

Caring for wildlife
for 41 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.

V. 19, No. 1

Winter 2019

Angels with chainsaws

Kindhearted volunteers and supporters and 'unleashed generosity' left us speechless

By Sandy Beck



Orphaned fawns wander among the debris after trees destroyed their pen. Photo by Kevin D. Liles/Courtesy of The Washington Post.

As Hurricane Michael hammered the Florida Panhandle, its ferocious winds and torrential rains whipped through our 36-acre wildlife sanctuary.

Director and wildlife rehabilitator Teresa Stevenson rode out the Category 4 storm with hundreds of her 'babies' in our wildlife hospital.

Like all our neighbors, we lost power and phone lines. But at 11 p.m., the generators died. And with them, the freezers. We also lost the reptile heat lamps, and the heating pads and incubators that were warming hundreds of orphaned baby opossums, bunnies, and squirrels.

Our Facebook plea, posted on a cell phone, alerted volunteers. Pat Simmons headed out at 4 a.m. on dark, debris-covered roads to deliver two solar generators. Another volunteer arrived at 7 a.m. to fix our generator.

Daylight showed the wreckage: Snapped trees and piles of debris blocked our road, crushed animal enclosures, and a fallen limb had torn a hole in the hospital roof. Branches covered the ground. Nothing was left unscathed.

Our Facebook page, Tom Flanigan at WFSU radio and Brittany Bedi at WCTV broadcast our appeal: "St. Francis Wildlife needs angels with chainsaws!"



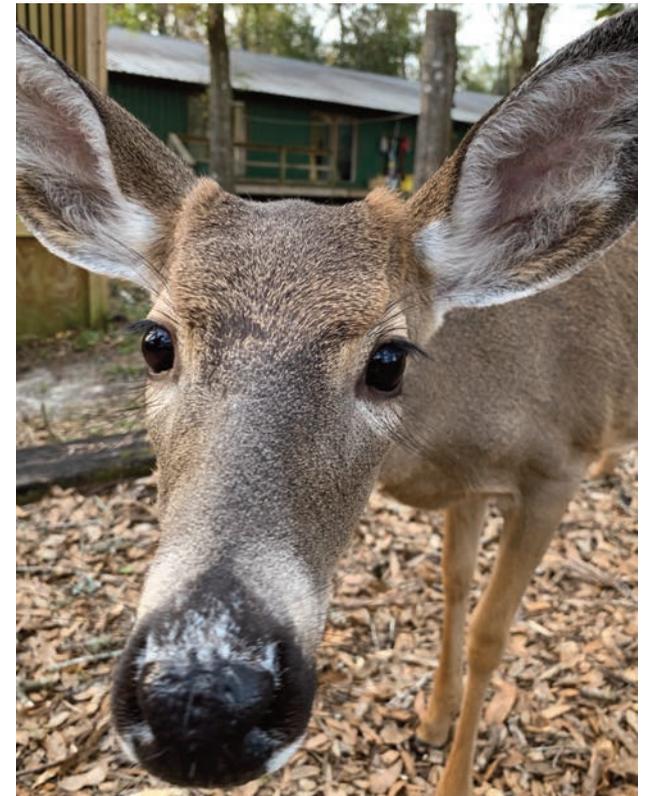
Bobby Edwards and Kayla Gainer clear debris from outdoor wildlife enclosures. Photo by Teresa Stevenson.

And the angels came — not only from our area, but from as far away as South Florida and Alabama. They removed an oak limb from the hospital roof, took home piles of dirty laundry, cleared debris, and freed animals trapped in enclosures. A few raccoons and an opossum (that were ready to be released) scampered off into the woods. Confused fawns wandered among the debris. But not a single animal had been injured.

A reporter from The Washington Post arrived and covered our story. His readers responded by initiating an online campaign that, along with our local friends, raised ten thousand dollars in just two weeks to help with repairs!



