



Second Stories

SECOND CHANCE WILDLIFE CENTER'S NEWSLETTER MAY / JUN 2023

Dear Friends of Second Chance -

A beautiful Tundra Swan was brought to Second Chance recently after being found entangled in fishing line attached to a post in Crownsville, MD. The swan was weak, had some blood on its wings and mouth, and had a notable injury to one eye. Unfortunately, this gorgeous creature had trauma to the brain as well as the eye, and it soon passed away.

This is yet another example of how a patient brought to us might seemingly have only minor injuries (or no apparent injury at all) while it is actually suffering from an internal injury or illness that can be very serious or even deadly. Explaining this to the public is often one of our more challenging tasks. For example, did you know that cat saliva can be lethal to baby rabbits and other small animals and requires immediate treatment with antibiotics? Or, that cottontails are such highly stressed animals and that they can die of fright and stress? Any baby rabbit that has been in a cat's mouth needs to be handled minimally, kept in a dark, quiet box, and taken to a licensed rehabilitator as soon as possible with as little noise as possible (even a car radio being on during transport can be a stressor). Cottontails have been known to go into shock when scared by predators, people, and loud noises – essentially having a heart attack - so great care must also be taken when rescuing juvenile and adult rabbits, too.

We at Second Chance are incredibly fortunate to have highly trained team members who know what to look for, and to have loyal supporters that provide us with the funding needed for x-ray equipment, blood test kits, and other medical equipment to reveal internal injuries, poisoning, shock, and more. These timely on-site tests are critical to the survival of many patients. Thank you!

Although our team was heartbroken that the gorgeous Tundra Swan passed away from its injury, we take comfort knowing that we gave it loving and compassionate care in its final hours. We are also very grateful to the person who saw the swan in distress and immediately notified the Maryland Department of Natural Resources, who then transported it to SCWC knowing that we would provide it with the best opportunity for a second chance.

The case of this Tundra Swan also serves as a reminder to all to avoid carelessly discarding using materials in which wildlife can become entangled. It's a simple effort we all can make to help our wildlife neighbors.

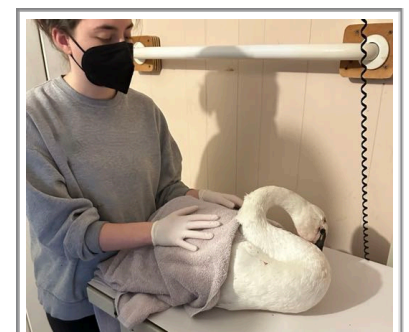
Please consider a gift to Second Chance today to help ensure that we can continue to provide the highest level of care to our wildlife patients. Thank you .



Keeping the patient still and stable, and providing neck support prior to exam



The examination begins



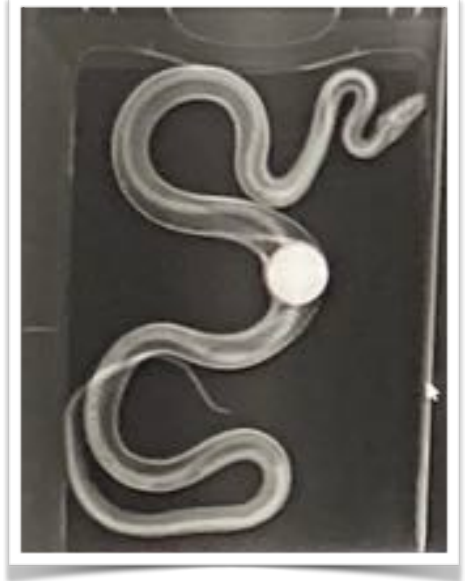
On the x-ray table

Golf Balls Can Be Dangerous for Wildlife

This female Black Rat Snake was admitted with a bulge in its stomach that our in-house x-rays revealed to be a golf ball. Black Rat Snakes frequently eat eggs - unfortunately, our patient found this golf ball in a chicken's nest and ate it, believing to be food.

While that surgical site healed extremely well and with little trouble, another wound on the her body was much more complicated to treat. Because the wound was in an area where a lot of movement and tension is put on the skin, it had to be re-sutured several times. During the recovery period, she developed a parasitic infection. It is common in rehab for animals to come in with sub-clinical (meaning mild and not currently harmful) parasite infections, but the stress of injuries and strain that healing puts on their bodies can often allow these parasites to become harmful.

The team worked tirelessly to treat this difficult infection, while continuing to manage her wounds and provide supportive nutritional care through tube feeding. Through persistent and skilled care over the course of 239 days, the infection was successfully treated and the wounds finally healed, however it left her with a deformity. Along with the expertise of our veterinarians and reptile rehabilitators, we enlisted the advice of several other reptile veterinarians and experts. The conclusion was made that this deformity would prevent her from swallowing some of her prey, and likely result in chronic pain. Though it is always difficult for our team to euthanize an animal, we must always put our patient's well-being before our personal feelings.



