Dear Friends,

Based on our 2022 admission statistics to-date, we are bracing for what could be our busiest Baby Season in years - perhaps our busiest ever!

Although our amazing clinic team is well-trained, passionate, and ready for the physical work ahead, we are very concerned about the rising costs of everything we will need to purchase in order to provide high-quality, species-specific, and life-saving care to all of our wildlife patients (babies, juveniles, and adults) in the months ahead.

Our handmade “baby” formulas - and our meals for juvenile and adult patients - include fresh, perishable ingredients we must purchase at grocery stores. Some patients require diets of fresh fish or live insects requiring special shipping. Upkeep of our enclosures requires hardware and building supplies. We need fuel to transport healthy animals for releases back to the wild (sometimes a one-hour drive back to where they were found). Antibiotics and other medications are essential. The list goes on.

As you have seen in the news, each of these things costs more today than last year and some are harder to find. With sky high admissions, we will need to purchase more of these things than we did last year and the year prior. The financial impact could be devastating to us and our patients. Even the small donation envelopes we usually send with this publication were unavailable due to supply chain issues, so we are using larger ones.

We hope that you will keep all of this in mind as you enjoy this Baby Season edition of our newsletter. Your generous gifts, combined with our expert and loving care, are needed to save precious animal lives so that they may return to their intended roles in nature - and that is what our core mission is all about.

We appreciate you and the opportunity to serve wildlife as only Second Chance can,

The Second Chance Wildlife Center Team
A mother opossum’s pouch can hold up to 13 nursing babies, and the pouch is so protective that many times her babies will survive even if she has been killed by the impact of a car. When large groups of orphaned babies arrive at SCWC, our team must divide into numerous teams to examine and treat each as quickly as possible. Remember, opossums eat thousands of ticks in our backyards and favorite outdoor locations - without carrying Lyme disease themselves. Thank you, opossums!

Our first baby bird of the year, this House Finch, arrived April 13th. When not resting safe and warm in one of our incubators, young birds are being fed by hand, examined and weighed, and provided with medications and hydrating fluids, if needed. Fresh formula is made throughout each day using ingredients as close as possible to what they would receive in nature. Each animal in our care has its own medical records so that any trained member of our team can track patient progress and provide the exact care needed at any time - this is important because we are open 365 days a year and staff works in staggered shifts.

Please DO NOT KIDNAP fawns. Mother deer leave their young in spaces they feel are safe while mom goes out in search of food - sometimes for hours. Fawns instinctively stay still and quiet to avoid attracting predators. If you scare a fawn, it might run into traffic or become prey. If you needlessly carry it away from its hiding place, you might be forever separating a baby from its mother. Observe from a distance and keep pets and children away. When in doubt, give us a call at 301-926-9453.
A rare Second Chance patient! **We admitted this melanistic (almost completely black) baby cottontail rabbit in April.** When both parents carry the melanin gene, the greater the possibility of a black rabbit like this one - which was also the only survivor in its nest.

If you enjoy a seafood dinner, you will know how expensive seafood is today. Your donations enable us to purchase live crustaceans and fish (and insects) that are the natural food of many of our patients! It is important for patients to see their food “wiggle” in order to stimulate their appetites and for them to practice catching moving food on their own.

These young squirrels are calm and content while sleeping, but you should see them when they wake up hungry! Now, imagine dozens waking up at the same time throughout our facility demanding formula. Of course, we are happy to oblige with frequent feedings of fresh and nutritious formula, and we experience great joy watching them grow and thrive until ready for release.

Follow us on Facebook for photos, videos and more: www.Facebook.com/SCWC.org
I found a **BABY BIRD**. What should I do?

**Is the bird hurt or sick?** (unable to flutter wings, bleeding, wings drooping unevenly, shivering, has flies on it; attacked by cat/dog?)

**NO**

**Is the bird feathered?**

**NO**

**It's a nestling (needs help). Can you find the nest? Is it intact?**

**NO**

Make a substitute nest. Poke holes in bottom of berry basket/margarine tub, line with dry grass/the old nest/pine needles. Hang on original or nearby tree.

**YES**

Put baby back in nest. Watch from a distance. Are parents visiting nest?

**YES**

Put baby back in nest. Watch from a distance. Are parents visiting nest?

**NO**

Leave the area. Baby is OK.

Call a wildlife rehabilitator

**I found a BABY MAMMAL.** What should I do?

**Is the baby animal hurt or sick?** (bleeding, shivering, vomiting, has flies on it; was attacked by a cat/dog)

**YES**

Call Second Chance Wildlife Center, visit our website for helpful information (www.SCWC.org), or find another licensed rehabilitator on the Maryland Department of Natural Resources Website (www.dnr.maryland.gov). If unable to reach a rehabilitator, try calling your county Animal Services division.

**NO**

Can you find the nest/den or den? Is it intact?

**YES**

Place baby in nest/den.

**NO**

Place baby in shallow box (with no top) close to where it was found. Keep it warm but out of the sun.

Watch for mother for 4-6 hours. Stay completely out of sight. Mothers won’t return if any people or pets are present.

**Did the Mother Return?**

**YES**

Found a baby duck or baby goose? If mother is dead or baby is injured, call us or another wildlife rehabilitator.

If baby is separated from mom and you know where mom is, place baby close by and watch from a distance. If mom does not claim baby in 1 hour, call us or another wildlife rehabilitator.

**NO**

Leave the area. Baby is OK.

Call a wildlife rehabilitator.

Special instructions:
Fawns: Mother deer normally leave their babies while they go off to feed. If the fawn looks cold, hungry, hurt, or its safety is threatened, call a wildlife rehabilitator. Otherwise, leave the baby alone and leave the area. Mother will return if people or pets are present.

Baby Bunnies: If you find baby bunnies, that are 4-5 inches long, able to hop, with eyes open and ears up, they do not need help. Leave them alone. If the nest has been damaged it can be repaired. Look for a shallow depression lined with grass/straw. Place bunnies in nest with light layers of grass to hide them. Leave the area. Mothers usually return only at dawn and dusk.