

Dogue Hollow Wildlife Sanctuary News

Highlights from 2010



It seems quite incredible that another year has passed and that Dogue Hollow took in even more orphaned and injured raccoons than in 2009. If anyone had suggested at the start of the year that we would care for 30% more this year, I would have said it was impossible -- not enough time, help, cage space or funding. But somehow we did it -- a total of 84! Thankfully we had more people volunteering this year, and we fit everyone into every cage we could find. The hardest part was making the funds stretch, and paying all the extra veterinary bills.

When I first began writing our newsletter, seven years ago, I was able to mention each raccoon we cared for during the year, by name. Obviously that's no longer possible, but I hope the accompanying photos will give you a brief look into what we do and that you will fall in love with these endearing little animals, just as we have.



As with most projects, the bigger they get, the more complications and difficulties arise. Certainly, that's true at Dogue Hollow. Consequently we have had to deal with more injuries and illnesses and make many more trips to our friends at Crosspointe Animal Hospital. That is always the hardest part, especially as we don't always know what the problem is or there is no treatment.

The most frustrating and needless situation this year occurred early on and I feel it my duty to tell you about it as it should never have happened. We received four little siblings that had been removed from an attic. Their mother, we were told, had died. The babies were in good condition and they thrived for three days. On the fourth, they all died. From their sudden symptoms it was immediately apparent they had been poisoned and after a couple of phone calls rat poison was the most likely culprit. I learned that rat poison had been put down, more than a year ago! in a nearby shed. Mother raccoon had been seen in the shed and had presumably eaten the fine tasting "food". She had then passed it to her babies, through her milk, before killing her. As there are no early symptoms, we had no clue regarding what was about to happen, until it was too late.

The moral of this tragic story? Rat poison is like plastic, it lasts for ever. If you feel you must use it, then PLEASE, place it in corners that only a rat can get to and, most importantly, when the rats are gone, go clean it up. Please, don't leave it there, for some other animal to find.

During the spring we made improvements to all our large outside enclosures and enlarged the "hospital wing", which had to be our first priority. In 2011 we hope to finally lay the new, long planned, concrete slab and enlarge the outside enclosures, plus add a new one. All these projects, past and future, are only possible through the generosity of Ed and Rick. Both are there whenever we need help, donating their time and expertise, and often providing the building materials too. Thanks guys.



Dogue Hollow can now be found on Facebook! Amanda, one of our volunteers, does a fantastic job of keeping it current and you'll find lots of photos and news about what's going on around here, as well as wildlife quizzes and other interesting information.

In October we participated in the Fall Festival down at Occoquan Bay Wildlife Refuge, sharing space with the Wildlife Rescue League of Falls Church. It was fun, and the weather could not have been better! We had a continuous slide show, a raffle and lots of information to hand out. We have already secured space for the 2011 festival which, again, will be held on the Saturday of Labor day weekend. We hope that you'll mark it on your calendar and come join the fun.



Talking of calendars, we have our annual DHWS calendar available again, to give FREE with a donation of \$50.00. Also the Dogue Hollow 2010 Year Book, for a donation of \$100.00 and our T-shirt, free with a donation of \$45.00

Should you choose to send Dogue Hollow a donation, via the US Mail, Facebook or Paypal, on our web site at: www.doguehollowwildlifesanctuary.org, just add a note telling us what free gift you would like. For donations in person, we now take Mastercard and Visa.

On that note, here's some very good news!! We have been accepted as a good charitable choice by the COMBINED FEDERAL CAMPAIGN. This means that any federal employee can now elect to have a portion of their paycheck automatically donated to DHWS. Our participation code is: 95807. We truly hope that many of you will take advantage of this easy way to help us continue to care for every animal in need, brought to our door.



So, as we close out another year, all is well, and quiet, here at Dogue Hollow. We have 10 raccoons who will spend the winter with us. Some are too young to be released yet, while others are recovering from injuries. All are doing well and already enjoying Christmas bells, bows and boxes, with which to play and destroy!!

From our house, to your house, our volunteers: Sherry, Joanne, Maria, Amanda, Mary, and myself, thank you for your support and wish you a very happy and peaceful holiday season.
Jenna Such, President

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