

Leaps and Bounds

Just In Time

In late June I received a call from Stephanie who regularly saw a fawn near her home which now had a plastic ring caught on his lower leg. I knew the ring must be removed or it would be a death sentence for this fawn. I also knew it would be a major challenge to catch a wild fawn in the open.

The ring was about an inch tall and was lodged under the fetlock and above the hoof. It was cutting off circulation and cutting into the skin. I knew it was just a matter of time before infection set into the wound and would become systemic. This would be deadly.

Stephanie said she was willing to help in any way that she could. Marj and volunteer Brad and I put our heads together to come up with a capture chute scenario that could help us trap the injured fawn. We built a small fence next to Stephanie's house. She put out grain so the deer would be enticed to enter the chute.

Stephanie's courage and willingness to help amazed us. The plan was for Stephanie to keep putting grain in the chute. As the ringed-fawn entered, she would close the gate, grab the fawn and call us immediately.

That next morning the fawn and a yearling wandered into the chute. Stephanie ran to close the gate. Instantly both animals started throwing themselves against the wire fences.

by Carole Balala, W F R Coordinator

The yearling managed to break the tie wires and both of them escaped in seconds.

Stephanie called and reported the devastating news. We all knew we could have lost our only chance. The fawn might now be too spooked to return. But we couldn't give up, so within hours we had reconstructed the fence using sturdy cattle panels for structure and thick wire for fastening.

I was worried about the fawn. I was not the only one who couldn't sleep. The next day Stephanie kept an eye out all day waiting for the fawn to return. She saw his twin and his mother but no sign of him. Had we lost our chance?

Sunday afternoon Stephanie called, breathless and anxious, yelling into three phones at once, "Carole, Brad, Marj I've caught him - come now! You need to get here now!" Once we arrived we tranquilized the patient, to remove the ring, clean the wound and inject the antibiotic. The work was slow, the plastic was thick and we had to be careful with the sharp instruments. Luckily, we got to the fawn just in time.

Just in Time continued on Pg. 4



Just in time!

Photos by Stephanie



Removing the ring

2012 Update by Carole Balala

2012 has been a lively year as always for Wildlife Fawn Rescue. In April we held our Open House at the Druid's Hall in Santa Rosa. We brought all our mounted educational animals, display



boards and informational handouts. Our wonderful volunteers did a great job welcoming visitors and informing them about what our

organization does.

Our 6th St. Playhouse Benefit was a major success! We sold out! Dinner was delicious and the play received rave reviews. Thanks to all of



you who attended to enjoy a lovely evening and support a good cause at the same time. We are so grateful to Dr. Grant Patrick and Binkie and crew for all the effort

they invested in the event. Dr. Patrick is always so generous with his time and expertise with our fawns. He went above and beyond in coordinating this occasion which helped us raise a lot of money.

We continued our search for another satellite pen in which to raise fawns. I am delighted to say that we had great response to our request! It takes a very specific situation to create a suitable environment for fawns. A

caring, dedicated volunteer and a rural, secluded acreage are needed. Thank goodness we found a few that matched what we were looking for. We intend to start construction this fall.

At this point I am sure that all of you are aware of the tragic incident that occurred in Oakmont this summer when a fawn was shot and later died. At the time of this writing we are still hoping for positive results from the District Attorney's office. We received so many calls of outrage and sadness



due to this heartbreaking occurrence. This year we added an exciting specimen to our education program: a badger. This collection of native mounted animals is

part of our Education Outreach. Julie presents them to classrooms and events. Our new badger, who unfortunately was hit by a car in Bodega, will live on in display at our free presentations. Contact us if you would like to schedule a free talk for your child's class.

Check our Facebook page <http://www.facebook.com/FawnRescue>. Please pass on this newsletter to spread the word about our organization. Keep our phone number in your car in case you need it in an emergency. We are available 7:00 am to 7:00 pm daily. (707) 931-4550.



Photos by Kathy Aanestad and Veda Lewis



Since 1989, Wildlife Fawn Rescue is the only licensed facility in Sonoma County to care for ill, injured or orphaned fawns. In 2012, we responded to 103 fawns needing help.

To Benefit A Fawn

by Marjorie Davis



“Marj, I’ve decided to have a Benefit for Fawn Rescue”, Grant Patrick DVM, Montecito Veterinarian Center, announced one early morning.

“A Benefit?” I asked. “How much more benefit can you offer?”

Grant laughed, then explained that he had bought out the entire Santa Rosa 6th Street Playhouse, featuring a great musical comedy. We could sell the seats - all of them. Then he intended to cook up a chicken barbecue, plus trimmings, wine and all the necessities to offer this audience a delicious meal before the show. And we could

sell tickets. Indeed, what a tremendous Benefit for our hungry budget!

Furthermore, he just happened to come up with a fantastic free five-day rental in Lake Tahoe! Yes, we could have a donation-type raffle at the Benefit. Good Grief! “We will make this work”, he determined.

Dr. Grant Patrick has been a living, walking, talking benefit since even before we opened our fawn-care facility over 22 years

ago. With a smile, he has extended to us every possible service his clinic can provide, his skills, his lunch hour, his very being, to do whatever it takes to help us get these delicate wild ones out once more where they belong. Not one cent has he ever accepted for this generosity. Unannounced, we barge into his clinic filled with clients, never without an ill or injured fawn, and we leave with gratitude in our hearts. This is all we can offer our truly exceptional friend. Gratitude. Much, much gratitude.



Photo by Marj Davis



Chief cook



Serving up dinner

Photos by Veda Lewis

Fawn Facts



- **How much money does it cost to raise a fawn?** \$500 a year for 1 fawn. Fawn formula: \$100 per bucket. Other expenses - transportation, Vet care and medical supplies, pen maintenance, office supplies, etc.
- A doe WILL accept her fawn back even though it has been touched by humans.
- Fawns can die if fed cow’s milk, soy milk, baby formula, or feed store formulas.
- Fawns are born with their eyes open and fully furred.

Volunteers Needed

Interested in becoming a volunteer driver with Wildlife Fawn Rescue?
Contact Carole Balala at 931-4550.





Recovering

Just in Time continued from Pg. 1

The wound looked good and so did the circulation to the hoof. The wound was treated, then wrapped to keep it clean.

Carole carried the fawn outside so it could wake up quietly on his own. We were ecstatic and satisfied with the outcome, so relieved this fawn will live a long wild life on four good legs.

Stephanie watched throughout the following day, waiting, but the fawn did not appear. We were worried to hear that he had not returned. Another long day and night passed.

The next morning Stephanie phoned, her voice full of excitement, "The baby is back! The bandage stayed on and he looks great!" I rushed to her house to observe our patient. He walked easily with hardly a limp and even gave a few light-hearted leaps to show he was feeling good. He nuzzled his brother while his mom cleaned him gently. What an amazing reward to witness him in his natural habitat with his family, wild and healthy once again!

This fawn got into this predicament because of human negligence. The plastic ring was a piece of plumbing pipe. Trash around houses and neighborhoods are a hazard to wildlife. Construction sites are especially dangerous. We must all do our part to be aware and respectful of our local environment and neighbors who live here; including our four-legged ones.



Recovered. Home again.



Wildlife Fawn Rescue
P.O. Box 1622
Sonoma, CA 95476



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