



MR. MUSKRAT MAKING STRIDES

At the *Evelyn Alexander Wildlife Rescue Center*, we get many different species of animals coming through our doors. Perhaps one of the more unusual creatures we currently have is the muskrat. Muskrats are small, semi-aquatic rodents that have very soft fur and leathery, rat-like tails. Their appearance and musky smell are the traits that contribute to their name. They typically inhabit areas near water bodies, such as lakes and streams.



However, the little muskrat that is in our hospital, as of this writing, strayed from his aquatic home. On November 16, 2017, he was found at Joe's Garage and Grill in Riverhead. He was brought to the Center by a volunteer because he appeared unable to use his left hind leg. The injury was most likely caused from being hit by a vehicle. EAWRC staff member, Staci Earl suspected a fracture to the distal fibula and tibia bones within the injured leg. Staci administered pain medications to the muskrat and stabilized his leg with a Robert Jones wrap, a type of bandage comprised of multiple layers of padding to immobilize and protect the leg from further trauma.

X-rays were taken of the muskrat's leg by staff veterinary technician, Valerie Van Houten-Hausch. The images showed not one, but three fractures within his leg. The only hope for the muskrat to recover from such injuries would be to undergo surgery. Emails were sent to local veterinarians to see if anyone could potentially save his leg. Dr. Claude Grosjean at the Olde Towne Animal Hospital in Southampton volunteered to perform the surgery. A pin was inserted into the leg to line up the bones as best as the doctor could. Antibiotics were also administered to prevent infection from developing post-surgery.

In the weeks following surgery, it was apparent that the muskrat was still not using his left hind leg. He was plenty active, eating and making a mess of his cage, but dragging the fractured leg behind him. A second surgery was performed by Dr. Grosjean in January 2018 to shorten the pin in his leg. The pin had been protruding into the knee joint, preventing the full use of the joint.

Since the second surgery, the muskrat has been making great progress with his leg. He is now able to use it and is slowly regaining strength. He gets to swim daily in a shallow bath as part of a physical therapy regimen. We hope that he continues to make great strides towards a successful recovery!

-Danielle Sheehan



FUN FACTS ABOUT MUSKRATS

- Muskrats can hold their breath for up to 20 minutes and swim at speeds of 3 mph
- They measure 18-25 inches, including their 8-11 inch tail, much smaller than beavers
- Their lips act as valves, closing *behind* their front incisors, for gnawing underwater
- Muskrats play important ecological roles because their eating and denning habits create flat nesting areas for certain birds





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Evelyn Alexander

Wildlife Rescue Center

631-728-WILD (9453)
228 W. Montauk Highway
Hampton Bays, NY 11946
info@wildliferescuecenter.org
www.wildliferescuecenter.org

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The Evelyn Alexander Wildlife Rescue Center Hospital is located at Munn's Pond County Park through a cooperative agreement with Suffolk County Department of Parks, Recreation and Conservation and the EAWRC, a private, non-profit environmental group. A financial report is on file with the NYS Attorney General, 120 Broadway NY, NY and on the web at www.charitiesnys.org



A MESSAGE FROM GINNIE

As we enter into the long winter season, I would like to reflect on what we've accomplished as we are in our 21st year of non-profit incorporation. During this time, we have expanded our annual intake of wildlife from 300 animals a year to over 1,500 animals a year. We have two built-in swimming pools that drain from the bottom for our numerous waterfowl patients – ducks, swans, geese. We have built a state-of-the-art bird of prey flight conditioning enclosure, allowing our injured birds of prey to exercise their broken wings before they venture back out into the wild. We built a wonderful static display caging complex where animals that cannot be released due to their injuries, stay with us with proper permits for the public to view. We instituted an education program whereby we bring some of these animals into schools, libraries and other civic groups, teaching people how they got injured, how they could prevent injuries to wildlife, and how to make environmentally responsible choices in their lives. With the kindness of supporters, we were able to purchase a digital x-ray processor, a long-range net gun for animal capture, a wildlife ambulance and many other things needed to effectively run a wildlife rehabilitation center.



