

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.

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Fall 2019

How to help your wild neighbors

Wild animals can avoid some of the most common crises that result in their admission to our wildlife hospital if we take these simple actions.

By Sandy Beck



This Bald Eagle, found on Thomasville Road, was hit by a car after swooping down to capture a dead raccoon.

Keep a trash bag in your car.

Throwing food or food wrappers out a car window can have a deadly domino effect. Rodents are attracted to this garbage. They in turn attract predators and scavengers, like opossums, vultures, owls, hawks, and even eagles.

Move any dead animals way off the road.

Do not feed bread or crackers to quackers.

A high-carb diet lacks nutrients ducks and geese need and makes their feathers grow too fast. Their bones, which can't support the extra weight, pull their wings out of alignment and cause flight feathers to stick out. This "angel wing," (photo below) can leave a bird flightless.



Be a responsible pet owner.

Keep cats inside and dogs close by. Every year we receive hundreds of animals that were caught by cats and dogs (photo on right).

Wild predators, such as Great Horned Owls, Red-tailed Hawks and coyotes, also kill large numbers of outdoor cats and small dogs.



This Red-shouldered Hawk was grounded when it became stuck to a glue board probably intended for rodents. After multiple baths, we were able to clean its feathers and release it.

Choose alternatives to chemical insecticides, rodenticides, and glue boards.

Any food chain has insects on it. By poisoning insects, you also affect songbirds, lizards, and frogs as well as beneficial pollinators. Use plant-based insecticides, and encourage insects that eat pest species, such as ladybugs and spiders.

Raptors and other rodent predators die from secondary rodent poisoning. Encourage natural predators with owl nest boxes. A Barn Owl pair will kill thousands of rodents every year to feed their hungry brood. Close entryways to your home with steel mesh hardware cloth. Feed pets inside.

Glue boards are one of the most cruel wildlife control products on the market (photo above).



This gopher tortoise's legs and shell were injured by a dog who mistook it for a chew toy. After months of rehabilitation and healing at St. Francis Wildlife it will be released.

Help turtles and tortoises cross the road.

Safely carry it across in the same direction it was going, or it will turn around and cross again. You can slide your car mat beneath a snapping turtle and push it to the side of the road.

Resist the urge to move it more than one-quarter mile away to what you think is better habitat; turtles have a powerful homing instinct and will just try to find their way back.

Properly dispose of fishing line.

Every year St. Francis Wildlife rescues dozens of birds and turtles that are entangled in discarded fishing line or swallow hooks, like the Anhinga in this photo on the right.

Cut and properly dispose of line that snags on vegetation or rocks. And please collect any that you see while boating.





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We truly appreciate these very thoughtful donations.

In Memory of

Lassie Williams

From
Judy and Sam Lamb

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From
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Delilah, a great cat

From
Eric Myers

Ann Grosmaire

From
from Andy and Kate Grosmaire

Carolyn Franke

From
Gwen Henkel

Ronald Quadagno,

who died a year ago August
From
David Quadagno

Wildlife killed by domestic and feral cats

From
Herb Marshall

In Honor of

Kathy Belovary

for being a wonderful pet sitter who would not accept payment for her service

From
Dianne Jacobs

Kayla Gainer Edwards and all the staff at St. Francis Wildlife

For rehabilitating a red-shouldered hawk last Spring

From
Robin Fennema

Sandy Beck

From
Linda and Richard Hyson
through The Mildred Block Levin Family Philanthropic fund

Gina Cochran

for her birthday
From
herself

Baby Opossum

From
Keith and Becky McNeill



It's always in our power to be kind.

Thank you, **Springwood Elementary** kindergarten team for inviting us to teach your children about owls for the last two decades!

And a special thank you to kindergarten teacher **Ms. Crowley and her students** for collecting pounds of acorns for our orphaned baby squirrels.