Tim Walters and Adam Starling from Miller's Tree Service, two of our 'Angels With Chainsaws,' took on a monumental task at St. Francis Wildlife. Photo by Teresa Stevenson



"'WHA' HAPPENED? AND WHERE IS MY NICE, COZY BED?!" thought the dazed and confused orphaned fawns the day after the hurricane. Photo by Sandy Beck

After Adam Starling, a St. Francis Wildlife volunteer and employee of Miller's Tree Service, spent three days clearing our trees with his family, he asked owner Drew Miller to join him.

Adam wrote on his Facebook page, "I'm sure you understand how strenuous this work is and the countless hours the crews had already [worked]. That is why I was taken aback when I saw 20 volunteers from Miller's Tree Service show up at 7 a.m. on their day off."

Five crews arrived with trucks and cranes to remove snapped trees suspended above the hospital and clear trails, flight cages and pens. AT NO COST.

We are humbled by the love and support of our amazing community of wildlife lovers. Not just in the aftermath of the hurricane, but year round. Thank you! ❤️



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Hospital staff (Left to right)
Ann Lewis, Teresa Stevenson, Kayla Gainer

Thank you from the bottom of our wild hearts for these donations.

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From
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Riley
From
Kathleen Claire Rooney

Staff of St. Francis Wildlife
From
Rick & Betty Simmons

Nancy Thomas
From
Judy Coene

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

Michael H. Sheridan and Judy Wilson
Valerie's Animal & Nature Foundation, Inc.
The Apple Lane Foundation
Lewis Family Foundation
The Phipps family

Stinking cute

We received five orphaned skunks in 2018. For many years we saw no skunks at all. Hopefully, their population is rebounding.
Photo by Teresa Stevenson



WE WISH
Y'ALL PEACE,
LOVE,
HAPPINESS,
GOOD HEALTH,
AND GREAT
ADVENTURES
IN 2019!

Baby opossum, by Teresa Stevenson.

Sincere thanks to our community for caring about wildlife

- **Target Print & Mail** for donating their mailing services.
- **Robbie Estevez** for being our volunteer web master and his **IMARCSGROUP.COM (IMG)** for becoming our web site's new host!
- **Law, Redd, Crona & Munroe, P.A.** for doing our taxes pro bono for 40 years!
- **COSTCO** for donating produce for our animals!
- **Panhandle Pet Supply** for donating squirrel food and deep discounts on other supplies.
- **Walmart in Quincy** for donating dog food and birdseed!
- **Tony Kelly Heating & Air** for installing a ductless air conditioner free of charge.
- **Mark and Laurie Forare**, our great neighbors who help maintain our property with their tractor.
- **The Tallahassee Democrat, WCTV and WFSU** for helping us teach people how to live with wildlife.
- **Libby Allen** for our new road sign and for her loving care for so many orphaned baby squirrels.
- **John Wesley United Methodist Church** for inviting us to their annual Alternative Christmas Market.
- **TJ McGowen** from **Network for Good** for his spectacular guidance in helping us attract donations.
- **Emily Shaw** for her many wildlife rescues, hundreds of volunteer hours, and donating a chain saw after the hurricane!
- **Max & Annika Kolar** for their lemonade stand proceeds.
- **Concetta Ginevra** for donating her birthday check in the aftermath of Hurricane Michael.
- **Donna Hansell** for a brand new utility trailer.
- **Chris Nicholls** for a 2004 GMC Yukon XL Denali Truck.
- **Pam Waldrup** for a washer & dryer.
- **Phyllis & Pele Weiss** for Neodesha cages & lights.
- **Rob Smith** for a Ryobi gas pressure washer.
- **McFarland Builders & Greg Construction Company** for building our new large mammal enclosure & **Duke Energy** for funding it.
- **Matt & Wendy Mathews** for donating their Golf Cart.
- **A Dent in the Attic** for donating storage space for our special event equipment for the last 14 years!
- **Albritten Electric & Greybar Electrical Supply** for installing an additional breaker box for the generators.
- **Donald Boyette of C&W Construction** for laying asphalt on our hospital road and reshaping the road for drainage. Thanks also to **Peavy & Sons** who will continue to surface the road.
- **Nancy Thomas** and **Oscar Tirado** for funds to purchase new double doors for our laundry room.
- **The City of Tallahassee** for their annual donation and **Leon County** for renewing our contract.

