne Hughes

Pat and Chris Teaf
From
Elizabeth Olson

Donna K. Wheeler
and for bat rehabilitation at SFW
From
Linda Whitefeather

Mike and Kathi Watters
From
Bev Glazer and Cyndy Brantly

Kathleen Coyne Russell's daughter
From
Maria Fernanda Arauz

Janice Kane and Joan Helms
From
Denise Rodenbough

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From
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Tara Tanaka
From
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Tara Tanaka
From
Susan Hensley

Fern Rosenwasser
From
Marcy Rosewater

Cheryl and Gary Gratt
From
Michael Ryan

Susan and Rockie Mosier
From
Marianne Ryan

The great work done at St. Francis
From
Marc, Leon Iron & Metal, Inc.

Julia Kronholz's and Adam Hanley's marriage
From
Andrew and Sandra Granger

Dr. Melanie Donofro and staff at Los Robles Animal Hospital
From
Joan Kaye

Carol Allen, the kindest neighbor
From
Penny Mitchell

Chris and Lesly Konrad
From
Connie Konrad

The Potter Family
and in appreciation of St. Francis
From
Marie Saylor



It's always in our power to be kind.

Fred Tedio, a volunteer with St. Francis Wildlife, is also owner of the **Uptown Cafe**. Fred gave us a check for a portion of all sales made on a recent Saturday — \$600!

Thank you Tedio family and all of you who packed the restaurant for this second **"Uptown Cares for St. Francis Wildlife" day!** Pictured are (left to right) **Diana, Katie, Fred and Twiggy.**

Twiggy, our Barn Owl ambassador, sustained a permanent injury to his right wing when he fell from his nest almost eight years ago. Photo by Sandy Beck

Sincere thanks to our community for caring about wildlife.

- **COSTCO** for weekly donations of produce for our animals.
- **Panhandle Pet Supply** for donating squirrel food and deep discounts on other supplies.
- **Wild Birds Unlimited** for donating bird seed.
- **Walmart in Quincy** for donating dog food and birdseed.
- **Robbie Estevez** and **IMARCSGROUP.COM (IMG)** for hosting our web site.
- **John Wesley Alternative Christmas Market** for including us and **Barbara Barnett** for her donations and hard work.
- **Faye Davis** for sewing for the Christmas Market Shop.
- **Felecia Elmore Perfect** for helping our other hammock and blanket sewers.
- **Havana Auto and Transmission** for donating their labor to repair a St. Francis vehicle.
- **Havana Garden Club** for their support.
- **St. Marks Powder** and their generous staff.
- **Lisa Peerson Shared Blessings Fund** for their generous grant.
- **Ken and Val Benfield** for a Home Depot certificate.
- **Stoney Thompson of Peaceful Pets** for providing their cremation services.
- **Libby Allen** for donating our beautiful, new road sign.
- **Christopher Klaas** for framing and installing the new road sign and helping with facility repairs.
- **Donna Hansell** for her generous donation and efforts at crowdfunding.
- **United Church of Tallahassee** for hosting our fundraiser.
- **The City of Tallahassee** for its annual donation.
- **Cornerstone Learning Community 2nd and 3rd grade students** and their teachers **Jennifer Edgar and Rachel Webber** for collecting donations and items on our Wish List.

Thank you, Coyote Graphics and wildlife artist Michael Boardman for creating beautiful Barred Owl t-shirts for our staff and volunteers (pictured on right with Cypress, the Barred Owl) and for hosting a fundraiser for St. Francis Wildlife in December by selling these shirts at www.coyotees.com and raising more than \$1,000 for St. Francis Wildlife!

Photo by Rozlynn Horton



For their generous, continued support St. Francis Wildlife is grateful to

- Michael H. Sheridan & Judy Wilson Sheridan
- Dr. Robert and Lorelei Ennis
- Valerie's Animal & Nature Foundation
- The Phipps family
- Charles & Sallie Barnes
- The Earth and Animal Foundation
- The Apple Lane Foundation
- Lewis Family Foundation

2019 Year in Review

Thank you for supporting St. Francis Wildlife in 2019! Here is a snapshot of some of what you helped accomplish.

