

Welcome to

INSTINCTS

Mar 2014

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"The newsletter helping you follow your Wild Instincts."

BABY SEASON PREPS FOR ALL

It's March. It may not look like spring by looking at the snow bank blocking your mailbox, but if you look closely you may spy a raven flying with nest building materials or catch a glimpse of an eagle territorial flight.

All over the U.S., wildlife rehabilitators are gearing up for "Baby Season", the busiest time of the year. We are making educated guesses about what number of what species of animals may appear at our doors this year. Then we are ordering special formulas to be prepared. We're interviewing and hiring interns. We're taking out a bathtub and putting in a shower in the intern quarters. We're waiting for the weather to allow enclosure construction and facility improvements. We're researching new fluid therapy techniques. We're wondering if there'll be another nationwide mealworm and cricket shortage this year and making plans to deal with the possibility. We're having meetings to train new volunteers and refresh established ones. We're exploring avenues of fundraising. We're catching up on blogs and newsletters and reports and trying to catch up on things at home that get neglected during the rehab season. THIS year, because of the crazy weather and record number of patients being overwintered, we've spent countless, unplanned hours moving animals that should be outside preparing for their release to inside set ups out of the incredibly long stretches of brutal cold. This adds many hours to the day for cleaning and care.

www.wildinstinctsrehab.com

Then there was the snow removal. If it wasn't cold, it was snowing. Or many times it was both! All that extra time took away from? Why the catch up time at home, of course, because the animals come first! But who needs to clean the house when you're so busy you can't be home to see the mess? This is the type of thing rehabbers all over the country are doing.

Now you know some of what rehabbers to do prepare for baby season. What can YOU do to prepare?

Did you know not all wildlife rehabilitation facilities are not created equal?

In Wisconsin, wildlife rehabilitators must be permitted. They must pass a written test (that Mark & Sharon helped write) and then be sponsored under an experienced rehabber for two years. During those two years they are only allowed to care for rodents, rabbits, raccoons and maybe songbirds depending on the mentor they have as a sponsor. After that they may add species, depending on their experience and caging enclosures. There are minimum standards for enclosure design for each species that must be met. Wild Instincts goes beyond minimum standards in our enclosures. Some species require very large enclosures that not all wildlife rehabilitators have the space to provide while other species need special techniques to keep them wild and from getting attached to people. Endangered and Threatened species need another special permit. Wildlife rehabilitation is a complicated profession that's not as easy as just putting a bunny in a box with some carrots. Wild Instincts has

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a success rate well above the national average for very good reasons. Time is of the essence in wildlife rehabilitation. The sooner the animal can get treatment, the better the chance of a positive outcome. The last thing you want to do is hunt around for a wildlife rehab place that is able to treat whatever species is bleeding on your deck while your kids are crying for you to help it.

Wild Instincts is permitted to rehabilitate ALL native Wisconsin wildlife species, including Endangered and Threatened. This is one of the reason we admit patients from such a large geographic area. Not many centers are permitted and have the facilities to do this. In fact, Wild Instincts is the only one in Northern Wisconsin.

While we're busy counting down the days until the first baby arrives, you can prepare for baby season by looking up Wildlife Rehabilitators close to you to prepare, just in case. In Wisconsin the Wildlife

Rehabilitator Directory is on line. It is divided by geographic sections of the state and lists all the licensed rehabilitators, their facility AND the animals they are permitted to treat.

Remember also that there are permitted rehabbers that may take care of animals out of their home. Generally they take care of smaller animals like squirrels, bunnies and maybe opossums. Just because they operate out of their home does not reflect their skill or dedication. Often they specialize in one species and become very skilled at the care of that species.

Check out your area. Bookmark the link. Put the nearest qualified rehabber's number on your fridge and in your phone for when you're in the car on the road and see an eagle get hit by a car. You'll have the correct number at your finger tips and save valuable time-time that will help us help them.

Here's the link to the [Wisconsin Wildlife Rehabilitator Directory](#)

If you're not in Wisconsin, check out your state's Department of Natural Resources or similar agency's website and search for wildlife rehabilitation. There are also helpful links available at [International Wildlife Rehabilitation Council](#) or [National Wildlife Rehabilitator's Association](#)



Western Painted Turtle hanging out and waiting for weather to allow its release.

In Honor of/In Memory of

Donations have been received

~In memory of **Jessie Julian**, an amazing beagle and devoted friend who will be missed by many

~In memory of **Gladys James**

~In memory of **Lois Peterson**

~In memory of **Cletus Gillis**, a wonderful man who will be missed by many

Winter's Unseen Victims

No one in the Northwoods can deny this winter of 2013-14 has been challenging, if not just down right brutal.

Unrelenting Polar Vortex after Polar Vortex has forced us to move patients that should be in outside enclosures to inside set ups. Not only has the weather brought us more patients than normal, but it's added to the work load of routine chores making it take longer than normal to care for said patients. At least we can give our patients a warm place to come. What about all the wild animals out there in this weather?

For the most part animals are adapted quite ingeniously to their environments and have ways of coping with this weather in short bursts. When it drags on for what seems like forever, then problems will develop. Animals will starve and die. It happens. We've seen the reports on TV asking to be on the look out for starving deer. Starving turkeys are being reported.

