

Dogue Hollow Wildlife Sanctuary News

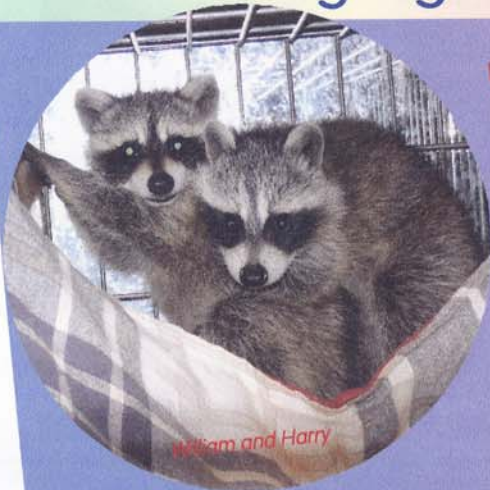
Highlights from 2007



LEARNING THINGS THE HARD WAY

I've learnt a hard lesson this year: the more raccoons you foster, the more complications, illness and sad endings. And that was certainly true this year. In August illness struck, with a vengeance. Diagnosis is always hard with raccoons as so many diseases present with similar symptoms. Sometimes you never really know what you're dealing with, so you just do the best you can with the antibiotics that are available. In this case we had three possible choices: Parvo virus, Coxiidia or Distemper. The most likely was the Parvo Virus. The good news is that of the 12 that became sick, we lost only three. It could have been much worse.

There were a few other little souls that also didn't make it, but that was due to their poor condition when they arrived here. Unfortunately, that sometimes happens as all these little guys are orphans and we never know how long they've been abandoned and hungry before they arrive at our door. You do all you can and sometimes its just not enough. Not a good feeling, but, for me, it's reason enough to try again, and hopefully, do better with the next orphaned baby.



2007 ROLL CALL

So far this year, Dogue Hollow has cared for 40 raccoons, and the year's not over yet!

We got off to an early start this year:

29 March - Mama Cas and her five babies arrived! She had made her nest in an attic and, poor lady, was evicted. She got free food and lodging here, in one of the big enclosures, where she was able to care for her family in peace. All six were happily released into the woods, in May.

4 May - The Divas - Madonna, Blondie, Jewel and Dido appeared and immediately took center stage. Cute as buttons they were about 4 weeks old. Unfortunately Madonna was one who did not make it through the Parvo Virus outbreak, but the others were released here in early November and still visit every evening for dinner!

12 May - Bonnie and Clyde. Not related and, sadly, neither of them survived.

14 May - The Spice Girls - Ginger, Posh and Baby. Their eyes were just opening, so they were about 21 days old and very tiny. Posh and Ginger had a hard time learning to use their legs, but seem to be doing well now. Baby rests with Madonna and the others who didn't make it, out in the woods here, at Dogue Hollow.

4 June - Trefor. This poor little guy arrived covered in blow fly eggs and was very dehydrated. It took hours to clean him up, but then the struggle to survive proved to be too much for him.

6 June - Fairfax Animal Control delivered Phillips and McLeod. What a pair! From day one they were in charge. Currently they reside outside, with the Spice Girls and, unless the weather gets really cold or we get a lot of snow, all four will soon be released.





Remington and Colt

16 July - The Stone Family - Amber, Jade, Opal & Jet. Eyes just open. They also caught the virus and Opal quickly succumbed. Due to quarantine, this family and all that followed, have had to stay in our care for longer than usual, so they are still with us, but, weather permitting, should be released before year's end.



Amber

1 August - Enter the Princes - William and Harry. Aply named as William is very sweet and oh so pretty, while Harry is mischievous and will only do most things when he's ready to do them! They live next to the Stones and all play together whenever they are let out of the cages, which is usually three times a day for at least an hour each time.

16 August - The last arrivals, Colt and Remington, were very emaciated and scared, and both quickly became sick. Sadly, Colt did not survive and it was touch and go with Remi, but he's fine now and lives with the Stones.

UP CLOSE AND PERSONAL

Some of you may remember Emerald (Emmy) and Pearl: two little sisters raised here in the winter of '05. Both girls have been the subject of much of my time this year. Firstly, Emmy gave birth to four little ones on February 19. Far too early for a raccoon to have a family so they experienced snow as soon as their eyes were open! I was honoured to be able to get very close to the den and took regular photos of their development. Elvis, Ernie and Elsa are now bigger than their mom! The fourth, Wee Willie, was not a well baby and only lived a few weeks.

Emmy with her kids - Elvis, Ernie, Wee Willie and Elsa



Venus (released in '06) also came home and managed to squeeze back into one of the enclosures, where she then gave birth to three! And stayed for three months!



Pearl - convalescing



Jade, Amber and Jet

Pearl, bless her heart, gave me many sleepless nights this spring. In March she arrived one night for dinner, obviously ill. I was able to scoop her up and immediately whisked her off to a cage. She was extremely sick with high fever and infected wounds, probably bites. After several visits to the vets and lots of antibiotics she was getting better when she developed pneumonia. More antibiotics, lots of TLC, and she miraculously recovered, so that in May I was able to re-release her! She now visits every evening for more of the treats she enjoyed while she was sick.

Dogue Hollow Wildlife Sanctuary is dedicated to saving wildlife, specializing in raising and releasing orphaned raccoons. Our heart-felt thanks go to Dr. Anne Hiss, Sherry Keen and Rich Thorpe, for all their help this year and support. To everyone else who gave us their time, or a donation, we thank you too. Though licensed by the State of Virginia, all our work is volunteered and that includes significant outgoing expenses for food, shelter, medical treatment and supplies. Your financial support is needed in order for us to continue saving wildlife.

Please send donations to Dogue Hollow Wildlife Sanctuary, PO Box 740, Lorton, Va 22199.



Opal



William



Phipps & McLeod

We wish you a peaceful and healthy 2008, and thank you in anticipation of your generosity.
 Jenna Such,
 Virginia State Licensed Wildlife Rehabilitator, Category IIA



The Domestic Help - Not always what it's cracked up to be!!