We are thankful for the very thoughtful bequeathment from the estate of **Nancy Lynn White**.

We are grateful for a very generous gift from the **William Howard Flowers, Jr. Foundation** at the request of **Mr. & Mrs. C. Martin Wood III**, given in honor of **Diane & Ken Linthacum** and in memory of **Frolic Wood**.

One orphaned Great Horned Owl, from rescue to release

By Sandy Beck



This tiny nestling fell from his nest in the Vineyards after a storm. Notice the yellow 'egg tooth' at the tip of his beak. The owlet uses this hard projection to start breaking through its shell. With the assistance of Armstrong Tree Service we attempted to reunite the baby with its parents. But the parents did not return. Photo/Sandy Beck



St. Francis Wildlife cared for the orphan until he was strong enough to move into a flight cage at our wildlife sanctuary, where a permanently disabled, adult Great Horned Owl became his surrogate parent and 'role model,' and taught him how to behave like a proper owl. Photo/Sandy Beck



In the fall, when he was grown and had demonstrated that he could fly well and feed himself, we took him home. Gilda and Larry Branch, who had rescued the nestling in their backyard, looked on as St. Francis Wildlife volunteer Karl Hook held the owl's transport box on a ladder. I opened the door, and gave him a little nudge. Then woosh — he sailed away!
Release Photos/Pam Anderson

Winter is nesting season for Great Horned Owls

Most birds nest in the spring and summer, but winter is when Great-horned Owls and Bald Eagles think about having a family.

If Great Horned Owls live in your neighborhood, you will hear them calling now. They are claiming and 'advertising' their territory and letting other owls know that they are not welcome.

Advertising is the first step in strengthening the pair bond. They also engage in 'duet-calling' which is when the male and the female call to each other. Like most birds of prey, the female owl is the larger, but the male's larger voice box produces a deeper call.

Listen to their calls at: https://www.al-labouthirds.org/guide/Great_Horned_Owl, or download the free Audubon Bird Guide app.

St. Francis Wildlife



caring for wildlife since 1978

St. Francis Wildlife's 40th Anniversary Celebration at Goodwood Museum & Gardens

We were honored to host guest speakers, Joe Hutto, Bruce Means, and Sandy Proctor — three Tallahassee residents and longtime St. Francis Wildlife supporters who have used their unique talents to teach us about the importance of conserving wildlife and the fragile planet we share. Because what we understand, appreciate, and love, we will protect.



Joe Hutto

While many biologists have a laser focus on the 'larger picture' — survival of a species — this author, naturalist, filmmaker, and wildlife artist's field research and stories (*Illuminations in the Flatwoods*, *The Light in High Places*, *Touching the Wild*) are rich with deeply respectful accounts of individual wild birds and animals he came to know. Joe's poetic passion inspires us to conserve these creatures and their homes.

Joe Hutto with two of his loves, Rita Coolidge and Rudy, a Red-shouldered Hawk. Photo by Sandy Beck



Bruce Means with a new species, the Apalachicola Alligator Snapping Turtle, *Macrochelys apalachicola*. Photo by Leah Ennis

D. Bruce Means, Ph.D.

Bruce is an adjunct professor of biology at FSU, past director of Tall Timbers Research Station, founder and president emeritus of the Coastal Plains Institute, a wilderness field ecologist, and a prolific author. But to Tallahasseeans who know him best, Bruce Means is one of the most extraordinary, memorable and passionate teachers they have ever had.



