



YGGDRASIL

URBAN WILDLIFE RESCUE

"Wildlife Rehabilitation" : (v) an attempt to mitigate the human impact on our natural environment by rescuing orphaned and/or injured wildlife animals and raising them with the expressed purpose of being released back into the wild, giving them a second chance at a normal life.

2022 Director's Letter

Wildlife rehabilitation is more complex than most people realize. There are federal, state, and local laws to comply with. There are disease outbreaks and quarantines to navigate. There are diagnostic mysteries to solve, and sometimes euthanasia to perform when all treatments fail. There are the emotions of the human finders to soothe, as well as the emotions of our volunteers to gently manage when we lose a longtime beloved ambassador (or any wildlife patient, really). And there are my own emotions to ride out too; and those of my family, who are dragged along on this adventure by being my support system. But most importantly, and at the forefront of everything we do, there is the health, safety, welfare, and needs of the **individual animal** that we are privileged to be able to help. They cannot tell us what they most need or want, so we have to listen and watch, and do our best to help them. Sometimes it is easy to juggle all these factors and have a successful outcome. Sometimes it is more difficult, and we cannot make everyone happy. But at the end of the day, it is always the welfare of the individual animal that is our highest priority.

2022 was a challenging year in many ways, but we were able to rescue, rehabilitate and release over 700 wildlife patients - and the year isn't over yet! We just got in a rain-soaked hit-by-car opossum... Thank you for your support, your time, and your love of wildlife. Thank you for walking this path with me, and with Yggdrasil Wildlife.

Please enjoy some Rescue Tales from 2022. If you have the time and ability, consider joining our volunteer team and making a tax-deductible,

end-of-year donation to help wildlife in 2022. Above all- be safe, be kind to each other, and yourself too.

Happy New Year to you from all of us at Yggdrasil Urban Wildlife Rescue.

Sincerely,

Lila Travis, Founder/Director
Yggdrasil Urban Wildlife Rescue

Our organization is still 100% volunteer-run and donation-funded after 20+ years. We are a grassroots 501(c)3 non profit and all donations are tax-deductible.

*Please remember us this holiday season!
Making a donation in honor of someone is a wonderful gift.*

Donate

HAPPY
Holidays



**Thank you to everyone who took the time to help wildlife
this year!**

Thanks to you, in 2022, Yggdrasil...



Gave **721** wildlife animals a second chance at a normal life.

Helped thousands via our wildlife hotline
(1,950+ by phone & 9,000+ by text).

Educated and inspired through outreach programs.

Rescue Tails

Eddy the Hawk



We started the year with urgent calls from the Tenderloin in San Francisco.

Tenderloin residents and police officers alike found themselves falling in love with a magnificent bird who needed their help. On Jan 23rd, officers from the Tenderloin Police Station worked together with local residents to help a juvenile red tail hawk who had crash-landed at Taylor and Eddy. With help from the residents, officers were able to drive the hawk to our San Francisco intake center in the middle of the night. The officers recounted how residents had come together to protect the bird, even offering the carnivore bread from the corner store (it's the thought that counts). One local had bravely and safely placed the bird in an appropriately sized cardboard box for the officers! The hawk was affectionately named Eddy by both SFPD and local residents involved in the rescue.

It is important for birds to not damage their feathers during capture, restraint, and captivity, as this can seriously delay or forestall their release. Eddy spent the night resting on a perch, after receiving subcutaneous rehydration fluids. The next morning, Eddy was transferred to Peninsula Humane Society in Burlingame. PHS has rooftop aviaries to provide the specialized care that hawks and other large birds need in order to be rehabilitated.

