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2019 In A Nutshell

2019 was an intense year for our tiny grassroots center. It was a relatively unusually wet year, which made life harder for wildlife in some ways, but also easier because of the plethora of new growth plants and an abundance of food come autumn. Orphans came in early in the year (January) and didn't stop until November, with some interesting rescue experiences to learn from along the way.

It started in January with 4 skunks stuck in a pit on a construction site in Oakland. With rain forecast, we had to move fast to get these wild skunks out of a ten foot deep hole drilled for a concrete pier installation, before it filled with rainwater or they starved. Thanks to the quick thinking of one of our volunteers who went out to the site, all 4 skunks made it out to safety. Who would have thought a skunk could climb a ladder!



Another notable rescue from 2019 was the Marmot who hitched a ride from Tahoe to a garden in San Francisco. San Francisco Animal Care officers managed to trap the flower-eating Yellow-Bellied Marmot using Gluten-Free Dairy-Free Fig Newtons and brought him my way for a ride back home. Thanks to one of our amazing transport volunteers, and the wonderful staff at Lake Tahoe Wildlife Rescue, "Daisy" had a lovely vacation and is now back home living the good life.





There were also the daily orphans needing help, like the baby opossum who lost his mama, fell in a mud puddle, then got mistaken for a squeaky toy by a giant white Pyrenees, before being rescued by finder Yoko, who drove 45 minutes with the heat blasting to keep the baby alive on the drive and get him into care with us. After a bath and some basic wound care, baby was added to the orphan opossum family we had here and was successfully released back into the wild when all grown up.



Or the many baby squirrels, each with dramatic life-and-death rescue stories of their own.



Or the juvenile Cottontail who was trapped in a crate and delivered from Lathrop, CA to the Tesla Dealership in San Francisco. Or the other bunny found on 5th Street at Market in the middle of downtown!! How did it get there? Now it is safe and living free with other cottontails.



2019 was a successful year helping over 450 wildlife orphaned get healthy and back out to live their wild lives! But there was more...







We also had a wonderful experience teaching compassion through close encounters with wildlife to a group of middle-schoolers at Brightworks School. They invited us in to talk about Nests and we stayed to teach them about wildlife rescue from bottle-feeding infants to releasing the young adults back into the wild, giving them a second chance at a normal life. The students took on the multi-faceted learning project of building squirrel nestboxes. They explored what squirrels would want and need in a good nestbox and came up with their own designs that included a warm place to sleep, food storage, safety and even the opportunity to play. We were quite impressed with their enthusiasm and critical thinking and we look forward to working with Brightworks students again.







Happy New Year and Happy New Decade!!

Thank you for all of your support of our grassroots work. Your donations make a direct impact on our ability to care for these animals and the cards and notes that accompany them touch my heart. We are only a handful of volunteers here, led by me, Lila, so when you leave me a note expressing your appreciation, though I may not have time to respond quickly, please know that my heart is recharged by your kind words and I am so grateful that you took the time to both support our work financially but also emotionally. Thank you.



Our grassroots wildlife rehabilitation group wishes to express our extreme thanks to all of our volunteers who have given countless hours of their time nursing these wildlife orphans back to health or driving them all over the state, to all of the finders of wildlife in distress who took the time to stop and help, and to all of the local businesses and individuals who see the value of the work we do and help by providing us the tools we need to do this work.

Thank you.
Without you, we would not exist.

We are very proud of our partnership with the [California Center for Natural History](#) (Formerly WildOakland) a monthly citizen science education program. If you have not yet been on a CCNH walk, we encourage you to visit their website and pick a date!! [Or read about their previous walks on their blog](#). They are always exciting! We look forward to continuing this partnership for years to come!



Wildlife Quiz

1. Which local wildlife mammal can see in FULL COLOR VISION just like we do?

A. Raccoon B. Opossum C. Squirrel D. Deer

2. Which local wildlife mammal has a natural body temperature too low for the rabies vector to harbor in?

A. Squirrel B. Deer C. Skunk D. Opossum

3. Which local wildlife mammal is so near-sighted that they can only see 12 inches in front of their nose?

A. Deer B. Skunk C. Raccoon D. Opossum

(Answers are listed at the bottom of this page)

PLEASE DONATE TO SUPPORT OUR WORK!

