

Welcome to

INSTINCTS

July 2011

Vol 1:3

"The newsletter helping you follow your Wild Instincts."

Six Month Progress Update

Wow! It's the six month anniversary of the purchase of the property now housing the growing Wild Instincts.

For those of us trudging along 16 hour days, 7 days a week, sometimes it's hard to remember what we did a couple hours ago. It's good to take a break from time to time to look back and see how far we've come. We thought you may want to, also.

Some Brief Highlights:

We started with a 24x30 un-insulated garage and remodeled it into an operational temporary rehab building. It will eventually become a storage building.

We obtained town and county building/zoning permits and our 501(c)3 non-profit organization status.

We got a 16 X 80 mobile home donated and moved onto site which was cleared by some of the May 1st Work Day volunteers.

We had a 45'x64' Cleary building erected. Electric, sewer and well have been put in. Some of the interior framing, plumbing and duct work are also done.

We built a deer enclosure, bear enclosure, coyote enclosure, song bird enclosure among others.

We've cared for 213 patients from 55 different species so far in 2011 while all this was going on (see complete breakdown on last page).

We are also maintaining a website, blog and Facebook page.

Our membership has grown to over 50 members.

Not too bad for 180 days. Let's keep the momentum going and money coming to keep helping those wild friends!



February 2011



March 2011



April 24, 2011



May 11, 2011

Big Thank You to AV Campground

Arbor Vitae Campground in Arbor Vitae, WI hosted an Ice Cream Social over the July 4th weekend. All proceeds collected were donated directly to Wild Instincts. Over \$300 dollars were raised. That's a lot of ice cream headaches!!

They also have a donation jar in their general store which collects donations throughout the summer.

Thank you! That all helps us help the animals.

In Their Own Words

Heather Berry has donated most of her summer to be our Rehab Assistant. Here is her recount:

"Volunteering as the Rehabilitator's Assistant has not been easy! There have been days I've laughed, days I've cried, patients coming and going, chilly/cool days and miserable hot days, busy days with many new patients and slow days with not a single one, but the experience has been a rewarding one to say the least.

I knew growing up that whatever my occupation would be, I would want to work with animals. I participated in 4H and was an avid fan of Animal Planet in high school. In college I was a leader in our pre-veterinary club and obtained a degree in biology from UW-Platteville.

Then last fall I took an internship with Mark that I couldn't get enough of. I had an insatiable want to know more. What's the difference between a rabbit and a hare? How long before a baby cottontail opens its eyes? What kind of a bird is this and what does it eat? How do you hold a rambunctious baby squirrel to feed it? These are just some of the many questions I have asked.

When I heard Mark and Sharon were committing to starting a new center and needed help I was excited. I have been helping them with daily rehab activities since the beginning of June and I have

never stopped asking questions. Just this year I have gotten to work with black bears, coyotes, fawns, bald eagles, but some of my favorites have been the more common and even more commonly overlooked animals.

One of my favorites has been the thirteen-lined ground squirrels or "gophers". To someone who has not seen many of them, they look exotic with a coat of alternating spotted and striped lines; like someone picked one straight out of Africa and brought it here to Wisconsin. Their large eye to body ratio gives them an inquisitive and benevolent look, making their feisty temperament unexpected.

With each day comes new patients, questions and experiences- none of which would be possible without the help of donors, volunteers and of course, Mark and Sharon.

So I would like to thank everyone who has made this experience both rewarding and possible."



Thirteen-lined ground squirrel taking formula from a dropper.

In Memory Of/In Honor of

Wild Instincts gladly accepts memorial and honorarium donations.

Donations have recently been received:

- ~In Memory of Robert Hoerner
- ~In Memory of Tom Breitbach

A complete list can be found on the Honor/Memory page of our website.

WISH LIST

For a complete wish list, please visit our website: www.wildinstinctsrehab.com

- Chain link fencing
- Fence poles
- Walk-in Freezer
- Whole fish
- Frozen venison (this need is urgent)
- Dry dog food
- Canned dog food
- Unsalted walnuts & unsalted pecans
- Paper towels
- Dish soap
- Hand soap
- Newspapers
- Sheets/blankets/towels
- Good used pick-up truck
- Gas cards
- Cash donations



Baby beaver about to be examined after being hit by a car.

A Few Wildlife Tales

Some updates on our patients:
The bear cub admitted this spring after its mom & sibling were shot illegally is doing very well.



Bear cub is growing and doing well.

On July 6th, several coyote pups were transferred to Wild Instincts from another rehab facility. The cause of admission for a couple of them was because someone decided they wanted a coyote for a pet and raided a den and stole a couple. The people were caught. The pups were recovered young enough and were placed with a couple other more wild coyotes, there should be no problem with habituation and should be released in the fall with no issues.



Coyote pups

Species admitted 1/1-7/18/11

American Crow	4
American Goldfinch	2
American Robin	16
Bald Eagle	8
Barred Owl	2
Beaver	1
Black Bear	4
Black-billed Cuckoo	1
Black-capped Chickadee	1
Broad-winged Hawk	1
Canada Goose	2
Common Grackle	2
Common Loon	1
Common Raven	1
Coyote	4
Deer Mouse	1
Downy Woodpecker	1
Eastern Bluebird	2
Eastern Chipmunk	2
Eastern Cottontail	34
Eastern Gray Squirrel	14
Eastern Phoebe	2
European Starling	4
Flying Squirrel (northern/southern combined)	3
Great Horned Owl	1
Hairy Woodpecker	2
Hermit Thrush	1
Hooded Merganser	5
House Finch	1
Mallard Duck	5
Midland Painted Turtle	1
Mourning Dove	3
Northern Saw-Whet Owl	1
Pine Grosbeak	1
Pine Siskin	1
Porcupine	1
Purple Finch	1
Raccoon	3
Red Fox	3
Red Squirrel	11
Rock Dove	2
Rose-breasted Grosbeak	1
Ruby-throated Hummingbird	2
Snapping Turtle	2
Snowshoe Hare	2
Thirteen-lined Ground Squirrel	9
Tree Swallow	3
Turkey Vulture	1
Virginia Opossum	1

Western Painted Turtle	2
Whippoorwill	1
White-breasted Nuthatch	8
White-tailed Deer	22
Wild Turkey	1
Wood Duck	2

Total 213

Want to Read More?

Would you like to know about the baby loon separated from its family by a storm, later successfully reunited?

Would you like to see more photos?

This is the Lite version of Wild Instincts Newsletter. For a fuller, longer version become a member!

We offer memberships at the following levels:

Wild Neighbor	\$35
Family	\$50
Sustaining	\$100
Silver	\$250
Gold	\$500
Platinum	\$1000

Of course you are always welcome to donate in amounts different from these levels. We are a non-profit organization. Your membership is tax-deductible.

Coming next issue: More volunteer spotlights, the costs of rehab and more patient updates.

Don't forget to check us out and Like Us on Facebook!

Thank you for helping us help the wildlife!