Julie Montanaro, has one of the most recognizable smiles in Tallahassee and is also a vibrant, articulate, award-winning journalist who has been anchoring and reporting at WCTV for more than 25 years. Julie, thank you for keeping our event flowing so smoothly, for your heartfelt presentation, and for helping us teach people how to live in harmony with our wild neighbors for many years.

Sandy Proctor

An internationally renowned sculptor, painter and stone carver, Sandy Proctor breathes life into everything he creates, and the effect is nothing short of magical. More than a dozen of his life-like bronze sculptures grace our city, capturing and sharing the beauty of the birds, animals, and lush Florida landscapes he has studied for decades.



Sandy Proctor with Bubo, a Great Horned Owl, and one of his bronze sculptures at McCord Park, "My Sweet Prince." Photo by Sandy Beck



Avis Berry, Tallahassee's favorite songbird, and her band — Mason Margut on piano, Amina Scott on bass, and Ronan Cowan on drums — transported us to our happy place and rocked the Goodwood Carriage House!

<p>40th Anniversary Celebration Committee Sandy Beck, Pat Simmons Barbara Barnett, Kelly Craft, Katharine Gossman, Elenita Gomez, Ian Waldick, Donna Hansell</p> <p>Silent Auction Kelly Craft</p> <p>Music Avis Berry, vocals Mason Margut, piano Amina Scott, bass Ronan Cowan, drums</p> <p>Big Bend Woodwind Quintet</p> <p>Program Booklet Pam Anderson, Sandy Beck</p>	<p>Ticket Sales Sandy Beck, Native Nurseries Wild Birds Unlimited</p> <p>Dinner Real Paella</p> <p>Desserts Capital City Women's Club</p> <p>Craft Beer Grasslands Brewery</p> <p>Wine Elenita Gomez & Jack Brennan</p> <p>Movies Tara Tanaka, Sandy Beck Teresa Stevenson, Ian Edward Weir</p>	<p>Photographers Kris Peterson, The Pod Heather Crutchfield</p> <p>Sponsor & Patron Bags Deborah & Karl Hook, Kathy Hubbard</p> <p>40th Anniv. Logo & T-shirt Artwork Kristen Summers, Bourbon & Birdies</p> <p>T-shirts RAGZ T-Shirts Mainframe T-Shirts</p> <p>Printing DQP Print & Copy</p> <p>Bartenders Ajay & Don Ramsey Fred Gasket, Adriana Licata</p>
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St. Francis Wildlife's 40th Anniv. T-shirts
with paintings of Rudy, our Red-shouldered Hawk and Otus, our Screech Owl by local artist Kristin Summers — are for sale at St. Francis Wildlife, \$20. Just a few left, mostly size L. 100% soft, ring-spun cotton. (pictured on top left corner on this page).

<p>Patrons Dr. Robert & Lorelei Ennis Michael Sheridan & Judy Wilson Chris & Kathy Lacher Chuck & Carrie Hess Michael P. Grantham Phil & Sue Williams Joshua & Viv Gotkin Kent Putnam Rhonda Work Larry Overton Jason Overton Real Paella</p>	<p>Barn Owl Sponsors Kool Beanz Café Westwood Animal Hospital Lynne Liska/Keller Williams Steve & Jo Ostrov The Fonville Foundation, Inc. Barbara Barnett, in memory of Bill & Peggy Barnett Charles & Susan Stratton Joe & Cheryl Poole Community Thrift Market Craig Shaw & Lynn Griffin Woody & Sally Search Walter & Patty Thomas</p>
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A WILDLY successful night! Delicious paella and desserts, hot jazz, tasty craft beer and wine, stunning wildlife films, elegant raptors, amazing speakers, happy guests . . . and you raised more than \$25K for local wildlife!



Animals have a way of touching our souls, inspiring us, and bringing us together. St. Francis Wildlife reached this 40-year milestone because of the many individuals and businesses in this community who treasure wildlife and believe in the importance of our mission. It was heartwarming to share this moment with almost 300 of our friends. Thank you!



