

AMAZING TRUE STORIES OF WILD FAWN RESCUES

by
Marjorie McKenzie Davis

A GIFT FOR ALL OCCASIONS
A magical journey into the wild world of deer
and of giving these delicate creatures
a second chance at life.
A labor of love for one woman
who dared to dream.

208 pages of stories and photos
\$17.95 per book includes ship/handling.

Mail checks to: Marjorie Davis
P.O. Box 5, Kenwood CA 95452
DO NOT make checks out to
Wildlife Fawn Rescue.
Proceeds of sales are
donated as a fund-raiser
for ill, injured and orphaned fawns.

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Sonoma, CA 95476
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www.fawnrescue.org

LABEL



Fall/Winter 2011

FRIENDS IN NEED

Sonoma County fawns must surely have the best friends of any wild animals anywhere. It's evident that so many of you share our commitment to sustain these lovely, delicate beings as an important part of our natural wild environment.

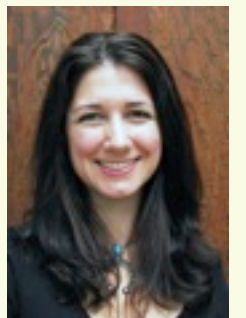
We are so very grateful for your concern and your support. You so willingly stepped in to help us get our headquarters moved to it's new location, and because you cared we have been able to get things back in order and ready for spring babies.

They will have the shelter and ample enclosures they must have in order to be raised wild and far away from human contact. They will have the protection they must have from predators. They will have Carole to oversee their care, whether orphaned, ill or injured. And they will have the rest of us to follow her guidance to prepare them for freedom once again. Thanks to all of you who helped make this possible!

Message from Carole 

Fawn Rescue had an unexpected move in August and September of this year. The facility at the old location including a large pen with multiple sections, various sheds, isolation pen, supplies and much more had to be relocated to a new site.

As of now the new property has the main fawn shed constructed where young and injured fawns are housed. The fencing has been torn down from the old location and is waiting at the new property to be put up, along with the isolation pen. Removing the posts from the old pen has been the major challenge since it is so late in the season, the ground is hard and makes it very difficult to extract them.



All of the files and medical supplies are in the new barn. Yet to be delivered at the new property are many carriers and some posts. Also the storage shed and custom- made, insulated shed have to be disassembled and reassembled in the weeks to come.

Many types of equipment and supplies are needed to care for fawns and keep this organization going. We have lots of files and records from the many years that Fawn Rescue has been operating. These are invaluable resources.

Thanks to all of you who gave an extra donation this year to help with this expensive and labor-intensive task of moving a facility. Thanks also to those who offered their time and energy for this cause. This was a large undertaking and we deeply appreciate your support.
— Carole Balala, Wildlife Fawn Rescue Coordinator

Message from the President



OVERVIEW

There are no words to describe the deep satisfaction derived from this very unusual, specialized work with fawns. Our work is urgent. Our work is vital. What would these defenseless creatures of the wild do without Wildlife Fawn Rescue? Their future depends upon us. Our future depends on getting the job done and getting it right.

This work is never dull, never boring, a constant challenge. But the immense satisfaction in meeting that challenge far exceeds the effort. There is stress but there is fulfillment. There can be deep sadness but there is also great joy.

is our policy all fawns must be returned to the wild. We must understand the species and work according to the laws of nature, not by our preconceived ideas.

We must have the inner-strength to handle every aspect of this work in order to be able to advise, lead and train volunteers, encourage them to learn our successful methods and stay with us long-term. We assign areas of work, to make our job easier. We answer phones and respond to calls, rescue animals, evaluate their condition and if necessary take them to a vet for treatment and instruction for convalescence. We have expert volunteers to take on a big part of this burden.

There is no place to stop. We are never so overloaded that one more fawn cannot be accepted and given

“Our work is always an emergency.”

Our work is always an emergency. It can never be planned. A fawn cannot schedule a time to need our help. Like a fireman, or policeman, when the call comes, we must go. Our image depends on being able to deal with the public calmly and with assurance during emergencies. We must gain their trust and keep it.

Fawns are not Bambis. Raising fawns is not fun, nor entertainment. We deal with wild animals and they must be kept wild. An unusual concept which presents unique situations. A fawn’s hoofs are razor sharp. They kick. A fawn has ticks, fleas, lice, diseases, and heart-breaking injuries. The piercing cry of a fawn sinks deep into the psyche. A sound you will never forget.