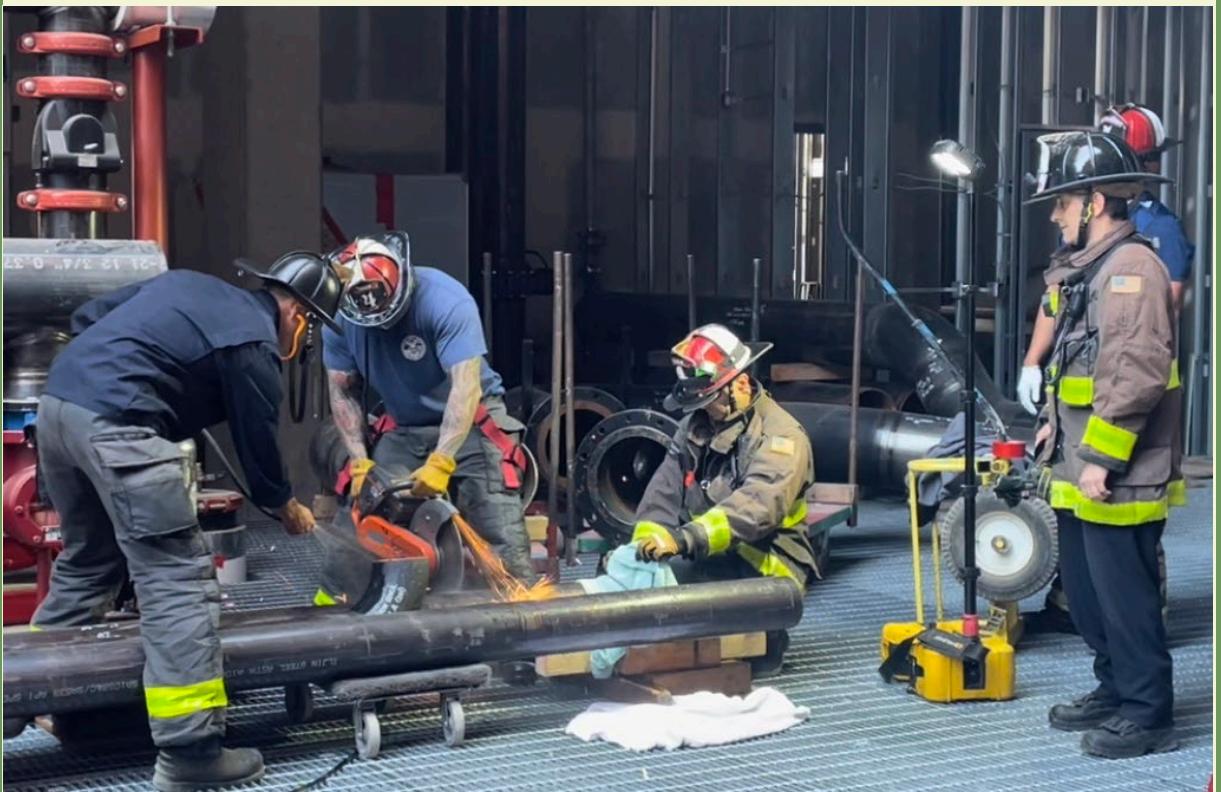
Turns out, after a news article about Eddy, the general public had fallen in love with him too! Yggdrasil was flooded with inquiries on Facebook about the bird. PHS confirmed our diagnosis of head trauma from hitting a window, and let us know that Eddy was actually a female (Edwina) and had recovered enough to be placed in one of PHS's outdoor aviaries to practice flight. We are thrilled by the positive outcome and how fiercely this bird brought together a community not always associated with love and compassion.

Special Thanks to Sylvie for her great work doing emergency intake! And to our Transport Team for getting help for Edwina in the middle of the night and the next day!

Fox in Sox - I mean Pipe!



On the morning of May 7th, our wildlife hotline received a text about a baby fox stuck in a pipe on a SF construction site. I referred them to SFACC, as I work closely with them and have confidence in their abilities to respond and solve these kinds of complex rescue situations. Officer Meagan Clarke responded to the call and, in cooperation with SFFD, they were able to get the fox out of the pipe.



Yggdrasil Wildlife received the fox by Saturday evening, after the Vet staff at SFACC gave emergency fluids. The baby was severely emaciated and dehydrated; also very dirty and covered in oil (they used a whole bottle of baby oil to get her out of the pipe. It took 3 baths to get her clean and oil-free. All those baths also allowed me to thoroughly examine her to find the many abrasions, scrapes and bruises from her ordeal. She was emaciated and dehydrated and covered in superficial wounds, but doing surprisingly well, considering.



On Monday morning, Yggdrasil Wildlife was contacted by a representative from the construction company. Turns out, the pipe she was stuck inside had been shipped recently from a storage yard in Newark, CA. That meant that our fox is a non-endangered native grey fox! We transferred her into the care of the Ohlone Wildlife Center in Newark so she could begin growing healthy and strong with other orphaned grey foxes. She was successfully released back into the wild!

Special Thanks to the Security Guard at the construction site for initially reaching out, to SFACC and SFFD for their amazing rescue. Thank you so much also to our wonderful partners at the OHS Wildlife Rehabilitation Center for picking up her care so she could be returned to her fox family.



FREEDOM
AT LAST!



Wiggle it, just a little bit.



Mr. Wiggles, a 3 month old raccoon, was picked up in the outer sunset district in July (he was extremely friendly, approaching people, and limping). SFACC brought him to Yggdrasil Wildlife and we observed his behavior while quarantining him for distemper. At first we thought he was blind or neurologically affected, but 20:20 hindsight shows that he was just really inexperienced in how to interact with the world.

Over the 3 months he was with us, we learned that he loves other raccoons, but loves humans more! It took us over a month to find a sanctuary willing to take him. The sanctuary Mr. Wiggles was transferred to provided him with his personal palatial bachelor pad; complete with a tree, blackberry brambles, a pool, and his

trusty wheel (which we sent with him). Thank you to Chelsea for transporting him to his new home and taking videos of him exploring his new digs!

About 2 weeks after he arrived at the sanctuary, he escaped his enclosure. Since then, he has been learning how to be a wild raccoon. He lives on a secluded 75 acre property with only the human sanctuary owners to get into mischief with. He returns every night for dinner and a romp in the pool, before going off into the forest. Often, he brings his wild friends with him! Other raccoons, sometimes even foxes!

So, a happy resolution for a raccoon who was found as a baby and not turned in to a wildlife center; resulting in him becoming too habituated to be able to survive in the wild. Funny that he had to travel hundreds of miles to a sanctuary in order to learn how to be free. Good Luck Mr. Wiggles!!!!