On a personal level, after months of letter-writing and advocating, I was able to finally obtain local County permission to rehabilitate rabies vector species such as raccoons and to advocate strongly against cruel euthanasia methods used by local law enforcement agencies before we were permitted to accept them for rehabilitation. In 2012, I joined the Board of Directors of the N.Y.S. Wildlife Rehabilitation Council and am now charged with helping to set up annual seminars to train new wildlife rehabilitators and other animal care professionals in all wildlife care issues.

I am always encouraged when letters and donations come in after we send out one of our newsletters. These donations make a huge difference in helping us with our yearly operating expenses. It seems each year, the expenses grow more and more – while it is more and more difficult to obtain funding. As we become more well known, people turn to us for help with animals from the entirety of Suffolk County when our initial focus was to serve the East End of Long Island. At certain times of the year, every cage is full; yet we are reluctant to turn away an animal needing help. We are constantly striving for new fundraising ideas, and actively seeking new Board members who can help us raise the funds so desperately needed to maintain our facility.

On another sad note, our lawsuit against the N.Y.S. Department of Environmental Conservation was unsuccessful. They have amended our license conditions whereby we can only possess adult deer for 48 hours and then must make the painful choice to release before they are ready or euthanize. Both of these choices are unacceptable to us as we do not believe in discriminating against any species of native wildlife merely because they are considered a nuisance to some. The animals have been hurt through no fault of their own and deserve a second chance at life that we are trained and capable to give them. If you feel as upset about this as we do, please contact NYSDEC Commissioner Basil Seggos at basil.seggos@dec.ny.gov.

-Virginia Frati, Executive Director



Visit our education animals in their new home, the Jane Dale Owen Memorial Aviary.

STORIES FROM THE CENTER...

STRANGER THINGS

...at EAWRC

Occasionally, some odd and regionally unusual patients find their way to the Center during the cold Long Island winters. Here are few we have treated in recent years.



BROWN PELICAN

Pelicans are regularly found from Maryland south through Brazil on the east coast but are seen as far north as Canada. In recent years, they have appeared seasonally in small numbers on Eastern Long Island. Every so often, they arrive with hurricanes and north-moving winter storms, weak, malnourished and cold.



NORTHERN FULMAR

The size of small gulls, fulmars feed on squid, shrimp and fish and can live up to 40 years in the wild. Mainly found in the open waters of the North Pacific and North Atlantic Oceans, they have a salt gland above their nasal passage that helps desalinate their bodies because they ingest large amounts of sea water.



ATLANTIC PUFFIN

"Sea parrots" stand at 13 inches, weigh just over 1lb and live in the open Northern Atlantic waters. Puffins can dive 200 ft and fly 55 mph. They mate for life and come to the coast only to reproduce. Feeding on herring and sand eels, spines in their upper beaks allow them to carry multiple fish at once.



DOVEKIE

Dovekies are the smallest auk at 9 inches, 6 oz and found farthest north, near the polar cap in summer and Arctic and Northern Atlantic in winter. Living socially in gregarious flocks, dovekies are skilled divers, fast fliers and deftly navigate the icy, rocky terrain of the far North.



SIGNS & SHIRTS

631-353-3636 ron@anicesign.com

Thank you to Ron and everyone at Fisher Signs for the beautiful design work and lettering of the EAWRC Van. We are thrilled with the results!

From the Mailbag...



I am in awe of what you guys do everyday and how much you dedicate to helping these animals.

S.F., NY

...thanks for all you do for our furred, feathered, finned and scaled brothers and sisters.

J. & J. N., NY

Thank you for picking up the swan at Otter Pond. Hopefully it'll have a chance now.

D.S., Bridgehampton, NY

Thank you for everything you do for our beautiful wildlife on the East End. We are so lucky to have a Rescue Center in the Hamptons.

