

# Dogue Hollow Wildlife Sanctuary News

## Highlights from 2012

Another year is ending and, even though I thought it impossible, it was busier than ever! We have, so far, cared for 94 injured or orphaned raccoons, and there's still a few weeks to go!

We began the year with making the hard decision to discontinue caring for possums, and to not expand to skunks, at this time. Our reasoning was based on demand: we are already asked to give shelter to more raccoons than we have the time, (volunteer wise), or money, to care for. Also, there are enough wildlife rehabilitators in Virginia who already care for possums and skunks, to whom we can refer people, so it just made sense to stick to the ones that need us most and we love so much!

With that in mind we went to work this spring and managed to finish rebuilding and extending all our outside enclosures. For that, a big "Thank You!" goes to Paul Salemme, who donated much of his valuable time to our needs. Now we have the capacity to house outside, up to 50 raccoons at any one time! But wait! We're not done! Next we're planning on extending our trauma enclosure and moving the nursery into a much bigger room. The old nursery will then be used for quarantined animals, and storage.

Enlarging the trauma enclosure was slated for sometime in 2013, BUT, along came Hurricane Sandy and now the roof leaks like a sieve! It needs repairing NOW! and it makes no sense doing the two connected jobs separately, so we started "Toffee's New Roof Fund". To date we have raised just over \$1,500, but we still need at least \$3,000 before the job can be started. If you can help us, please visit our web site at: [www.doguehollow.org](http://www.doguehollow.org), click on Donate, and then on the Paypal button. As you know, 100% of our funding comes from people like you, who care about our native wildlife, and your help will be most appreciated, especially by Toffee and his friends! For all donations of \$50.00 or more, we will happily send you a Thank You gift of our 2013 wall calendar, or one of our T-shirts. Just leave a note telling us which you would prefer.

As usual, our babies came in all shapes, sizes and color!! Some arrived in good condition, while others needed many hours of TLC, to help them regain their will to live. Some needed assistance from our good friends at Crosspointe Animal Hospital, while others made it very clear they were not enjoying our hospitality!!! Regardless of their attitude, we treat them all and love them equally!!!

Once again, we had a little family that someone had tried to smoke out of a chimney. The babies were too young to be able to climb out and, as a result, got badly burned. It breaks my heart to see these helpless little guys in such a state. Tango, a very cute little boy, arrived with 90% of his fur singed, and blistered feet. Happily, all 3 recovered and were successfully released.

Please, if you find yourself in a situation, involving ANY wildlife, that you feel must be relocated and are unable to safely and humanely do this on your own, call the company we use, Humane Wildlife

Conflict Resolution at 703 986 0123. They rescue wildlife every day and know exactly how to handle difficult wildlife situations, including when to release and when to call a wildlife rehabilitator, for help.

The Wildlife Rescue League, 703 440 0800, can also help you find someone to assist, or put you in touch with a wildlife rehabilitator.





Our biggest story of 2012 is about Emmy, a little raccoon we released back in 2005. Every spring she returns to Dogue Hollow and settles into the Moose Lodge, a large dog kennel on our top deck, to await the birth of a new family. This year she arrived very early, on February 3rd, and for weeks and weeks we'd check to see if the new family had arrived. As it turned out, Emmy must have known she was expecting very early as her 4 babies were not born until April 9th!! Raccoon pregnancies generally last 63 to 65 days. She'd been in residence for 66 days!!!!

Unfortunately there was no time to celebrate as early the next morning I was awakened by a terrible sound and I knew what it was. Emmy was crying and as I rushed out she came to meet me, obviously wanting my help. A rogue raccoon was killing her babies. I banged on the Lodge side as hard as I could and he came flying out and away. Emmy immediately went to look at the damage: 2 were dead, a third did not make it. Poor Emmy was devastated and for the next 3 days she stayed in the Moose Lodge guarding and caring for her surviving baby, eating nothing and even rejecting pecans, her favorite treat. I did put a litter box in with her, which she gratefully used! On day 4 we took in a little boy raccoon, about the same age and weight as Emmy's baby, and I decided to take a chance and offer it to her. She sniffed it, looked at me as if to say, "For me?", gently took it from my hand and took it off to the Moose Lodge. She laid it next to her own baby and began to lick it clean before gently pushing him to her belly to feed! Over the next week, we gave her 3 more little ones to adopt and each one she happily took in as her own. As always, she kept her babies with her for longer than most raccoon mums and we were honored to watch them all grow up together.

Emmy is still a regular visitor and we see her, and sister Pearl, at least once a week, when they visit for a treat of pecans and a hens egg!



By popular demand, we opened a CafePress shop earlier this year! Now everyone can wear a good looking T-shirt, like the ones our volunteers wear! Also available: sweatshirts, tote bags, calendars and more. They all make great gifts!! Plus, \$5.00 of every purchase is donated to Dogue Hollow! Check it out at [www.cafepress.com/doguehollow](http://www.cafepress.com/doguehollow).

Thank you to everyone who has helped us, with a donation, this year. Without you, we would not be able to carry on, and we hope your support will continue. To first time readers, we truly hope you will become supporters too. To help make that easier, we participate in the Combined Federal Campaign, **CFC #95807**, and have just joined the Combined Virginia Campaign, **CVC #3898**. We have a Paypal account, easily accessed through our web site, [www.doguehollow.org](http://www.doguehollow.org). And, of course, there's still the old fashioned way to help us, with a check in the mail!!

As a Thank You gift for donations of \$200 or more, we would love to send you a copy of our little coffee table book, Raising Raccoons 2012. For donations of \$50.00 or more, our 2013 wall calendar, or a DHWS T-shirt, is yours for the asking.

Our volunteers Suzi, Renae, Maria, Iris, Sherry, Natasha, Winsome and Sheila, all join me in wishing you all a very peaceful holiday season and a new year filled with good things.

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