

Dogue Hollow Wildlife Sanctuary News

Highlights from 2011



2011 has not been an easy one to get through and, for the first time since getting into wildlife rehabilitation, I have to say that, truthfully, I'm glad to see the end of it. Things can only get better in the new year. It began earlier than usual, with the first babies arriving in March. By early June we had 53 raccoons and there was not enough time in each day to clean and feed everyone. I put the word out that we could take no more until further notice. Unfortunately four more tiny creatures landed at our door and we took them in.

It was immediately obvious that this little family was very sick and they were kept away from all the others. However, despite our best efforts their virus quickly spread and we lost many of the babies we had been caring for. It was heart breaking. We did everything in our power to save as many as we could, but without a sure cure it's not easy. We quickly regrouped and threw ourselves into the care of the survivors and did not take in any more until we were sure it was safe and everything had been cleaned with gallons of bleach and power washing, where possible.



While all this was taking place we had some good news to share: three little siblings named Rubin, Rafi and Rosie. They arrived in May in bad shape after being removed from a chimney where a fire had been lit, when the homeowner heard noises in the chimney! What a thing to do! All had badly burned hands and feet and Rosie had burns on her sides while Rafi had a burnt nose. All three survived the virus and all their burns healed nicely. Their only scars are pink hands and feet, instead of the usual black. Very cute! They were released in October with all the other survivors.

The year was, thankfully, full of happy surprises too.....the phone rang one day and a guy told me he had 8 baby raccoons that were found in the insulation of his basement and the mothers, from two litters, had been evicted from the house. Could we take the babies? An hour later they had arrived. I pulled back the piece of insulation covering them and, Oh! what a surprise! Eight little 'possums grinned up at me!!! So we have officially broadened our horizons and now take in opossums!

While on the subject of broadening horizons, I'm doing a lot of research this winter, on skunks, and will make a decision, before next spring, as to whether or not we open our doors to those little stinkers too! They have been on my list of "things to do" for a long time, but need special care and a quiet corner. Our friend, Rich, has already said he



will build whatever is needed to house them. Follow Dogue Hollow on Facebook, for the final decision. We did briefly have eight baby skunks at Dogue Hollow this year, a stop-over on their way to another rehabilitator.



This spring we were finally able to pour another pad of concrete, adjoining our present setup. One of our enclosures was taken apart and successfully rebuilt into two larger spaces. Over winter we will do the same with our other small enclosure, again creating two spacious enclosures. Finally, we must rebuild the roof of our original enclosure. When all is done, we will have the space to house up to forty raccoons, between 3 and 6 months old. At six months, they are released into the wild. When all is completed we'll produce a video tour of the whole Sanctuary, and post it on Facebook, so that everyone will have a better understanding of our set-up.



Obviously, as we grow, our need for more funds grows with it. Thank you to all who have helped in the past and for your continued support. To new friends of Dogue Hollow, we really need your help too. All our revenue comes from caring people like you.



For your convenience, we participate in the Combined Federal Campaign, code # 95807. We have a Paypal account, easily accessed through Facebook or our web site and, of course, the old fashioned way of putting a check in the mail, works very well too!



Our 2011 Year Book will be out in January and is our gift to you for donations of \$150 or more. Dogue Hollows Calendar is a gift for donations of \$50 or more, as is the DHWS T shirt.



A big thank you to Rich Thorpe, for all the cage building he does for us. To Tom McMurray, of McMurray Builders, for supplying most of our wood. To our vet, Dr. Berkshire at Crosspointe Animal Hospital, for all her TLC. And lastly, I don't know what we'd do without all the newspapers that our Washington Post agent, Czarina Jackson, periodically leaves, in great piles, at our doorstep! Thank you all!



To friends of Dogue Hollow, old and new, we thank you in anticipation of your generosity in the coming year, allowing us to care for our orphaned and injured wildlife. Without you, they would not survive and the Sanctuary would not exist.

Our volunteers, Suzi, Megan, Renae, Maria and Sherry, join with me in wishing you a peaceful holiday season and a prosperous 2012.

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