Patients receiving care: 3,226—an 18% increase over 2018! Some of the highest-intake species:



Sandy Beck

Red-shouldered Hawk: 60



Sandy Beck

Carolina Wren: 228



Sandy Beck

Northern Mockingbird: 67



Dean Gioia

Barred Owl: 75



Sandy Beck

Box Turtle: 38



Sandy Beck

Cottontail: 264



Teresa Stevenson

Grey Squirrel: 561



Sandy Beck

White-tailed Deer: 38

Most frequent reasons for admission to St. Francis Wildlife in 2019.

Orphaned: 1,096 Cat attack: 357 Hit by car: 314 Dog attack: 271 Nest or home destroyed: 196

Help celebrate
St. Francis Wildlife's
42nd Wild Baby Season at our
WILDLIFE BABY SHOWERS!



Saturday, March 14
9 am - 2 pm
Downtown Marketplace
N. Monroe Street & Park Avenue

and

Saturday, May 16
10 am - 2 pm
Wild Birds Unlimited
2098 Thomasville Rd.



★ Live birds of prey!

★ Learn how to help wild babies!

★ Kids' craft: Make nests for orphaned baby birds at SFW!

★ Please bring a baby gift from our Wish List on page 8.

Or drop off a baby gift at Wild Birds Unlimited anytime during May!

If you find a baby . . .



Songbird

If it is a featherless or mostly downy **nestling** (photo on left), put it back in its nest. If you can't find the nest, make a new one with a plastic mesh berry basket

lined with pine straw and attach it to the shady side of the closest tree. If the nest is on the ground, put it back in the tree.

If the baby bird is a fully feathered **fledgling** (tail feathers are short), and not injured or in danger from pets or traffic, don't return it to the nest. Its parents will protect and feed it on the ground until it can fly in a few days.

Opossum

St. Francis Wildlife received 579 injured and orphaned opossums last year.

Some fall from mama's back. If you find one, there may be others. Listen for "sneezing" sounds that the babies make to call their mother.

If the opossum is seven inches long from nose to rump, excluding the tail, it's independent, and does not need your help.

If you find a dead opossum on the road, check its belly for a pouch (only females have pouches). If the babies are alive, remove them, keep them warm and take them to St. Francis Wildlife. You can also bring mom with the babies attached. If there are no babies, please remove the body from the road to keep it from endangering scavenger animals.



Squirrel

If it is not injured, always try to reunite it with its mother.

1) Put it in a small cardboard box lined with a t-shirt (toenails get caught in towel loops).

2) If babies are wet, dry them. They should feel warm when you touch them, not hot or cold. Warmth is more important than food. Do not feed it. Warm a water bottle or a sock filled with rice or in the microwave, and place it in the box.

3. Place the box at the base of a tree near where you found them.

4) Go inside so mom feels comfortable approaching. She wants to pick them up and take them to a nest (she has a few). It may take a few hours.

5) If it is getting dark and mom has not returned, bring them inside and call us.

Never handle rabies vectors such as raccoons, foxes, or bats, even babies. Call us. Birds and reptiles do not carry rabies. Squirrels, opossums and rabbits are rarely rabies vectors. **For our phone numbers and more information** about wildlife rescue, and how and where to transport orphaned or injured wildlife, please see **page 8**.

Every wild animal gets the same TLC at St. Francis Wildlife, no matter where they are on the "cute scale"

Photos by Sandy Beck



This Brazilian free-tailed bat was found on the floor of an office building on a cold day. These tiny bats, just 2" long, like company. They live in large colonies ranging from a few hundred to several thousand. "Free-tailed" bats have long tails that extend from their bodies.



The non-venomous grey rat snake is a common species found only in the panhandle and northwestern peninsula of Florida. An average adult size is 36-72 inches; the record is 84.25 inches. This grey rat snake is being treated for spinal trauma and puncture wounds.



This northern yellow bat has a fractured leg. This species lives a solitary life and is one of Florida's larger bats with a wingspan of 14" to 16". They roost primarily in dead palm fronds and Spanish moss and are found throughout the state, except in the Florida Keys.

When our pests are someone else's dinner

During winter, rodents make their way into the comfort of the warm, dark spaces in our homes. Poison baits and traps, which may seem like easy solutions, often have unintended consequences.

By Sandy Beck

One of the telltale signs that you have rats or mice in your home is the scratching and gnawing sounds, especially at night.

Rodents have chisel-like incisors that grow continuously. Gnawing on hard nutshells and wood keeps their teeth trimmed. But they can also chew through walls and electrical wires.

St. Francis Wildlife frequently receives calls and emails for advice about how to evict these animals humanely.

