

Dogue Hollow Wildlife Sanctuary News

Highlights from 2008



Virginia and Ming



Mick and Paddy

It's been an exciting and very busy year at Dogue Hollow! First, the best news: in January 2008 we officially became a non profit [301(c)(3) organization! It took many months, and a lot of paperwork to achieve, but well worth the effort. Basically it means that all you generous people reading this, can now deduct 100% of your future donations to DHWS, from your tax returns!

So far this year, 35 raccoons, 3 red foxes, a flying squirrel and an opossum, have been cared for at Dogue Hollow. We have released the foxes, squirrel, opossum and 20 raccoons back into their native environment. Some of the tiny babies, sadly, died. The late season babies will stay with us for the winter and be released in the spring.

These little orphans come to us from all sorts of strange places, some in very poor condition. Adam, Alex and Abby were born on a boat! Ester was found swimming for her life in a swimming pool. Three other little ones came to us from Annandale, and that's all the information I had, so I named them Anna, Dale and Virginia! Ming and T'ang were found in a chimney, Peanut and his two sisters were taken from an attic and Ricardo was rescued from a dumpster!



Meggie

This year we have raised some of the youngest raccoons yet. Several were only 3 or 4 days old and weighed between 1 and 3 ounces, when they arrived. Animals this small and arriving without much information regarding their circumstances, often don't make it. At that age and weight their little bodies shut down very quickly and all the care in the world can't save them. It's always heartbreaking and the first thought is "What did I do wrong?" or "What else could I have done?" The truth is, there was nothing to be done, it was just not meant to be, but we still try a little harder the next time around. At least, being here at Dogue Hollow, they died in a warm, safe place and not alone, exposed to the elements.



Peanut, Current and Plum

Tiny babies need to be fed every 3 to 4 hours, and that means through the night as well! Also, when very young, they are unable to regulate their body temperatures, so it's important to keep them warm at all times, and for that reason, their nest boxes sit on electric warming pads and their beds are filled with fleece and fur from coats that people have donated to us. Whenever a single baby comes in, we always try to match them with others around their size as raccoons do not do well on their

own and get very lonely.



Virginia



China



Joey



Dale



Ester

Early in the season a little family of three arrived, from an attic. Each weighed 3 ounces and were very dehydrated and, sadly, within 24 hours the two little girls had died. To our delighted amazement, the smallest, a little boy named Peanut, hung on and rapidly started gaining weight.. At the time there were no other babies to put him with, so for about a month he was on his own. Naturally he got very attached to me, as I'm the one here 24/7 and I was feeding him every 3 to 4 hours, so we had a lot of contact. Finally Peanut was big enough to place with three other raccoons: Mick, Paddy and Meggie. Although they were quite a bit older and larger than he was,



raccoons are sociable creatures and they soon accepted him, allowing him into their inner sanctum - the nest box! All four were released in September, but Peanut didn't want to go and somehow begged his way back in! Currently he lives with Adam, Alex and Abby and we'll try again when the other three are released before Christmas!

Just last week we had a family of three little girls arrive. Their mother had been killed right in front of them when the tree they called home, had been cut down. Despite there being a large hole, high in the tree, no one had thought to check before cutting it down. I cannot stress enough the importance of checking before chopping, to make sure this kind of tragedy does not happen. These three girls, along with Ricardo from the dumpster, will stay here over winter and be released as soon as spring shows up!



Peanut, at 6ozs, and 15 pounds!

In between taking care of all these wonderful little babies, we managed to raise over \$6000! A good amount I'm sure you're thinking and indeed, at the beginning of the year we thought it would be enough. Alas, it was not. This was due to more orphans than ever before and the cost of everything skyrocketing. So we made up the rest out of our own pockets and really hope all our generous friends who have supported us in the past will do so again in 2009. I hope this newsletter will also encourage new people to get out their check books and help! With that in mind, and knowing there will probably be even more babies in need next year, we are aiming to raise \$10,000

We also have a new web site: www.doguehollowwildlifesanctuary.org. Along with lots of photographs and interesting information, we have a donations page which our supporters free gifts! It's our way of saying "Thank you" for your donations.



Abby, Alex and Adam

At our last board meeting, Sherry Keen was voted in as a new director and she joins, Jerry Blondell and Tom McMurray, as members-at-large, our secretary MaryJane Imhof and myself, who were all elected in January.

Sherry still comes in to help me feed the babies and clean the cages and without her I would be in bad shape! Recently, I found two more ladies wanting to help our sanctuary, and so I welcome Maria Lopez-Otin and Anna Oberlander, to our merry band of volunteers.

Everyone here, at Dogue Hollow, joins with me to wish you a peaceful holiday season, a prosperous 2009, and we thank you in anticipation of your generosity.

Jenna Such, President and Treasurer
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Paddy and Peanut



Remington joins the ladies for a drink!