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Orphaned bobcat gets second chance to live wild and free

. By Sandy Beck



When Leon County Sheriff Deputy Randall Pacchioli drove into the parking lot of the Woodrun Baptist Church on Apalachee Parkway he noticed a group of children crowded around a parked truck.

“The kids were all fascinated by something under the truck,” said Deputy Pacchioli. “So I walked over and crouched down beside them. Right next to the front tire was a tiny kitten; it looked to be about two months old, and it was scared to death.”

Without hesitation, the animal lover scooped up the kitten.

“It didn’t scratch or bite; it just snuggled into my arm,” he said.

But on closer inspection, the Chaires Elementary School resource officer suspected that something was different about this kitty. For starters, her tail was short and stumpy.

So he asked his wife Kelly to come take a picture and send it to their friend, Leon County Detective Emily Shaw, who volunteers with St. Francis Wildlife.

Detective Shaw called him immediately. “Don’t let anyone touch it. That’s a bobcat!”

It was an easy mistake. Bobcats, as kittens anyway, are frequently confused with housecats.

St. Francis Wildlife advises people not to handle wild mammals, even babies. If one nips or

scratches someone it will need to be euthanized and tested for rabies, or the person can receive an anti-rabies vaccination. Florida’s squirrels, opossums and rabbits are extremely uncommon rabies vectors.

When Shaw arrived, she followed St. Francis Wildlife protocol: Always try to reunite a healthy baby mammal or bird with its mother.

She placed the baby in a container at the edge of nearby woods and played baby bobcat calls over her car’s loudspeaker for more than an hour. Such efforts are often successful, but this time mama did not show up.

Detective Shaw took the orphaned bobcat to St. Francis Wildlife where, after a thorough examination and a clean bill of health, the six-week-old kitten eagerly lapped up a bowl of formula.

For the next three months, in order to keep her wild, wildlife rehabilitator Teresa Stevenson handled the bobcat only when absolutely necessary. Stevenson and her staff were careful not to speak to her or cuddle her. So she wouldn’t feel ‘abandoned,’ she snuggled in a donated fur coat and interacted with stuffed animals and her ‘friend’ in a mirror. Then she was transferred to a wild halfway house — a large outdoor enclosure in a wooded area at our wildlife sanctuary.

My husband Bob and I had the honor of releasing the grown bobcat beside a large tract of secluded, private forest east of Tallahassee.

As we watched her tear out of the transport kennel and bolt for the woods, it was clear that Sheriff Deputy Pacchioli’s calm, ‘snuggly’ kitten had morphed into a proper snarly, ferocious wildcat who would have an excellent chance of holding her own in her wild world.



Left: Leon County Sheriff Deputy Randall Pacchioli holds a baby bobcat that he just rescued in a parking lot on Apalachee Parkway. Photo by Kelly Pacchioli.

Above: St. Francis Wildlife volunteer Bob Beck releases the grown bobcat. Photos by Sandy Beck.



Most common wild cat in North America

Bobcats are the most common wild cats in North America. About twice the size of a domestic cat, they weigh 15 to 30 pounds (males are larger) and can measure up to three feet in length, including the tail.

These solitary, territorial animals prefer to live deep in forests and swamps where they stalk mainly rabbits and rodents by sight, usually at night.

Catching even a fleeting glimpse of this mysterious and beautiful wild cat is an unforgettable experience.

Take wildlife under your wing

Wildlife can't buy health insurance, but with a little planning you can help us make sure they have it.

By Pat Simmons

Forty years ago, St. Francis Wildlife was a backyard operation with a handful of volunteers. Our town's population has exploded and in response, so has the infrastructure. More roads and buildings, more habitat gone or fragmented, and more wildlife that need us. Consequently, St. Francis Wildlife's annual budget has grown too.