We are still a small, grassroots, all-volunteer-run and donation-funded organization. Even a small donation has a BIG effect in our tiny organization. It has a direct result of making life more comfortable for the animals in our care.

Thank you for your consideration.



Our fate is in your hands.



Donate Fee-Free Through Facebook



Or mail a donation to:

Yggdrasil Urban Wildlife Rescue
2200 25th Street
San Francisco, CA 94107

Interested in joining our foster-team?
Email us and let us know!
info@yuwr.org

Answers to WILDLIFE QUIZ!

1. **(C) Squirrels see in Full Color Vision** just like we do!!! In fact, they do not open their eyes until they are 5 weeks old because it takes their eyes longer to develop. Compare that to Cats and Dogs who open their eyes in the first 2 weeks of age.
2. **(D) Opossums have a normal body temperature of 92-95 degrees** and the rabies virus, which can infect any mammal, needs to have a body temperature of 98 degrees in order to survive. The rare times that an opossum has become sick with rabies has been because the opossum was sick with a fever that raised its body temperature to the necessary 98 degrees and rabies came in as an opportunistic secondary infection! Remember that although opossums drool, it is because they are scared of you and want to look unappealing as their defense mechanism. They are actually very beneficial to our environment, eating mice and rats and slugs and snails.
3. **(B) Skunks are extremely near-sighted and can only see 12 inches in front of their noses!** Because of this, they tend to get startled and this makes them spray. A skunk has a limited amount of spray and they need to save it for life-threatening situations, so if you see a skunk about to cross your path be sure to make some noise to let it know that you are there. It won't be eager to spray you - it will actually just turn around and go another way. Same is true for when you let your dog into your yard at night. Turn on the lights and make some noise before letting your dog out to avoid your dog getting sprayed. The skunk - and your dog - will thank you for the warning.

Also, remember that tomato juice was BUSTED by Mythbusters years ago as being INEFFECTIVE in removing skunk spray. You need to actually neutralize the chemical reaction that is making the smell. To do this, use this recipe:

1 quart of 3 percent hydrogen peroxide,
1/4 cup baking soda,
1 teaspoon dawn detergent

and check out this interesting article about Skunks: <http://yuwr.org/2015/01/19/1368/>

Yggdrasil Urban Wildlife Rescue is unendingly grateful to Dr Alex Herman and the staff at All Pets Hospital for their ongoing veterinary support of our wildlife and exotic patients.



A special Thank you to Pet Food Express for their continued support for over 10 years! Your donation of food and supplies helps us be able to do this work with an extra level of comfort for the animals. Cat Trees for our baby squirrels, replacement water bottles when the old ones stop working, cat toys for our juvenile raccoonlings, the list goes on.

Did you ever wonder what happens when you return an item to a store that is not legally re-saleable? Most stores throw it away and take a financial hit. Pet Food Express is different. They see the value in that returned item and they donate it to a needy nonprofit. They are one of the only companies that does this in the Bay Area. It involves a lot of extra time and work for them to do it but they do it anyways because it is the right way of thinking and it helps save rescue lives. We appreciate them for it. Thank you Pet Food Express for going above and beyond to be socially and environmentally responsible.





Yggdrasil Urban Wildlife Rescue wants to acknowledge another tiny grassroots wildlife rehabilitation project called SFROMP. Based solely in San Francisco, they are a small organization with too few volunteers and too few monetary donations, doing great work both with wildlife and also in providing solutions to human/wildlife conflicts on their hotline. YUWR has partnered very closely with SFROMP in the last decade since opening our office on Potrero Hill. We still cover the East Bay but we are proud to also partner with SFROMP helping San Francisco Wildlife as well. A special Thank you goes to the SFROMP and its director, Jamie Ray for her decades of hard and thankless work.

<http://sfromp.org> (415) 350-WILD.



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