



Leaps and Bounds

Newsletter of Wildlife Fawn Rescue

Wildlife Fawn Rescue 2013 FALL Newsletter

PROUDLY CELEBRATING 25 YEARS!!!

On January 10, 1989 Wildlife Fawn Rescue was licensed by
California Department of Fish and Wildlife

We list a few of our outstanding accomplishments achieved through hard work and initiative:

1. Wildlife Fawn Rescue has written and published a fawn-care instruction manual, as a guide, sold worldwide.
2. As a result of our highly concentrated work with a pathologist, an unknown, worldwide Deer Pox Virus was discovered, and Hair-Loss Syndrome was identified in California.
3. Fawns thrive everywhere because Wildlife Fawn Rescue requested the production of a specialized fawn formula to address their rich nutritional needs.
4. Wildlife Fawn Rescue developed the concept of raising fawns in large remote enclosures, protected by solar-powered electric fencing, where they are raised and set free in a wild habitat.
5. Wildlife Fawn Rescue offers a free public education program using only taxidermied native wildlife displays, never live animals.
6. A total of seven awards received from California Legislature, U.S. Congress, State Department of Fish and Wildlife, Wildlife Investigation Lab., American Red Cross, Sonoma Ecology Center, and Earth Elders of Sonoma County, for unparalleled achievements and pioneering techniques which benefit wildlife, the environment, and the public.
7. Our achievements have been published in national magazines, newspapers, network and cable TV, radio, internet, and public service video.

WE HAVE JUST BEGUN !!!



Carole's 2013 Update

2013 has been an extremely busy year for Fawn Rescue. At the time this newsletter went to print we have responded to 100 calls and our season is not over yet. It appears this year may bring the highest number of fawns this organization has ever handled. It is clear that we are meeting a need in this county in which the interface between rural and developed land continues to grow.

I wanted to thank a number of local animal resources that assisted us this year including Sonoma Animal Control, Petaluma Animal Services and Sonoma County Wildlife Rescue. Working together we build a strong unit with the same goal in mind- to do our best for our area's animals.

We held our Open House in a new spot this year in Sebastopol at the Senior Center. We wanted to reach another side of the county where some people are not yet familiar with us. Getting the word out is half the battle so be sure to pass this newsletter along to a friend or neighbor when you are done with it.

As many of you know we have satellite pens throughout the county where fawns are raised until their release at

four months of age. This system works well as it does not allow any one part of the county to become overpopulated. At the same time it allows us to raise fawns in a way that is conducive to limiting their exposure to people only having one caregiver instead of a whole host of volunteers.

Meeting a need in Sonoma County

This year we added a new pen in the beautiful Sonoma Mountain area. It is home to a small resident deer herd which our fawns will eventually join. It is a wonderful addition to our organization and in accordance with our mission – to keep fawns wild.

Our education program continues to thrive.

Julie our Education Coordinator performed 37 talks throughout the school year. She spoke in classrooms, at summer camps and at the Tolay Fall Festival. This year more than ever I have heard callers mention, "Well I didn't even know about you but my son/daughter heard someone from your group speak." Julie is reaching a future generation of decision makers and teaching the importance of wildlife and habitat.

PHOTO CONTEST WINNER

Wildlife Fawn Rescue is proud to announce the winner of our 2013 photo contest. The winner is Harry Butera. Congratulations Harry!

"Photo of a fawn nursing taken in Bear Valley springs in Sept. 2006. Taken with an Olympus c725."

~ Harry Butera



Photo by Harry Butera

Fawns Fenced In and They Can't Get Out! by Carole Balala

The other day I received a phone call from a woman named Jan who was feeling anxious about fawns that had been born in her backyard. The mother doe would jump back and forth over her fence with ease but the babies could not follow her yet.

Jan was in a hurry to move the fawns from her yard. Being a responsible pet owner, Jan had kept her two dogs confined. She felt this situation was unfair to her dogs and unfair to the fawns to be trapped.