Sincere thanks to our community for caring about wildlife

- **Pat Simmons** for donating her Honda Element!
- **Max and Annika Kolar** for donating their proceeds at their lemonade stand.
- **Jeff and Linda Dodson** for T-shirts for animal bedding.
- **Gordon Magill** for his donation and lovely poems about wildlife.
- **Alice Honea** for her generous support of St. Francis' staff and volunteers.
- **Akerman, LLP staff** for their office collection of donations for St. Francis Wildlife.
- **Anne Rapposelli and Faye Davis** for sewing hammocks and blankets for our babies.
- **COSTCO** for donating produce for our animals every week!
- **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 the **IMARCSGROUP.COM (IMG)** for hosting our web site.
- **Target Print & Mail** for donating their mailing services.
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- **Donna Antolchick, Diane Sorensen and many, many others.** who donated heating pads and boxes of latex surgical gloves.
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- **Mosely Pump Services** for donating their well service.
- **Key Heating & Cooling** for maintaining our HVAC.
- **Melanie Strubble** for donating a mini refrigerator.
- A generous grant from the **Suzanne Bachman Giving Fund.**
- **Miss Judy's Pre-K** for their donation for a Hooded Warbler.
- **Barbara Barnett** for her continued support.
- **Kool Beanz Café** for their donation.
- **Accent Nursery** for their support.
- **Oscar's** restaurant in Havana for hosting a Share Event and **Janine Cyngier**, a server, who donated her tips.
- **Grub Burger Bar** for hosting Share Event.

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

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



Staff, left to right: Kayla Gainer-Edwards, Teresa Stevenson and Nicole Rivera.

What you leave behind is not what is engraved on stone monuments, but what is woven into the hearts of others.

Pericles

It's easy to fall in love at St. Francis Wildlife. These are just a few of the many beautiful wild animals we have been caring for this fall.



Orphaned fawn. Photo by Shelby Boykin



Ruby-throated Hummingbird, flew into a window.
Photo by Sandy Beck



White-eyed Vireo, flew into a window.
Photo by Sandy Beck



Yellow-billed Cuckoo. Photo by Sandy Beck



Orphaned gray squirrel. Photo by Sandy Beck



Orphaned flying squirrel. Photo by Sandy Beck



Canada Goose, victim of a hit and run on North Monroe Street by Lake Ella, Tallahassee. Rescued by concerned witness. If you see intentional animal cruelty, take a photo or note the license plate number and call police.
Photo by Sandy Beck

Love letter to our director and chief wildlife angel, Teresa Stevenson



Above, Teresa Stevenson with an orphaned baby river otter. Photo by Kris Bass-Peterson.

Below, she holds an orphaned baby beaver, about to introduce it to an outside pool for the first time. Photo by Sandy Beck.

By Sandy Beck

Some people leave an impression on you. Some people change lives. It's not their intention.

When Teresa Stevenson enters a room, there is a noticeable shift. Colors change. Smiles appear, on both human and non-human faces.

A kinder heart never existed.

She dispenses hugs and kindnesses to staff and volunteers as often as medications and bandages for sick or hurt animals.

Teresa loves life. All lives. In a dark or even seemingly hopeless situation, she will find the single ray of sunshine. And because of her, we've all learned to be more optimistic and hopeful.

Teresa has two speeds, overdrive and sleep. In constant motion — cleaning cages, feeding babies, organizing, photographing, climbing a tree to rescue an owl, driving deep into the forest to find the safest release spot for baby raccoons, paddling out to reach and rescue an injured gull, gently wrapping fractured wings and patching broken shells, and tenderly healing thousands of creatures, great and small. All without ever thinking that what she was doing was unusual or remarkable.

"It's a privilege to hold a wild animal in your hands," she says.

Staff and volunteers, inspired by her example, look forward to walking into our wildlife hospital. She teaches by example, and generously shares her vast knowledge of wildlife rehabilitation and experience. The only things she will not allow are negativity, untruthfulness and chaos. Better replace every pair of scissors and broom where you

found it or beware the Mexican curse!

She also dislikes being in the limelight. That's why you have not seen much of her. But make no mistake, Teresa has been the beating heart of St. Francis Wildlife.

Caring for others is like breathing for Teresa. That's why when Teresa's mother had a stroke several weeks ago, she did not think twice about leaving the country home she loves where frog and owl song lull her to sleep — at 5 a.m., after feeding orphaned nocturnal babies and caring for critical patients in the ICU all night and morning.

Yes, Teresa is leaving the dream job she has enjoyed as St. Francis Wildlife's director and wildlife rehabilitator for the last 11 years to live with her beloved mom in Vera Cruz, Mexico.

Luckily, she is also a genius at finding and hiring the best staff members. Kayla Gainer-Edwards, who moved here from her position as wildlife rehabilitation manager at the Florida Keys Wild Bird Center in Tavernier and has been Teresa's able right hand for the last two years, will step into her position in December.