It's all about the food chain

The Southwest Florida Eagle Cam uses a camera perched 60 feet above the ground to give eagle lovers around the world a bird's eye view of a famous nest in North Ft. Myers. But this February, viewers were saddened by the death of a one-month-old eaglet.

Necropsy results determined the cause of death was brodifacoum, a type of anticoagulant rodenticide or rat poison.

After eating the rodenticide bait, rats and mice go back into the wild and can take more than a week to die. Weakened from internal bleeding, they are easy prey and a toxic ticking bomb for any animal who preys on them.

When I rescued a weak, emaciated Barn Owl, I took it immediately to North Florida Animal Hospital, but it died as soon as we arrived.

Dr. George Simmons said, "I bet I know what killed it." He made an incision on the beautiful owl's breast. The owl's blood did not clot.

"Secondary rat poisoning," he said.

One sick rat is probably not enough to kill an adult Barn Owl, but after a few tainted meals, a lethal amount of poison can accumulate in its body. In the case of the tiny eaglet, a lethal dose would be much lower.

But walk into any home improvement or hardware store and you will find shelves stocked



This Great Egret captured and swallowed a black rat.

Photo by Sandy Beck

with these rodenticide baits as well as glue traps.

Both products are dangerous, inhumane, and lethal to non-target animals, including your own pets. Last year, St. Francis Wildlife received 18 animals—songbirds, owls, a hawk, and a gecko—stuck to glue boards or suffering from secondary poisoning. And these are just the ones we treated.

Are there safe and effective ways to evict rats and mice?

Absolutely. Remove the attractants. Rake up fallen birdseed. Keep all perishable food in tightly closed canisters or in the fridge. Find out where rodents are entering, and seal up the entryway.

Recently, I discovered a mound of sunflower seed shells on our laundry room floor. A critter had chewed through the plastic birdseed bin, and there were rodent droppings. We looked behind the washer and dryer but could not find a hole.

Then we set up a trail camera beneath the house. Inexpensive trail cams can be purchased today for less than \$100. The next morning we had another mound of sunflower seed shells, but also a movie showing exactly where the black rat had entered.

The black rat or roof rat is the most common

rat in Florida. An exotic from southern Asia, it likely hitchhiked a ride on the first ship that sailed to the New World.

These rats are great climbers. Ours could have run along tree limbs then hopped on the house. Or perhaps it was attracted by the seed falling from our bird feeders and then followed that scent to the source.

Adults are 12 to 14 inches long, including the tail, which is longer than the body. Young rats can squeeze through a tiny hole. If it can fit its head inside, it can squeeze its body through.

Our visitor had squeezed in and then shimmied up beside a water pipe. We filled in the small entrance hole around the pipe and covered the entire area beneath the house with quarter-inch, steel hardware cloth. Problem solved. No

more unwelcome guests in our laundry room.

If rodents have already settled in your home or garage, humane live traps baited with peanut butter on a cracker can be effective. H.B. Sherman live traps, used by scientists worldwide, are manufactured right here in Tallahassee on Peddie Drive.

For sustainable rodent control, open a predator B&B in your backyard

We supply the owl nest box, but they need to find their own breakfast. Screech, Barred, and Barn Owls all use tree cavities and nest boxes. One Barn Owl can catch 1,400+ rodents a year! Build your own from plans at:

<https://nestwatch.org/learn/all-about-birdhouses>

A tall snag provides a home for a raccoon family and a perch for Red-shouldered Hawks. We also put out the welcome mat for grey rat and red rat snakes (corn snakes) and have even rehomed a few beneath our house. Bon appétit, y'all!

For more ideas on safe and sustainable pest control check out RATS! (Raptors Are the Solution) at www.raptorsarethesolution.org.

♥ We love our volunteers! ♥

What inspires people to give selflessly of their most precious possession — time? Stephanie Sunderman-Barnes was happy to answer this question.

Learn more about volunteer opportunities at stfranciswildlife.org/GetInvolved.html or call (850) 627-4151.



Stephanie Sunderman-Barnes has been a treasured volunteer at St. Francis Wildlife since 2010. She has a special place in her heart for our turtles and tortoises, like this injured gopher tortoise that is receiving her special TLC. Photo by Nicole Rivera.

Stephanie Sunderman-Barnes

As a marine biologist and environmental scientist who has witnessed the effects of habitat loss and other conflicts between humans and wildlife, I believe it is our duty to show kindness and compassion towards our neighbors of all species.

