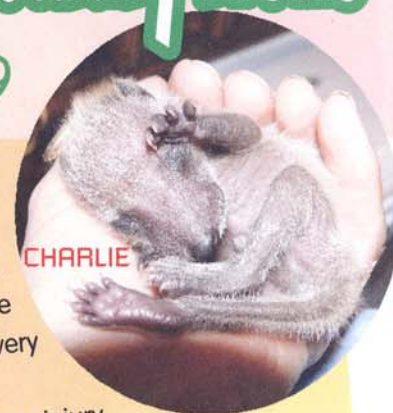




Dogue Hollow Wildlife Sanctuary News

Highlights from 2009

Here we are, at the end of another year, and each gets busier than the last! 2009 was certainly no exception as we gave sanctuary to 61 raccoons, more than double the total for 2008! For reasons I can't explain, we continued naming everyone alphabetically! Having started with A and B last fall, this years first arrivals were named Charlie, Cila, Cayenne and Cinnamon and ended with Iggy, Ivan and Isaac, to name but a few. The smallest was one day old and weighed just an ounce. Then there was a sweet girl named Virginia, weighing in at 17 pounds, who I found sitting on the doorstep with a very badly injured back leg. I'm happy to say she fully recovered and has been released again. Not all were so lucky, resulting in several deaths due to extreme dehydration, exposure to the elements or injury and, in the height of summer; we had an outbreak of illness that was finally diagnosed as Canine Parvovirus. This deadly virus is not usually found in raccoons and was probably contracted from our abundant local coyote population. The remaining raccoons were all vaccinated and in future, all animals will be vaccinated against this virus, along with rabies, canine distemper and feline panleukopenia, as we have always done.



CHARLIE



DANTE DANIEL DELLA & DISMAL



IGGY & IVAN



CARLOS



COLBY

Quite a bit of remodeling and improvements has been ongoing during 2009, and in the fall, out of necessity, we redecorated the nursery. The steady succession of babies, who like to get their hands and teeth into things and trash them, succeeded! They stripped and chewed drywall, tore up floors and broke down cages! Now the place looks fabulous and is seriously raccoon proofed -- we hope!

The back deck enclosure was almost doubled in size, and the other three outdoor enclosures all had new nesting boxes and "furniture" added. Lastly, plans are in the works for two new outdoor enclosures to be built during the winter/spring. Another necessity, given the number of raccoons brought to us this year.

As usual, most of our babies were found abandoned, and brought to Dogue Hollow by caring members of the public. Before a baby is taken from its habitat, we recommend putting it in a small box with a towel or something similar, for warmth, and leaving it, close to where it was found, over night. If she is able, the mother will return after dark. If this does not happen, we must assume that something happened to prevent her from collecting her little one, and that is the time to bring the baby to Dogue Hollow.

We receive many calls concerning raccoons and babies in attics, under houses, in garages and other places where people would rather they not inhabit. Here we encourage patience!



MATFIELD



GIDGET & GENEVA



VIRGINIA



HASTINGS
(HASTY)

Raccoons are quite nomadic and, as soon as the babies are old enough, about 8 to 10 weeks, mother will find a more suitable home for them. Once departed, the entrance can be blocked off, which will prevent further unwanted occupancy. If patience is not an option, a radio placed close to the den area, playing loudly, is most likely to persuade mum to find new accommodations more quickly! I would like to extend a huge "THANK YOU!" to Dr. B., a wonderful vet with a local animal hospital, whose help has been invaluable to us throughout the year. To Eric Simons, who generously gave of his professional time to redesign our web site. To Tom McMurray, for all the wood he brings us, for building new enclosures and repairs. To Michael Poff, who supplies us with endless piles of newspapers. What would we do without him! And to a very generous, anonymous donor, who gave us \$5,000. Thank you all.



HAILEY



ELI & ESMIE



ETHAN & ERIN



HENLEY



HALIFAX (HAL)



CILA



ELLIE, DISMAL & VIRGINIA

It's been a big year for raccoons and also for donations, though they did not quite double in quantity, as the raccoons did! Although licensed by the state of Virginia, Dogue Hollow does not receive any compensation for our work from the state, or any other organization, though we do receive some medical supplies from the Wildlife Rescue League, based in falls Church. For everything else, we depend totally on the generosity of folks like yourself and, without your help, there would be no sanctuary. For those who already support our efforts, we thank you and hope we can continue to count on you in 2010. For those of you reading our newsletter for the first time, I hope our little guys photos have tugged at your heart strings, and that you will help us in 2010 and beyond. We have T-shirts and other gifts, free with donations of certain amounts, displayed on our web site at: www.doguehollowwildlifesanctuary.org, where you will find a direct link to our Paypal account, for your convenience. If you prefer to mail your donation, please send it to: Dogue Hollow Wildlife Sanctuary, POB 895, Lorton, VA 22199.



POSH returned home again this spring, for the birth of her second litter, in the Moose Lodge!

All here at Dogue Hollow wish you well and we hope that 2010 is a happy and prosperous year for you and your loved ones.

Jenna Such, President
Dogue Hollow Wildlife Sanctuary
VA. State Licensed Wildlife Rehabilitator,
Category IIA, License #025982



GARIBALDI