That day I was accompanied by one of our wonderful volunteer drivers, Birgitta, on a visit to see what could be done to release the fawns from the yard. We looked everywhere in the large yard for fawns, to no avail. As you may know, fawns can hide very well - it is one of their best defenses!

We discussed a plan of action for the next time Jan saw the camouflaged twins. Jan was not thrilled with the idea of cutting and opening her fence to let the doe lead her babies out at her leisure. The other option we had, since these fawns were just a few days old, was to place them over the fence into the next door field where the mom grazed daily.

The following morning the call came in from an excited Jan. She had seen the babies and would we

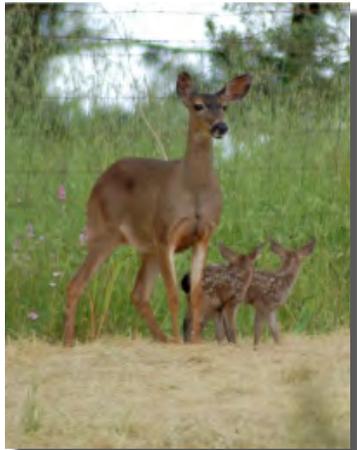
please come quickly! Once we arrived we found that the babies sought out a new place to hide.

We could see the doe grazing in the neighboring field watching us nervously. Finally after the three of us had made many rounds of the whole yard, I detected those spotted fawns! They were in the perfect place no less- veiled by a bush right next to the fence.

I threw a towel over both of them, passed one to Birgitta and we quickly moved to place them over the nearby fence. Hearing her babies' cries, Mama Doe started charging towards us. Seeing this, we gently plopped the fawns down in the soft grass of the field. One fawn ran one way while the other ran with her mother the other way.

This was disconcerting at first until the owner of the neighboring grazing field (who was in cahoots with us) called to say that the doe and both fawns had reunited at the top of her property. Hooray! Success! The doe was able to lead her fawns to a nearby clearing where the local deer herd dines regularly.

This story is just is one example of the brave and loyal mothering behavior of does. They will always take back their babies even if they have been handled by people. Their maternal instincts run deep.



We are grateful to our Donors, Members, Sponsors

Our sincere gratitude comes from our hearts to yours.

Our need is great.

We could not do this specialized work without your help and interest.

Thank you for caring!



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POOLS - A DANGER FOR WILDLIFE

The pool gate stood wide open, tempting any animal searching for water. The thirsty fawn entered, immediately leaned over to drink, lost his balance, and sunk deep into the pool. This young buck struggled to reach the surface, then finding no exit, he fought to keep a float. When Brad and I arrived at the site, Roger, Animal Control Officer, had pulled the fawn to safety and covered his violently shaking body with a towel.

I stepped closed behind him. Brad moved in front to block him, but instantly, the desperate fawn, using his last bit of strength, made a leap around Brad, hit into the wrought-iron fence, then tried to push through the bars. Brad threw himself on the frantic fawn to hold him tightly from further injury. We wrapped him completely in toweling, covered his head, then began to dray and massage his entire body. The exhausted fawn made no attempt to move.

Once dried and warm again, Brad carried him out the gate and into the large open field. The fawn never struggled. But the instant Brad laid him on the ground and uncovered his head he pulled free and made a frantic dash across the field, into the trees and home.

I left a note on the gate thanking the owners for calling Wildlife Fawn Rescue, but reminded them of the strictly enforced law for enclosing pools. I cautioned them to keep the gate closed at all times. Animals **will** come in seeking water.

FREE WILDLIFE OUTREACH EDUCATION PROGRAM

Wildlife Fawn Rescue offers a FREE WILDLIFE OUTREACH EDUCATION PROGRAM to Sonoma County children and public functions. It is against the policy of our facility to permanently confine living wildlife. We believe their use for exhibit or public education conveys the wrong message. Therefore, these talks are centered around a natural, mounted display of over a dozen native Sonoma County wild species. Julie has managed this program for many years and is an incredible teacher of all things wild. Contact Julie at 707-935-6250 to make an appointment for her participation in your agenda.