X-rays revealed a golf ball



The snake shedding



A Fish Crow was admitted to SCWC after an observer saw it fall from a tree near an active driving range and found it on the ground near a golf ball. Unfortunately, tests revealed a ruptured eye and the bird was humanely euthanized.

While some may question why we publish stories about animals that never recover, we view these as important teachable moments. It is our sincere hope that we will save more animals from suffering and death by making people aware of these hazards and of the deadly consequences of human behavior.

Baby Season 2023 is Here!

Injured, ill, and orphaned baby animals are already arriving at SCWC at a steady pace, and every year we know that patient admissions will continue to grow until Baby Season winds down in October. By supporting SCWC today, you are enabling us to provide the species-specific foods, medications, shelters, and expert care these babies need for a second chance at life back in the wild.



Baby opossums brought to SCWC are often found in the pouch of their deceased mothers after the mothers are hit by cars. Many are still attached to their mother's nipples and there are sometimes up to 13 babies in a pouch.



This adorable baby chipmunk is being hand-fed a specially prepared formula through a syringe. During our busy months, by the time all of our baby mammals are fed in Round 1, it is time for Round 2 (and then 3, 4 ...).



This fluffy fellow is a young Black Vulture that stole our hearts. Best of all, when it healed, we were able to find an adult pair in the wild that accepted it as their own!



These adorable orphaned baby Robins were found in a nest on the ground last year (with no parents in sight for an entire day). They thrived in SCWC care and were eventually released. Perhaps one of them is now an adult Robin in your yard today!

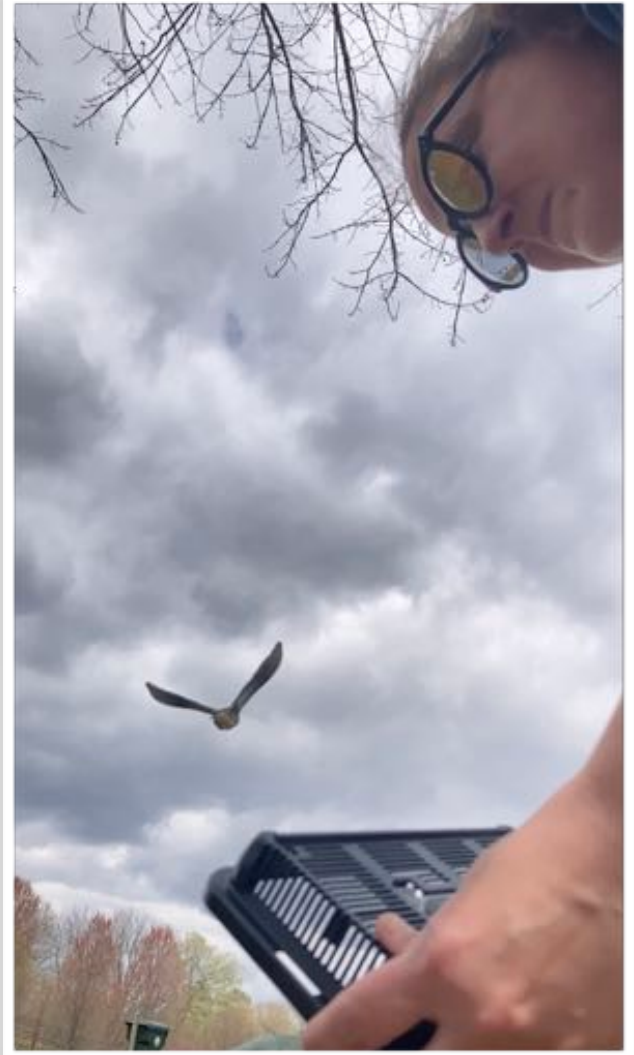
Releasing Healthy Animals Back to the Wild!



A well-camouflaged Virginia Opossum - just released after weeks of care at SCWC - immediately dashed to a tree for safety and, perhaps, for a birds-eye view of his surroundings to determine his next steps for a second chance in the wild.



This 25 pound Snapping Turtle was found under a bridge with blood in its mouth. Though it wasn't clear how he got the injury, our veterinarians were able to sedate him so they could safely clean and treat the wound in his mouth. Over time, he healed well and was released back in the lake where he was found.



This adult male American Goldfinch was found in a Germantown yard behaving oddly and with swollen and enflamed eyes. We diagnosed it as having an infection called Mycoplasma. After 42 days of antibiotics, care, and treatment, he was healthy and was released back where he was found.