C.P., Flanders, NY

Memorials

Lou Arroyo
 Richard W. Carter
 Josephine Faller
 Spencer and Kit Breault-Hoppe
 Suzanne Obser
 Bekki Shires
 Holly Wilson-Camhi
 Russell Bird
 Barbara Lutz
 Nan S. Mason
 Hunter Wolff
 Barbara Lee Walker
 Eva Stern
 Patrick Nydegger
 Paul Egrie
 Helene B. Stevens
 Don Spates
 Simon Laufgas
 Walter Bihajlo
 "Jack"
 Bitsy and Bear
 Midnight

THANKS TO OUR VOLUNTEERS AND STAFF!



Champion of the Wild 2017

Congratulations to Rescue/Transport Volunteer, **KELLY GANG**. When an animal is in distress, we can count on Kelly to respond. She has donated countless hours to the Center over many years. Her field assessment and animal handling skills are invaluable. Thanks Kelly!

Supporter of the Quarter

FRED OBSER for his generosity in memory of his daughter, a beloved supporter of the Center, **Suzanne Obser**. His gift will allow renovations, restructuring, and updating of the hospital exam room, greatly advancing patient care, to be named in honor of Suzanne.

VETERINARIANS FOR WILDLIFE

Dr. Karen Johnston

Hampton Veterinary Hospital, Speonk

Dr. Johnston graciously donated her avian expertise in caring for a critically ill Canada Goose.

Dr. Claude Grosjean

Olde Towne Animal Hospital, Southampton

Dr. Grosjean generously donated his surgical skills and follow-up care to give a second chance to a muskrat with a fractured leg.

THANKSGIVING CHRISTMAS NEW YEARS DAY

Thank you to our devoted staff and volunteers who cared for the animals during the holidays!

STAFF:

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Shayna Carter
Danielle Sheehan
Lynn Athans
Ginnie Frati

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Carol Lozano
Denis Carpenter

STAFF:

Shayna Carter
Danielle Sheehan
Adrienne Gillespie

VOLUNTEERS:
Bonnie Cain
Susan Siegel

STAFF:

Danielle Sheehan
Adrienne Gillespie
Lynn Athans
Ginnie Frati

VOLUNTEERS:
Bonnie Cain
Theresa Dietrich
Susan Siegel

A BIG THANK YOU TO THE PEOPLE WHO ASSISTED US LAST QUARTER!

RESCUE/TRANSPORT VOLUNTEERS: *Jan Accordino, Laurie Anderson, Lynn Athans, Marisa Bastin, Lee Blindenhofer, Jennifer Brown, Theresa Cahill, Jeanette Caputo, John Cerrato, Doree Cohen, Michael and Robin Colapietro, Maureen Drew, Angelina Dickinson, Keith Douglas, Janice Eaton, John Fabry, Jackie Farris, Susan and Carl Ferrigno, Tammy Flannell, Jodie Flynn, Kelly Gang, Jane Gill, Molly Ginae, Priscilla Hoffert, Michelle Jansson, Lenny Kalmar, Leslie Kappel, Allison Landon, Noreen LeCann, Karen Lombardo, Dion Lowery, Jim MacDougall, John Mark, Mike Martinsen, Kyle McCaskie, Michael Quigley, Tommy Ratcliffe, Marina Sabatacakis, Susan Shepherd, Tom and Christina Sposato, Susan Stout, Ethel Sussman, Michele and Steve Tarolli, Louis Visconti, Nicole Wallace, Gina Webster, John Whitney*

SPECIAL THANKS once again to the Life Skills Academy students at Hampton Bays High School for their assistance with our newsletter.

SPECIAL THANKS to Rob Essay and R. Essay Plumbing and East End Backflow for donating their services and conducting our annual domestic RPZ test.

SPECIAL THANKS to Jim and Frank at Wild By Nature in Hampton Bays for supplying us with produce almost every day for our recuperating wild patients.