We will all miss you, Teresa, but you have left an indelible mark and legacy in your wake, a legacy of loving and caring for our wild neighbors and each other. And we thank you for that, friend, and wish you and your mom well.

Despedida, chica bonita!



Imprinted Red-shouldered Hawk

Story and photo by Sandy Beck

Found in a backyard this spring after it fell from its nest as a baby, the hawk was cared for by a wildlife lover who was not aware that it is illegal to possess a wild bird. Even though the bird was eventually brought to us and is physically healthy, because it imprinted on its human caretaker it is not releasable.

What is "imprinting"? When any baby bird's eyes begin to focus, it believes that the first living creature it sees is its parent, and that image "prints" on the young bird's brain.

The bird will no longer associate with or recognize its own species. Consequently, it will never be able to mate or reproduce in the wild and may even seek out human companions.

St. Francis Wildlife avoids imprinting by raising a baby bird with others of its own species and wearing a camouflage hood in its presence.

Fortunately, we were able to place this beautiful, imprinted juvenile hawk with a nature center in New York State where it will be trained to "free fly" in education programs, so, at least, this beautiful wild bird will not spend its life in a cage.

Cypress, the Barred Owl

The amazing story of a wild Barred Owl who was captivated by fine art.

By Sandy Beck

Barred Owls are gorgeous, endearing birds with big, soulful, brown eyes and homebody ways. These large, round-headed owls, who mate for life, never roam far from the nest site where they raise their babies every spring.

They are also the most common owl species in North Florida. Last year St. Francis Wildlife rescued 71 owls: six Eastern Screech Owls, one Barn Owl, 14 Great Horned Owls, and 50 Barred Owls.

Last November, Jonathan Auclair discovered a Barred Owl that had been hit by a car in front of his home. The owl jumped up onto his mailbox, but it could not fly. He was able to rescue the owl and take it to St. Francis Wildlife.

Sadly, this large, female owl (female raptors are about one-third larger than males) suffered a fractured shoulder. This type of injury rarely heals well enough for the bird to return to the wild.

Several weeks later, when her bandages were removed and she was placed in an outdoor enclosure, Teresa Stevenson asked if I would evaluate her for our Wild Classroom education program.

I walked into her enclosure wearing my thick leather gloves. Slowly, I approached her. I expected the owl to jump away, but she sat very still, her eyes locked onto the picture on the front of my t-shirt.

That summer, while vacationing in Maine, I had purchased this t-shirt with the most beautiful



Cypress, the Barred Owl.

Photo by Bob Beck.

artwork of a Barred Owl I had every seen.

Step by step, I moved closer to the, still very wild, Barred Owl. Then, while she continued to stare at the picture on my shirt, I gently touched the back of her legs with my glove.

Most raptors have a natural reflex to step

back when they feel something on the back of their legs.

She stepped up onto my glove and sat like that, eyes locked onto the picture, for at least 20 minutes. My heart pounded, and I smiled from ear to ear.

Three years ago, we lost Cedar, the disabled Barred Owl who had visited classrooms for 27 years as part of our Wild Classroom program. Cedar was at least 33 years old, possibly the oldest living Barred Owl in this country.

When Teresa came to check on us, she quietly said, "It looks like The Wild Classroom has a new Barred Owl." I named her Cypress.

I wrote to Michael Boardman, the artist who painted this beautiful owl, and related our amazing story. He loved it.

Michael, who owns **Coyote Graphics**, offered to print a limited number of the same gorgeous Barred Owl shirt that captivated Cypress, with our St. Francis Wildlife logo on the back, as a holiday fundraiser for St. Francis Wildlife! Five dollars from each shirt purchased will be donated to St. Francis Wildlife.

So, please check out the information below and place your orders very soon. **Online orders will be accepted between November 22nd and December 13th only** for this fundraiser. All purchased shirts will be mailed in time for the holidays.

Cypress and her friends at St. Francis Wildlife will thank you from the bottom of their wild hearts!



Barred Owl Shirts

with the St. Francis Wildlife logo on the back!

Place your order Nov. 22nd to Dec. 13th only online at **Coyote Graphics: www.coyotees.com**. Shirts will ship after Dec 13th.

This is a special, limited-time fundraiser for St. Francis Wildlife.