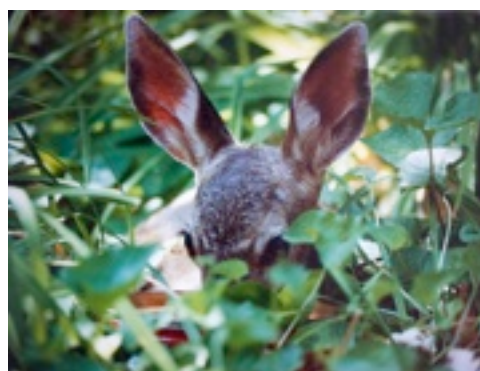
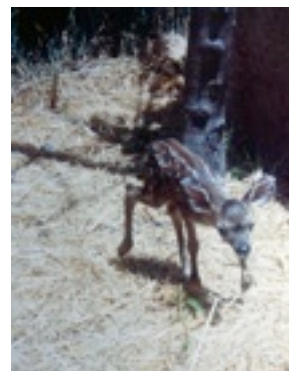
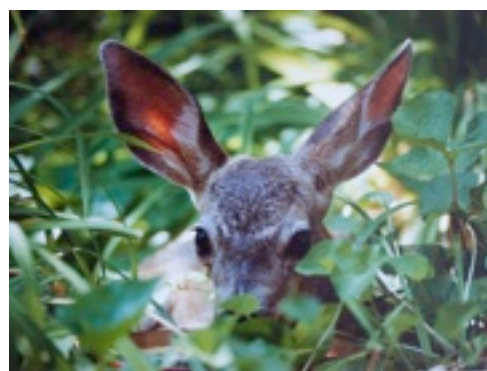
At Wildlife Fawn Rescue the fawn comes first. Always. All decisions are made with the welfare of the fawn in mind. We do not hold captive deer for exhibit. It

proper care. This can mean 100 or more fawns in one season. But if #104 needs our help we are here. Our door is always open. We respond seven days a week, year round.

We run on high-octane adrenalin. But at the end of the day, when exhaustion sets in, we know we have learned, we have reached a goal and left a small light shining. A life has been saved, an emergency has been met.

To watch the growth or slow recovery of a fawn, then witness it bound joyfully across a field, eager to be free, makes this work worthwhile. We have only just begun!

*by Marjorie Davis,
President, Board of Directors*



EDUCATION COORDINATOR’S CORNER

WHAT DOES THE EDUCATION COORDINATOR DO?

by Julie Shoffner-McGee

Each year, WFR’s education program offers free wildlife presentations for school children and similar interested groups. Our talks focus on native wildlife and the steps children can take to help keep these animals wild and safe from human impacts. Enhancing our program is a collection of eleven mounted animal specimens which are native to Sonoma County and which are attractively displayed in cases with natural materials. Children love to get up close and personal with the fawn, coyote, bobcat, hare, skunk, squirrel, brush rabbit, turkey vulture, fox, hornet nest, and raccoon.

The goal of our education program is to inspire as many young people as possible to appreciate the wildlife around them and to be motivated to protect them into the future. Many children have never seen a fawn and they love to hear about WFR’s work rescuing and rehabilitating these fragile creatures. By teaching about the natural behavior of fawns and our other wild animals, children are more likely to respect them and

leave them alone when they experience them firsthand. Most importantly the children want to tell others, so WFR’s message spreads, and hopefully more wildlife will benefit from less human interference.

The rewards of working as Education Coordinator for WFR are many. For instance, our programs are always free of charge because we believe in the importance of our message and would never exploit wildlife for that cause. In a day and age when school budgets are shrinking, the appreciation of teachers for our program is palpable. But most rewarding is the joy of working with the children. We are so often impressed by not only their existing knowledge of wildlife but their keen interest to learn more about their wild neighbors. Their questions range from the simple “Do turkey vultures eat turkeys?” to the more poignant “Why would someone want to hurt a wild animal?” Hmmm, that is a question to which we have yet to find an answer...



**Our
Trash
Hurts
Wildlife**



Fawns Abound This Year

In early May of this year a fawn was dropped off at another wildlife center that did not rehabilitate fawns. This facility called me immediately and told me of this fawn's precarious circumstances.

A seven pound fawn, female, had been found on the West Sierra off-ramp on Highway 101. Under normal conditions this is a very dangerous place for a fawn but during this time there were added dangers because there was construction taking place as well. That was no place for a vulnerable little fawn. I picked her up at once and put her in with the other fawns at our intake pen.

The next day was a busy one. Two fawns came in that morning. Then in the evening as I was just thinking of sitting down a call came from a man in Sonoma. He had picked up a fawn on 101 that afternoon and wanted to pass it to me. I rushed back down to Santa Rosa to meet him.