What about the victims we can't see? Those victims that most people don't even think about.

Recently we admitted a porcupine. Someone had found it in a snow bank, mostly unconscious. She took it in and even knowing she was breaking the law, tried to care for it. After two days, she finally decided to get it help.

When the porcupine arrived, it was unconscious and severely hypothermic. Its temperature didn't even register on the thermometer! It sounds like it had been that way from the beginning. Two days of hypothermia is hard to overcome. In the end, despite our best efforts, the porcupine passed away. Shortly before she passed away she expelled an unborn fetus.

Gestation for porcupines is about 210 days. They breed in Oct-Nov. We generally see young porcupettes in early April. Taking factors into account, it appears her unborn was about 8 weeks away from partuaction, probably about 154 days in its

development, putting it into the third trimester.



Porcupine fetus aborted by dying porcupine.

Presently, not much is known about the various diseases that affect porcupines. Recently, cases of hepatic lipidosis (HL) have been reported in captive North American porcupine in zoos. Whether the HL incidence in captivity is comparable to that in wild porcupine populations is not presently known.

Hepatic lipidosis and pregnancy toxemia have been reported in humans, deer, cows, and ewes. In women, hepatic dysfunction complicates about 3% of pregnancies and tends to occur in the last trimester of gestation. Similarly, sheep on a low-energy diet in late gestation frequently develop pregnancy toxemia and HL. It is quite possible that this porcupine developed complications from her pregnancy in a brutal winter requiring massive energy demands.

In the Northwoods, many species carry their unborn during the winter months so they can be born, grow during a time of more abundant food, and be ready to survive their first winter.

When winters are harsh, unborn may be resorbed to save the life of the mother by decreasing energy demands. It takes a great deal of energy to carry offspring in the womb as well as the immediate demands after birth during nursing.

Following difficult winters, there may be a decrease in young born for this reason. They are the unseen victims of the winter until spring when the forest has less little ones running around and their absence is noticed.

Deer may abort and resorb some of their offspring, resulting in one fawn instead of two or three.

In porcupine cases, they are only in estrus for 8-12 hours once per year resulting in only one young per year.

Had this porcupine died quietly in the woods, one would probably have thought only of this one victim of winter and not even been aware of its unseen victim.

Bobcat Update

Last issue we told you of the Dane County Humane Society's Four Lakes Wildlife Center bobcat that we provided some aftercare. She was transferred back to [Four Lakes Wildlife Center](#) for release where she came from. (photos by Brook Lewis)



Jumping from carrier to freedom.



Taking a moment to get her bearings.



The last two photos need no captions 😊



Some items a 12-year-old donated in honor of her mom.

WISH LIST, AMAZON and NOW AMAZON SMILES

We are continually amazed and blessed by all those generous folks out there who take the time to check our list and go shopping. We'd like to say a big THANK YOU for helping us help them, no matter who you are out there.

Those Amazon users will be happy to know there's now ANOTHER way to support Wild Instincts...drumroll....just by shopping as usual for yourself!

Instead of signing in to amazon.com, sign into smile.amazon.com. All your Amazon settings are the same, work the same, even Amazon Prime is the same.

The only difference is Amazon donates a percentage of your purchases to Wild Instincts.

A super simple way to support us!

Some even see a need and just respond without giving us a chance to list it on our wish list. Every time we receive an item to help our mission it gives us a great feeling. We cannot do this without you and your help.

Some select items from our wish list:

- ~FISH, fresh or frozen, whole or fillets
- ~Venison
- ~Treated 2x6's (8' & 10' lengths)
- ~Paper Towels

~White Noise Machines, 2-3 (to give the interns some privacy in their rooms; see our Amazon Wish List)

~Liquid Hand Soap

~Dish Soap

Here's a link to our [Amazon Wish List](#) if you'd like to go wild shopping 😊



This winter has been tough on many. This mourning dove suffered from a severe case of frostbite. Unfortunately, even with intensive therapy, it was unable to overcome its injuries.

Extra Shopping Incentive

Shop at AmazonSmile now through 3/31/14 and Amazon will donate an extra \$5 to Wild Instincts. This is in addition to the regular donation of 0.5% of the purchase price.

To get started click [HERE](#)

Species	1/1-3/20/14
American Goldfinch	3
Bald Eagle	1
Big Brown Bat	7
Black Bear	1
Black-capped	
Chickadee	1
Bobcat	2
Coyote	1
Downy Woodpecker	1
Eastern Gray Squirrel	1
Great Horned Owl	1
Hairy Woodpecker	1
Little Brown Bat	1
Mourning Dove	1
Muskrat	1
Peregrine Falcon	1
Porcupine	1
Raccoon	3
Red Squirrel	1
Ruffed Grouse	1
Snapping Turtle	17
Turkey Vulture	1
Western Painted Turtle	4
Total	52

Events Calendar

Second Annual Chief Steve Fritz Memorial Poker Run, Sat June, 21st Harley-Davidson of Wausau

Third Annual Walk in the Wild at North Lakeland Discovery Center on Sat Sept 13th

Hodag Farmer's Market Bake Sale, 8:00-12:00 at Hodag Farmer's Market

Wild For Wine & Cheese Cruise TBA, Wisconsin River Cruises

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Has anyone out there seen spring? Please send it to the Northwoods!