Our \$220K budget is 45% supported by a contract with Leon County and a donation from the City of Tallahassee. The remaining 55% comes from small grants and you. Thank goodness, reoccurring donors have stayed with us; every donation from \$5 to \$5K is greatly appreciated.

Considering how to help SFW remain viable for years to come? Glad you asked.

1. Sustained Giving — Setting up an automatic monthly donation will help us budget month to month.
2. Legacy Giving — Add SFW to your will. Estate planning is an important step to ensure what you leave behind goes where you want it to go. This includes setting up an estate plan using estate tax reduction devices via charita-

ble giving through a will or trust. Your actions now will have a huge impact on your satisfaction and on our future.

3. Beneficiary Designations — Adding SFW as a percentage beneficiary on your IRA, 401(k), and other financial investment instruments would be a huge boost to our ability to live on.
4. Life Income Gifts — The use of charitable gift annuities and stock sales allows you to give SFW assets that we reinvest. Both you and SFW will gain income. This type of donation is complex and involves a "buffer" of at least \$10K in SFW savings. Our board has set a goal to initiate this type of donation/investment managed by the Community Foundation by the end of 2019.

Donors may be suspicious about how donations are spent. Recent mishandling of the Florida State Employees Charitable Campaign is a clear example of gracious giving gone terribly wrong. To avoid any doubt you may have about SFW, a breakdown of how we spend your money can be made available on request.



Migratory duck flies into trouble

This Bufflehead was hit by a car. When he recovered, we released him near a flock of Buffleheads at St. Marks.
Photo/Teresa Stevenson



Bon voyage!

Orphaned Juvenile Mississippi Kite joined a flock of thousands about to begin their first annual migration to South America.
Photo/Shelby Boykin



Brotherly 'love'

These two orphaned opossums were always hugging. We released them together. Photo by Teresa Stevenson



Wildlife Ambassador

This juvenile Red-shouldered Hawk fell from its nest and suffered a permanent wing injury. He now lives at nature center in South Florida.
Photo/Teresa Stevenson

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 _____

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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" outreach wildlife education programs.



Wildlife Wish List

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

Gift Certificates

- Stone's, Home Depot, Walmart
- Native Nurseries
- Wild Birds Unlimited
- Panhandle Pet Supply
- COSTCO
- Squirrelsandmore.com
- Foxvalleynutrition.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: only fruit, vegetables, and chicken (no noodles, beef, gravy, etc)
- Eggs
- EXACT powder (baby bird formula)
- Plain and fruit yogurt
- Live or dried worms and crickets
- Waterfowl maintenance pellets
- Waterfowl starter mash
- Jar lids, plastic
- Plant pot saucers, plastic
- Heavy stoneware food bowls

Cleaning Supplies

- Laundry detergent — high efficiency, unscented
- Bleach, unscented
- Heavy-duty 39 & 55 gallon trash bags
- Paper towels
- Dawn dish soap
- Odoban
- Scotch-brite heavy duty scrub sponges
- Hand sanitizer
- Rakes
- Heavy duty hoses

Animal Housing

- Heating pads, not auto shut-off
- Baby blankets
- T-shirts, sweatshirts, pillow cases, top sheets, towels, baby blankets.
- Soft toilet paper or soft tissue paper

Office

- Sticky notes
- Clip boards
- White, letter-size printer paper

Big Wishes

- Senco 1 Gal. 1/2HP Portable Electric Air Compressor (\$120 at Home Depot)
- Roofer to repair our hospital roof, damaged by the hurricane.

Today, more than ever before, life must be characterized by a sense of universal responsibility, not only nation to nation and human to human, but also human to other forms of life. Dalai Lama

Wildlife Matters

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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 plastic 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, but 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.

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Above: Dr. Steve Stevenson, Bradfordville AH with a Mississippi Kite. Right: Dr. Kathleen Cavell at Northwood AH with a grey rat snake. Below: Dr. Cindy West, at Alternative Vet. Medicine with a Red-shouldered Hawk.



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