I had my first experience with wildlife rehabilitation while working on a sea turtle nesting project in Southwest Florida. When we found injured shorebirds while searching for turtle tracks, I transported the birds to the closest rehabilitator. After hearing the heartwarming stories of how these animals' lives were saved because of the rehabilitators' skilled care, I knew that I wanted to become more involved.

Moving to Tallahassee provided the perfect opportunity because St. Francis Wildlife is located just a short drive away.

As a weekly wildlife care volunteer, I assist with diet preparation, feeding and cleaning enclosures for reptiles, songbirds and waterfowl. I have also assisted with special projects such as repairing and landscaping the outdoor enclosures.

As a volunteer, I have had the privilege of watching Pileated Woodpeckers that arrived as nestlings, requiring feedings every 20 minutes, grow into beautiful, feathered young adults ready to forage independently in the wild.

I have also had the joy of releasing many yellow-bellied slider turtles after injuries to their shells had healed.

Volunteering at St. Francis Wildlife has given me the opportunity to learn about the specialized diets and habitat needs of the species I help care for, and I strive to use what I have learned to enhance wildlife habitat in our community.

Raptors have amazing eyes

Photos and story by Sandy Beck



A soaring hawk can see a mouse a mile below! But when a hawk, like this snoozing Red-shouldered Hawk, sleeps or blinks only lower eyelids close and cover the eyes.



An owl's huge eyes account for up to 5% of its total body weight! Unlike hawks, they have equally mobile upper and lower lids; they blink with their upper lids (see the Great Horned Owl above) and, like hawks, close their lower lids when they sleep.

Thank you, Michael Sheridan ♥ and Judy Wilson Sheridan!

Thanks to their generous donation of nearly \$8,000, we've been able to update our hospital with important new diagnostic tools, including a fiberoptic Otoscope Ophthalmoscope set (photo on right). We also purchased the lumber and hardware to build several new outdoor cages for recovering small mammals and fixed the well pump damaged by Hurricane Michael.

It is only because of supporters, like Mike and Judy and you, that St. Francis Wildlife has been able to provide exceptional humane care for the wildlife in our community for over four decades.



Photo on right: This Barred Owl suffered trauma to his head and eyes after being struck by a car. Kayla Gainer is now able to use our new ophthalmoscope to examine the owl's eyes.

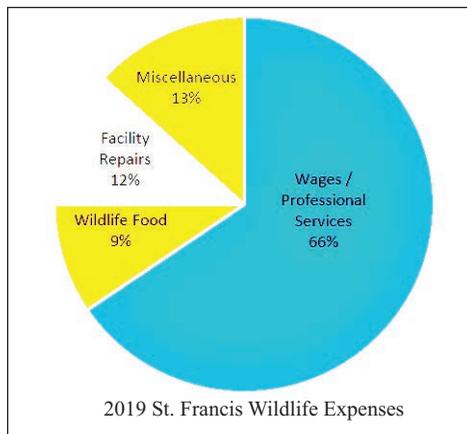
Photo by Bobby Edwards



Both hawks and owls have another eyelid, a transparent "nictitating membrane," that closes diagonally across the eyes to moisten and protect them from wind and debris, like goggles! Notice the partially closed nictitating membrane on this Great Horned Owl's right eye.

Where do your donations go?

By Pat Simmons



One of the most daunting tasks of any organization is to function within budgetary restrictions. This chart will give you an idea of how we spend your donations.

The 2019 St. Francis Wildlife (SFW) budget was \$235K. But a higher animal intake—18% more animals than 2018—resulted in greater expenses for animal food, medications and medical care. Facility repairs exceeded our budget as well.

Fortunately, even with these higher expenses, the graciousness of our community gave SFW a banner year and left us in the black.

The SFW budget is divided into two parts: Wages/Personnel and Operation; both of which are subdivided into forty-two line items. As with all non-profits, wages carry the largest budgetary burden. During our peak season (baby season), March through September, we employ as many as a dozen full-time (FTE) and part-time (PTE) employees.

Our professional staff come to us with many years of college, continuing

education, and previous wildlife rehabilitation experience.

To augment FTE staff, we have an FSU Internship/Work Study Program, a burgeoning national Internship Program, the beginning of an Intern Program partnership with the FAMU School of Veterinary Technology, and many dedicated volunteers.