HOSPITAL/EDUCATION VOLUNTEERS: *Laura Baldino, Nancy Beardslee, Bonnie Cain Doria Canino, Denis Carpenter, Alison Coffey, Toni-Lea Corwin, Susan Coseglio, Nicole Culmone, Alyssa Cummo, Angelina Dickinson, Theresa Dietrich, Jackie Farris, Tammy Flannell, Bette Lou Fletcher, Jodie Flynn, Jane Gill, Caroline Greenburg, Lilly Griffin, Laura Gundersen, Hannah Immerman, Jill Janiel, Nancy Johnson, Kendra Kunzer, Denise LeBeau, Kyra Leonardi, Carol Lozano, Jim and Cheryl MacDougall, Christina MacDougall, Gina Martin, Martin McGuire, Eileen Miller, Sharon Nelson, Marissa Pfeiffer, Patricio Pulla, Xylia Serafy, Susan Siegel, Cathleen Springer, Sue Vaughan, Claudia Velasquez, Judi Wade, Karen Weber, Freddi Whitall*

COOPERATING VETERINARIANS: *Dr. Jennifer Katz, Dr. Jonathan Turetsky and Dr. Eva Cohen from the Veterinary Clinic of East Hampton; Dr. Justin Molnar of Shinnecock Animal Hospital; Dr. Gal Vatash and Dr. Robin Jeager of East End Veterinary Emergency Center; Dr. Robert Pisciotta of North Fork Animal Hospital, Dr. Karen Johnston of Hampton Veterinary Hospital, Dr. Claude Grosjean of Olde Towne Animal Hospital, Dr. John Andresen of Mattituck-Laurel Veterinary Hospital, and Dr. Jonathan Mehltrose and Dr. Noelle LeCroix of Veterinary Medical Center of Long Island.*

SPECIAL THANKS to Bob Eisenberg of East End Blueprint in Watermill for donating the printing of our newsletter.



GET INVOLVED

VOLUNTEERS NEEDED

- *hospital help
- *fundraising and events
- *rescuing animals in the field

RESCUE TRANSPORT CLASSES

Learn how to safely handle sick, injured and orphaned animals in this free one-hour class given monthly.

CHECK OUR WEBSITE FOR UPCOMING CLASS DATES AND APPLICATIONS!

www.wildliferescuecenter.org

Victoria's Corner



Hi everyone, my name is Victoria Bonavita. I'm an animal educator and journalist. I also act as an Ambassador for Pets and Wildlife. I was first introduced to the Evelyn Alexander Wildlife Rescue Center when filming a special for My Long Island TV. During my visit, I was fortunate to get a behind the scenes tour of the facility guided by Jim Hunter. Jim sits on the Board of Directors and is one of the nicest people you could ever hope to meet.

It was amazing to see all the incredible work being done at the Center. The dedicated team of volunteers all work very hard, but they love what they do. I was surprised to find out that they are Eastern Long Island's ONLY Wildlife Rescue hospital, which keeps them very busy. When I was there, they had over 100 animals being cared for.

Since my first encounter with the Wildlife Rescue Center, I've attended some of their exciting fundraisers. There I met Beth Stern, who is a huge supporter of the Center. Beth recently took the Animal Rescue Transport Class, and now she and Howard transport the injured wildlife themselves. After the animals have been rehabilitated, she returns to release them back into the wild. At another event, I met Ralph Macchio, who is another big supporter. He told me the Wildlife Center was an organization dear to his heart, and that he was happy to be able to help those who do the "tireless work".

To learn more, or to volunteer or donate, please visit WildlifeRescueCenter.org.

Victoria's Fun Facts and Tips:

- At the Center, baby birds get fed every 20 minutes during daylight hours.
- A turtle's shell is like a bone. If the cracked pieces are put back together, it will heal.
- Due to lack of space, ducks sometimes lay their eggs near pools, because it looks like a natural pond.
- If you can approach wildlife without them running away, then something is wrong.
- You can find more information about me by going to VictoriasAmazingWorld.com

You can see my Amazing Tour of the Rescue Center, as well as my interview with Beth Stern and Ralph Macchio, by visiting www.WildlifeRescueCenter.org.