The man had the small buck in a carrier in the back of his truck. The man relayed to me the story of how he came to find this animal. He had been



The two fawns (in front) are brother and sister.

working on the highway construction on 101 at the same off-ramp! He noticed a dead doe on the shoulder. Later on he saw a fawn jump away from the doe into the nearby grass. He scrambled and managed to catch this wild young creature. He knew just who to call.

I thought this must be the little doe's twin! I was sure there would not be two families of deer living on the same off ramp. I was not sure though how I would be able to verify this theory. Twin fawns often look very different.

It had been a long day so after offering him a bottle, I placed the new buck in with the other six fawns I had

waiting in the rehabilitation pen. I went to bed exhausted and satisfied with a full day's work.

In the morning I eagerly brought down seven bottles for the seven babies. As I rounded the corner I could see five fawns inside the shed huddled down on the blankets. "Five", I thought "where are the other two"? Behind the shed I found the two, the little doe and new buck were tightly curled together taking comfort in one another.

That is confirmation enough for me that these two are twins. I was so relieved that even though they lost their mother they were able to be re-united with each other. They were able to grow up together and were released together along with two other fawns from our Bodega pen earlier this month.

The doe would not have chosen a place she knew to be unsafe to raise her fawns. But with growth and development wildlife has fewer choices in where to live. I am glad that these two fawns, instead of growing up in the vicinity near a freeway off ramp construction zone, were released into a much safer, wilder area of this lovely county we all call home.

— Carole Balala



Twins a few months older (in front)

photos by Bill Fink



Trapping and Relocating Wildlife

from 'Setting the Fawn Free' by Marjorie Davis



All wildlife is protected by the State of California. It's unlawful to trap, relocate or kill any healthy wild creature living in its natural habitat.

Even though traps are set for a particular animal, there's no guarantee as to what domestic pet, or other wild creature may be the victim. The bait used in these traps tempts a variety of animals and puts them all at risk.

Relocating wildlife isn't an ideal solution and it doesn't work. These animals live in that particular location because it provides for their specific needs. If one animal of that species is removed, another will quickly move into the unoccupied spot.

Trapping, relocating or killing won't rid the area of that species of animal. They don't sense the danger the trapper presents to them. Gardens and valuable plants must be protected by fencing. This is our responsibility. There's no other lasting way to prevent an animal from invading that space. Domestic animals can be just as invasive and destructive as wildlife.

Sonoma County is essentially rural. Wildlife performs a valuable service to humans by removing undesirable rodents, bugs and insects from the surrounding area. Abundance of nourishment is what attracts them. A balance of nature. Humans move into their space and provide more attractions. Once our gardens are protected the animals will return to their wild source of food.

Trapping and relocating wildlife is a life-threatening procedure for these animals. They must adapt in an unfamiliar, hostile environment. They must readjust quickly to locate alternate water and food sources. They must compete in a territory already claimed by others of the same species. They aren't accepted by the resident group and are driven from an overpopulated area, or killed.

Young animals haven't learned skills for survival they'll learn by staying with the parent animal as they mature. Quite often, animals removed from their home territory and their families, are forced to cope alone, and die of stress before they die of starvation.

Place long-lasting mothballs, not flakes, under your buildings or any area you wish to keep free of wildlife. The fumes will prevent them from nesting and will force them to move out. If they've already become established, if they have a nest, or bed filled with young ones, the parent will quickly move the babies far from the fumes and will not return. This method has proven to be successful in driving the wild creature out of the space without causing them harm.

Once the animal has left, close up any any holes or other access. Fence in your valuable plantings, and remove all uneaten pet food after each feeding.

Please respect and preserve the lives and habitat of our native wildlife.

SPOT THE FAWN



KEEP THEM WILD

from 'Setting the Fawn Free' by Marjorie Davis

Wild animals do not make good pets.

Those of us who cherish the creatures of the wild must learn that the greatest gift we can give them is to allow them to retain their natural fear of man.

We must deny ourselves the pleasure of hand-feeding wildlife which robs them of their wildness.

We must not permit them to think of us as friends. We are not. Humans are the most deadly of all predators.

Deer and other wild animals can become dangerous, particularly during mating season, and have been known to inflict serious injury to humans who have attempted to approach them too closely.

Sadly, to gain their trust is to deliver them a death sentence.

Respect their wildness.

To read more from 'Setting the Fawn Free' you can order the book. See details on Pg. 8. All proceeds go to Wildlife Fawn Rescue. You can order the book online!



Volunteers Needed

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