Wildlife Food and Facility Repair are the larger of the sections in the Operation half of the budget. Even with donations of produce, insects, special diets and infant formulas, SFW spends close to \$23K on food.

Included in Miscellaneous Expenses are vet services, medications, mileage for rescues, insurances and fundraising. All of these expenses have increased nearly 100% over the past decade.

As you can see, SFW utilizes every penny donated to us. We understand that money does not grow on trees; it arrives because of your generosity. It is because of your support that this non-profit has thrived for 42 years and why our future as caretakers of wildlife in this community continues to look bright.



Put your money where your is.

SFW's Spring Baby Hatch Match

Until March 31, all donations up to \$10K will be matched!

By Sandy Beck

When Carolina Wrens begin to carry nesting material to the hanging baskets on our porches and the first baby opossums arrive at our wildlife hospital, St. Francis Wildlife staff get one last, good night's sleep. Because these are signs that Wild Baby Season has begun.

March through October, St. Francis Wildlife will receive more than 1,600 orphaned and injured wild babies, in addition to more than 1,000 injured and sick adults.

All these animals require endless hours of care as well as huge quantities of special diets, medical supplies, and more. We also put a lot of mileage on our rescue vehicles.

An anonymous donor, who wants to ensure that St. Francis Wildlife has enough resources to make it through Wild Baby Season, will match every donation we receive between now and March 31st, up to \$10,000!

If all our supporters, as well as local wildlife lovers who have not contributed recently, would make a donation now, St. Francis Wildlife will have no trouble giving every hawk, bobcat and opossum that is hit by a car; every fawn that gets caught in a fence; and every orphaned songbird, fox, and bunny the care it needs.



Baby sparrow hatching in an incubator at St. Francis Wildlife.

For until March 31st, your tax-deductible contribution will go twice as far. **\$50 becomes \$100, \$100 becomes \$200, and so on!**

Please tell your friends about this opportunity to have their gift matched. And thank you from the bottom of our wild hearts!

How to get your donation matched

1. Mail a check with the donation form below to St. Francis Wildlife, P.O. Box 38160, Tallahassee, FL 32315.
2. Donate with PayPal on our web site: www.stfranciswildlife.org.
3. Take your donation to our Wildlife Baby Shower, March 18th, 9 a.m. - 2 p.m. at the Downtown Marketplace, N. Monroe and Park Ave. (see page 4).

Donation Form: Please renew your annual support.

Mail your check to: St. Francis Wildlife Assoc., P.O. Box 38160, Tallahassee, FL 32315. Or donate online with PayPal at www.stfranciswildlife.org.

Name _____ Date _____ E-mail Address _____

Home Address _____ City _____ State _____ Zip Code _____

How would you prefer to receive our quarterly newsletter, *Wildlife Matters*? Mail a printed copy to my home. I prefer to read it on-line.

To make this donation in honor of someone (for a special occasion, memorial, etc.) please include a note with the honored person's name and the name and address of the person to receive acknowledgement of the gift. Your gift will also be noted in our next "Wildlife Matters" newsletter.

Please check the appropriate box and return this form with your tax-deductible donation.

Donor Levels: Angel \$35 Hero \$50 Friend \$100 Sponsor \$250 Guardian \$500 Steward \$1,000 Patron \$2,000 Saint \$5,000 Other _____

Please contact me about: Volunteering Your "Wild Classroom" wildlife education programs.



Wildlife Wish List

Wish List also online at: www.stfranciswildlife.org/Donate.html.
Please take items to **St. Francis Wildlife or Allied Veterinary Emergency Hospital**. Call us about large items.

Gift Certificates

- Native Nurseries
- Wild Birds Unlimited
- Panhandle Pet Supply
- COSTCO, Stone's, Home Depot, Walmart
- squirrelsandmore.com
- foxvalleynutrition.com
- armstrongcrickets.com
- rodentsontheroad.com
- amazon.com

Food/Feeding

- Unsalted peanuts in the shell
- Raw, hard-shelled nuts, like walnuts, pecans, acorns
- Black oil sunflower seed
- Wild bird seed
- Keet seed
- Baby food: fruit, vegetables, beef, and chicken (no noodles)
- Eggs
- EXACT powder (baby bird formula)
- Plain and fruit yogurt
- Live or dried worms and crickets
- Waterfowl maintenance pellets
- Waterfowl starter mash
- Plant pot saucers, plastic
- Heavy stoneware food bowls

Cleaning Supplies

- Laundry detergent, unscented
- Bleach, unscented

- Heavy-duty 39 & 55 gallon trash bags
- Paper towels
- Dawn dish soap
- Odoban, Mr. Clean, Fabulosa
- Scotch-brite heavy duty scrub sponges
- Rakes
- Heavy duty hoses

Animal Housing

- Baby blankets
- T-shirts, pillowcases, top sheets
- Soft toilet paper or soft tissue

Office

- Sticky notes
- Letter-size printer paper, white
- Dry erase boards and pens, Sharpies, pens and pencils

Misc.