Male Baltimore Oriole presented with a fractured wing. He is non-releasable and will be placed with the El Paso Zoo in their aviary.



Eastern Cottontail, hit by a car, with a fractured eye socket and hairline fracture to its right foreleg, recovers in the hospital, awaiting release.

EAWRC DAILY NEEDS

- Bleach
- Epsom Salts
- HE Detergent (unscented)
- Dry Dog/Cat Food (no dyes or colors)
- Dawn dish soap
- Paper Towels
- Gift Cards (gas, grocery, Petco, etc.)

Thank you to all who have donated...please continue to help support our wild patients' needs!

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Richard F. Nydegger

Senior Vice President - Financial Advisor
631-723-4142 - Richard.nydegger@rbc.com

Brian Nydegger, AWM

Senior Vice President - Financial Advisor
631-723-4143 - Brian.nydegger@rbc.com

Corinne Heaney

Branch Service Manager - Sr. Registered Client Associate
631-723-4156 - Corinne.heaney@rbc.com

Christopher Drew

Registered Client Associate
631-723-414 - Christopher.drew@rbc.com

William C. Glover

Client Associate
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Our Education Family

CLOUD
Red-Tailed Hawk
Buteo jamaicensis
Male



Cloud was found in East Hampton, NY on June 25, 2013 with deep lacerations to the left hock joint and both wings. He suffered a ruptured air sac and trauma to his right eye as well. His injuries resulted in permanent damage.

After treatment and rehabilitation, he was transferred to the Raptor Trust in New Jersey for hunt testing but sadly he failed. In late spring 2014, he returned to EAWRC and began training for our education program.

Hibernate, Migrate, or Adapt?

Sort the animals into the chart. During the winter, does each animal hibernate, migrate or adapt?

HIBERNATE	MIGRATE	ADAPT
<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>

- | | | |
|-----------------------|----------------------|----------------------|
| 1. Corn Snake | 5. White-tailed Deer | 11. Mute Swan |
| 2. Eastern Cottontail | 6. Osprey | 12. Woodchuck |
| 3. Monarch Butterfly | 7. Barn Swallow | 13. Baltimore Oriole |
| 4. Eastern Box Turtle | 8. Skunk | 14. Eastern Chipmunk |
| | 9. Gray Squirrel | 15. Hummingbird |
| | 10. Red Fox | |

WHOO'S WHOOOO...

At the Winter Feeder



Northern Cardinal
Males and females of this striking bird can both sing



Black-capped Chickadee
Tiny food hoarders that can remember 1000s of hiding places



Tufted Titmouse
Pluck hair from woodchucks, squirrels, opossums and even humans to make their nest



White-Breasted Nuthatch
Can descend tree trunks head first and hang upside down on branches



Woodpeckers
Downy woodpeckers are the smallest in North America and Red-bellied have an orange belly and a small red cap on their heads



Dark-eyed Junco
Flash their white tail feathers to alert the flock of nearby danger



Students at the Ross Lower School enjoyed learning about the Center and meeting our animals.



Did you know that we offer Education Programs and can tailor them for your event? Contact us for information on EAWRC coming to your school, library, or event!

Answer Key

Hibernate	Migrate	Adapt
1, 4, 8, 12, 14	3, 6, 7, 13, 15	2, 5, 9, 10, 11



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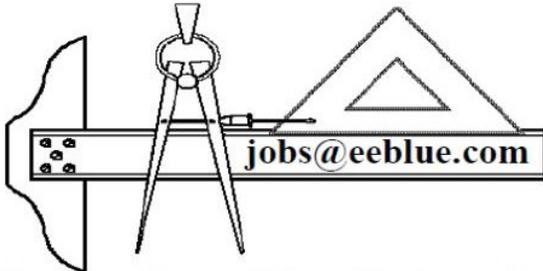


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