

DOGUE HOLLOW WILDLIFE SANCTUARY NEWS

December 2014

A safe place where raccoons dominate, and humans accommodate.



Here we are again, at the end of another hectic year! True to our pattern, it's been busier and we've taken in even more orphaned raccoons, than in previous years.

It's also been a very troubling year, as we have had to do it all on less money, and with fewer volunteers. For me, this is a 24/7 commitment without pay, for at least 8 months of each year! Being the only one on board full time means I'm the one getting up in the middle of each night to feed the little ones. It's something I do because I want to. However, there are not enough hours in a day for me to take care of everything. So, before the new season starts in March, we MUST find more volunteers if we want to continue accepting every orphan in need of care. If volunteering is something you've thought about, please contact DHWS at raccoonmail@juno.com. We need you!

We were able to increase our intake this year because we turned yet another room into a nursery. The extra space was appreciated by all of us, volunteers and raccoons alike!

More work is still needed to make the room completely raccoon proof, not an easy task, but we hope to complete the job over winter.

Another outbreak of the Parvo Virus devastated us all during the summer, and killed far too many of our juveniles in the outside enclosures. Getting through that heart break again made me realize we had to look into rebuilding our enclosures, using something other than wood frames. We're currently going through the process of getting estimates, to see if we can afford all metal construction, which is something Virginia DGIF, who licenses us, has just decided we must have and that wooden frames are no longer acceptable.

As soon as I know the cost, I will make it known on our Face book page, and start a fund raiser, for the project. This we must take care of before May or we have no safe place to house bigger raccoons.

EMMY'S CORNER

Once again, Emmy came back to us to birth her babies, in the Moose Lodge! Born April 1st, she had four and then there were five! Emmy stole one from a first time mum who was not doing a good job raising her family. She later abandoned her other two, Zola & Zeus, and Dogue Hollow took them in. Seven would have been too many for Emmy to care for.



GOT UNWANTED GUESTS IN YOUR ATTIC?

Each year, without exception, we receive little raccoon kits who have lost their mother due to wrongful handling when being evicted from an attic. There is NO reason why mother and babies should be separated. In fact the law in Virginia says the opposite. I can't stress this enough, PLEASE, if you feel you must evict before mother raccoon is read to do it freely, (when the babies are about 8 weeks old), make sure it is done properly, by a company who knows what to do.

For those who want to do it themselves, always humanely trap the mother first. Once she is secured go hunt for the babies and, with a heavily gloved hand, place them in a box that suits their size. Keep them warm, and cover mothers cage with a towel, while you shore up the attic entrance hole, so she cannot return to her warm home, with the babies.

Next, place mother and babies at ground level, near the house. Make sure mum can get to the babies in the box, without difficulty, and open the trap door of her holding cage. Typically, raccoons have more than one den site so mother might immediately take a baby in her mouth and take it to a new den, coming back for the others one at a time. Or she might take off on her own first, to check out alternative dens.

If she does not return and a baby, or babies, are still in the box the following morning, it's time to call us. If the babies are at least 4 weeks old, they can be left a second night, and she may still collect them. If in doubt, call us: 703 690 2168



WE HAVE A BUSY WINTER AHEAD OF US!

We do have a lot of rebuilding and converting to do this winter - and it all takes money to make it happen. Following are all the ways you can help us do that, which will allow us to be able to say yes, instead of no, to every little raccoon in need of our help.

We participate in the Combined Federal Charities program: CFC#95807

We accept donations through our web site, via PayPal: www.dhws.org/donate.asp

But an old fashioned check in the mail is still the best way: POB 895, Lorton, VA 22199

We also have a shop at Cafepress: www.cafepress.com/doguehollow, where you can buy T-shirts and more.

As a thank you gift, we would love to send you a copy of our popular year book, "Raising Raccoons 2014" for a donation of \$250, or more.

Our 2015 wall calendar, or a T-shirt, is yours for a donation of \$50.

I know some of you would prefer we don't send you a gift, so please let us know your preference.

From everyone at Dogue Hollow, we wish you a Peaceful and Happy Holiday Season.

Jenna Such, President DHWS, PO Box 895, Lorton, VA 22199
703 690 2168