- Non-toxic insect repellent for staff such as "Natrapel" (at Native Nurseries & Amazon)

Big Wishes

- 2-line phone system with 5 - 6 handsets
- A long-term goal of ours is to move the SFW hospital to Leon County. If you have acreage you would like to donate, please contact board president, Pat Simmons at (850) 339-5625.

Wildlife Matters

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Sandy Beck

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Printing

Post Searchlight Printing, Bainbridge, GA

Mail Processing

Target Print & Mail, Tallahassee, FL

This newsletter of the St. Francis Wildlife Association is mailed to our supporters and is also available at local businesses and online at www.stfranciswildlife.org. Send letters to the editor to stfranciswildlife@comcast.net.



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Also check out our new Amazon Wish List: <http://bit.ly/stfranciswildlife>

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If you find injured, orphaned, or sick wildlife



- Call us at (850) 627-4151 8:30 a.m. - 5 p.m.
- After 5 p.m., call our After-hours Rescue Hotline, (850) 933-2735.
- Take it to our wildlife hospital, 5580 Salem Rd. Quincy, FL (4 miles NW of Havana), 8:30 a.m. - 5 p.m. Directions at: www.stfranciswildlife.org.
- 24/7, take it to Northwood Animal Hospital, 1881 N. Martin Luther King Blvd., Tallahassee or Allied Emergency Veterinary Hospital, 2324 Centerville Rd., Tallahassee. Or, during their regular business hours, take it to North Florida Animal Hospital at 2701 N. Monroe St., Tallahassee.

Important Information

- Use a box with air holes punched in the lid. Place a t-shirt or blanket in the box (not a towel). Put the animal in the box and tape securely. Keep babies warm with a heated sock filled with rice or water bottle wrapped in a t-shirt. Keep it quiet, and handle as little as possible.
- Never give it food or water.
- Never handle rabies vectors such as raccoons, foxes, or bats (even babies). Call us. Birds and reptiles do not carry rabies. Squirrels, opossums and rabbits are rarely rabies vectors; it is still wise to use gloves.
- When calling to report an animal hit by a car, note exactly where it is, and, if possible, please remain with the animal until we arrive.

For more information about wildlife rescue:
www.stfranciswildlife.org

Sincere thanks to these veterinary hospitals and caring doctors who donate their services for our wild patients.

MITCH POTTER, DVM, MS, DACVECC
Board Certified Emergency & Critical Care

ALLIED VETERINARY EMERGENCY & SPECIALTY CENTER

Open 24 hours - EVERY DAY

850-222-0123
2324 Centerville Road
Tallahassee, FL 32308

Fax 850-577-1093
alliedvet@gmail.com

Dr. Steve Stevenson, Bradfordville, Animal Hospital, with a Mississippi Kite.



BRADFORDVILLE ANIMAL HOSPITAL

Alex "Steve" Stevenson, Jr., DVM
(850) 893-3047

BRADFORDVILLE ANIMAL HOSPITAL

HOSPITAL HOURS
MON-FRI. 7:00-6:00 P.M.
SAT 9-12

6714 THOMASVILLE ROAD
TALLAHASSEE, FL 32312

Dr. George Simmons, North Florida Animal Hospital, with a Bald Eagle.



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Cindy West DVM, CVA, CVH
alternativeveterinarymedicine.com

2431 Florida Georgia Hwy. • Havana, FL 32333
Office/Fax: (850) 539-7643
Email: altvetmed30@yahoo.com



Dr. Cindy West, Alternative Veterinary Medicine, with a Red-shouldered Hawk.



Dr. Kathleen Cavell, Northwood Animal Hospital, with a Bobcat.




NORTHWOOD ANIMAL HOSPITAL
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Tallahassee, FL 32303
(850) 385-8181



North Florida
ANIMAL HOSPITAL

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Tallahassee, FL 32303
850-385-5141