Adult short sleeve, light green, S - XXL — \$23
 Adult long sleeve, spruce green, S - XXL — \$31
 Ladies short sleeve, seafoam, S - XXL — \$23
 Youth short sleeve, seafoam, S - L — \$20

Gorgeous, full-color Barred Owl artwork on beautiful, green, high-quality, very soft, 100% ringspun cotton "Comfort Colors" brand shirts.

© Coyote Graphics 19

♥ We love our volunteers! ♥

Volunteers are the lifeblood of St. Francis Wildlife. What inspires people to give selflessly of their most precious possession — time? Jessica Lauria and Clyde Benedix were happy to answer this question.

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



Jessica Lauria feeds an orphaned baby Red-bellied Woodpecker.

Photo by Sandy Beck

Jessica Lauria

I never knew the true power of volunteering until I began working with animals.

When I learned about St. Francis Wildlife, I thought here was a chance to not only give back, but also to learn.

I've spent almost every Saturday morning since May 2018 preparing meals, cleaning cages, doing laundry, and feeding.

The more I learn, the more I want to learn, and I'm guaranteed a new experience every week. I've even gained newfound appreciation for opossums. But my absolute favorite thing to do is to bottle feed the fawns.

This isn't just our planet; we share it with animals. St. Francis Wildlife helps heal the sick and injured, protect the orphaned, and nurture them all.

Being even the tiniest part of this fills my heart with joy. Every cleaned cage and every fresh meal contributes to the well being of the patients, and brings them one step closer to returning home.

I've discovered that volunteering has made my life more meaningful and opened my mind to the wonders of wildlife.

If you volunteer at St. Francis Wildlife, you'll come face to face with all kinds of creatures, and in addition to helping the helpless, you'll find that you're actually helping yourself too.



Clyde Benedix delivers a box with an injured opossum to our wildlife hospital, one of many animals he picks up at veterinary hospitals each week and delivers to St. Francis Wildlife.

Photo by Nicole Rivera.

Clyde Benedix

I have had the pleasure of volunteering at St. Francis Wildlife for over five years. One of my favorite responsibilities is picking up injured or orphaned animals at three veterinary clinics in Tallahassee.

Seeing the compassion of so many citizens in the Big Bend area who rescue and take all these animals to the clinics is heartwarming, as is the care provided by the clinic staff.

Doing these pickups gives St. Francis staff more time to

care for animals at the wildlife hospital.

I also make weekly runs to Costco to pick up the boxes of produce that Costco donates. And I prepare food bowls for various animals, clean cages, and, yes, even occasionally do laundry.

What endeared me to volunteering at St. Francis early on was witnessing the compassion of director, Teresa Stevenson when she had to euthanize a severely injured opossum.

She held the animal and quietly thanked it for having lived and for being a part of our lives. I later learned that Teresa, all the staff, and volunteers show this same compassion for every animal every single day.



Amy Wetherby and Dean Gioia in their home studio and art gallery. Check out Dean's remarkable work at deangioia.com.

Photo by Sandy Beck

Dean Gioia Art Benefit

Inspired by St. Francis Wildlife's work in our community and their love of animals, artist Dean Gioia and his wife Amy Wetherby hosted an art benefit for St. Francis Wildlife at their lovely home studio and art gallery on November 17th.

Dean wrote, "The owls and the hawk [from St. Francis Wildlife] added an authentic immediacy to the day.

"It felt really great to see my work benefit an organization with such a long-term dedication to the welfare of injured wildlife. I plan to make this an annual event! I can think of no better use of my art.

"We raised a good amount for St. Francis, and I'm so thankful to be able to contribute in this way. But more so, I'm thankful to everyone who participated, virtually or in person, and shared the event with their friends. You are the ones who made this a great success for wildlife rescue."

Thank you, Dean and Amy, for opening your home and hearts to St. Francis Wildlife.

New roofs on our raptor cages, thanks to volunteer power and generous donations

Sweltering days in August and September were just too much for our disabled owls and hawks, members of our Wild Classroom outreach education program.

So volunteer **Bob Beck** spent several 100-degree days on a ladder installing new roofs and a canopy of reflective shade cloth above the raptors' enclosures.

Thanks to **Capital City Lumber**, who donated lumber and hardware; **Stones Home Center** in Havana, who donated the roof panels; and **Frank Giglia** at **Signature Supply**, Lakeland, Florida, who donated the reflective shade cloth.