Thank you to everyone who loved and cared for him, and helped him find his path.

Yggdrasil SWAG at last!



2022 had so many amazing wildlife tales like Edwina the Hawk and the Fox in a Pipe, but rather than send you a newsletter that would take you all year just to read, I will only post a few highlights:

Opal the Leucistic Opossum



In the Spring, we received a baby leucistic opossum who had just opened her eyes. We stabilized her and added her to our growing group of orphaned babies being tended to by our surrogate mama, Petunia. As Opal grew, we noticed that in comparison to her siblings, she was slower in her movements and awareness. This continued as she grew, and it became clear that she would die quickly if we released her with her adoptive siblings. We started taking her to education events to see how she behaved and reacted. She was so calm and unstressed with humans that she is an ideal candidate to be an education ambassador. Now she is adult and visits classrooms and community centers, teaching amazing facts about opossums to the world! Thank you Opal!



A Banner Year for Hummingbirds

We had so many wonderful hummingbirds come into care this year. Most were orphaned babies, but we also received several elder male hummingbirds who didn't mind lining up at the same table for food as the orphans. The majority of these beautiful birds were able to be released back into the wild. In the case of the elder male in this photo, he spent a while in our nursery aviary with the younglings before graduating to an outdoor aviary; where he was visited daily by wild hummingbirds. Once he was fully recovered and strong, we were able to release him back into the wild! He came back for several months and became the King of our backyard. We look forward to his return from migration, this spring.

Zippy gets a second chance at life!

Sometimes being a "rodent" can be life threatening. The word "rodent" comes from Latin and means "to gnaw". Rodent teeth grow the entire life of the animal. Because of that, they have to gnaw on hard things, like bone, rocks, nut shells, etc. to keep grinding their teeth down. Sometimes the teeth overgrow, like in the case of Zippy. Thank you to everyone who donated to [Zippy's GoFundMe](#) so he could get the dental care he needed to live a long and happy life.



A Christmas Gift

On Christmas Eve, San Francisco Animal Care & Control brought us a very friendly adult fox squirrel wearing a collar!!! The squirrel is habituated to humans, but we feel that with kind re-education through living in a group of other orphaned squirrels, the squirrel will be able to live a normal life in the wild. Good thing she didn't get that collar stuck on a branch!

Please enjoy photos of some of the 721 wildlife animals we helped in 2022





Wild 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 wild mammal is so near-sighted that they can only see 12 in. in front of their nose?
A. Deer B. Skunk C. Raccoon D. Opossum

ANSWERS BELOW

SPECIAL THANKS TO:



Support from
people like YOU!

Pet Food Express's
in-kind donation
program.

SF Animal Care & Control's
in-kind supply donations to
help in emergencies.

Help Wanted:

Yggdrasil has the following volunteer positions available:

- **Intake Team** - Medical/vet-tech experience is helpful, but we will train!
- **Opossum Team Lead** - experience rehabilitating opossums is desired for team leadership.
- **Opossum Foster-To-Forest ReWild Team** - no experience required.
- **Squirrel Infant Foster Care** - no experience required, but always appreciated!
- **Squirrel Foster-To-Forest ReWild Team** - no experience required.

- **Build Team** - help construct and repair outdoor wildlife pre-release enclosures.
- **Transport Team** - help save lives by driving animals and supplies around the Bay Area!
- **Social Media team and REEL Maker!**- We need help getting the word of YUWR out!

Apply here:

VOLUNTEER APPLICATION



We still REALLY
need Eastern Gray
soft-release sites!

Do you have friends with green space in the North Bay, South Bay, San Francisco, San Mateo County, or other areas in Eastern Gray Tree Squirrel territory? We need more Eastern Gray soft-release sites in various Bay Area locations, as we're required to release squirrels within 10 miles of where they were rescued. Please contact Lara if you can help! lara@yuwr.org

We Also REALLY
need OPOSSUM
release Sites!



Do you live near a forest or a creek, far from cars and dogs? We need support stations where we can set up soft-release locations for some of our older adult opossums who need a little extra support when being released into the wild. If you can help, please contact Lila: lila@yuwr.org. Thanks!



PLEASE DONATE

We are 100% Volunteer-Run and Donation-Funded

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1. **(C) Squirrels see in Full Color Vision.** 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.** 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 infected with rabies has been because the opossum had a fever that raised its body temperature to the necessary 98 degrees! Remember that although opossums drool, it is because they are scared of you and their defense mechanism is to look unappealing. They are actually very beneficial to our environment- eating mice, rats, slugs, ticks, 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, which causes them to spray. A skunk has a limited amount of spray and they need to save it for life-threatening situations. If you see a skunk about to cross your path, 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. The same is true for when you let your dog into your yard at night. To avoid your dog getting sprayed, turn on the lights and make some noise before

letting your dog out. 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 neutralize the chemical reaction that is making the smell. To do this, use this recipe:

1 quart of 3% hydrogen peroxide
1/4 cup baking soda
1 teaspoon dawn dish soap

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