As you can see, Twigg the Barn Owl likes his remodeled digs and is sleeping comfortably now.



Wild Events Calendar

Saturday, Dec. 7, 9 a.m. - 4 p.m. and Sunday, Dec. 8, 1 p.m. - 4 p.m.

Annual Alternative Christmas Market, John Wesley Church, 1689 Old St Augustine Rd, Tallahassee. St. Francis Wildlife is honored to participate again with over 30 other non-profits in an event that celebrates the true meaning of this season.

Tuesday, January 7, 7:30 p.m.

Owls of North Florida. Waterworks, 1133 Thomasville Rd. All four species that live in North Florida will help education director Sandy Beck explain the unique adaptations that make owls spectacular nocturnal hunters as

well as specific actions we can take to help protect them.

Saturday, January 18, 2 - 4 p.m. Wildlife Encounter

Native Nurseries. 1661 Centerville Rd. Tallahassee. Bring the children for this annual close-up encounter with hawks, owls, snakes and other wildlife from St. Francis Wildlife and the Tallahassee Museum. Birdseed sale. Hot cider will be served.

Saturday, February 8, 7 a.m. - 3 p.m., Uptown Café, 1325 Miccosukee Rd. Join us for a delicious breakfast or lunch! A portion of every check, will be donated to St. Francis Wildlife. Thank you, Tedio family!



When birds collide with windows

By Sandy Beck

Windows confuse birds. They see the reflection of clouds and trees and don't realize that they are flying into a solid, albeit transparent, wall. Depending on how fast it is flying, a bird can be temporarily stunned or suffer a concussion or worse.

Window strikes increase during spring and fall when warblers and other migrants that are unfamiliar with our terrain pass through.

We all love our glass. It brings the outside inside. It connects us with nature. But what can we do?

Falcon silhouette decals were once considered a solution. Now we know they don't deter birds unless they are placed four inches apart and cover most of the window. But there goes the view.

There are a few promising new products on the market. WindowAlert makes a transparent window decal that reflects ultraviolet sunlight, which is invisible to humans but glows like a stoplight for birds.

CollideEscape is a company that worked with the

American Bird Conservancy to create clear and tinted adhesive window films and tapes.

Try placing bird feeders closer to the windows. If birds fly into them, they may not have enough momentum to injure themselves. Shade trees planted outside the window cut down on some of the reflection that confuses birds.

If a bird is repeatedly flying into or pecking at its "competition" in the mirrors on your parked car, cover the mirrors with bags.

What should you do if you hear that dreaded thud? Quickly find the bird before a predator does. Place it on paper towels or an old t-shirt in a small box with air holes punched in the lid. Cover the box, wrap a rubber band around it, and place it in a quiet, warm, dark room.

In about 30 minutes, or when you hear it stirring, take the box outdoors, point it away from you and open the lid. It should bolt for the nearest tree.

If the collision happens at sunset, keep the bird overnight, but do not give it food or water.

If it does not recover within an hour or is bleeding or otherwise visibly hurt, take it to St. Francis Wildlife.

Primary cavity nesters, like this Pileated Woodpecker, excavate holes in dead trees (snags). Woodpecker homes are later used by secondary cavity nesters, like bluebirds, owls, and flying squirrels.

Photo of a female Pileated Woodpecker feeding her young, by Tara Tanaka.

Welcome wildlife by creating a backyard refuge with the food, water and shelter they need.

- **Trim trees now**, between November and March, when most birds and animals are not nesting and raising young. It is illegal to disturb an active bird's nest.
- **Leave dead trees standing** or top off if they pose a danger to your home. These snags provide homes and food for many creatures.
- **Plant native plants** that provide the food native wildlife needs, and **remove invasive exotics** that smother the natives and are of no use to wildlife.
- **Provide fresh water** all year long.
- Pick up a copy of **"Planting a Refuge for Wildlife"** at Native Nurseries, 1661 Centerville Rd, Tallahassee or from FWC at <https://myfwc.com/viewing/habitat/refuge>.

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

- Double-door commercial refrigerator
- Large capacity refrigerator/freezer
- 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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Begin your shopping at our **Amazon Smile** page, smile.amazon.com/ch/59-1888022

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



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



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



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



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