

Second Stories

SECOND CHANCE WILDLIFE CENTER'S NEWSLETTER

MAY/JUNE 2024

Dear Friends of Second Chance -

Baby Season 2024 is underway and our beloved Virtual Wildlife Baby Shower is back! Each May, this annual campaign provides us with a special opportunity to educate people about our most vulnerable patients and the unique needs of different species in our care. We do so in this newsletter, on our website, in emails, presentations, and on our popular Facebook and Instagram accounts. Our website and social media accounts are also year-round resources for what to do if you come across a wildlife baby in need.

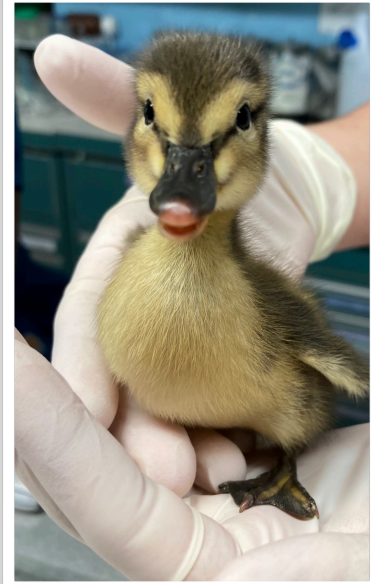
Although we make well-educated estimates as to how many total wildlife babies we might be caring for each season (March through October), the actual numbers can fluctuate greatly from week to week or month to month. **Most of the formulas, fresh foods, live insects, and medications for our babies are perishable and can't be bought in bulk and stored long-term for later use.** They must be purchased and prepared on demand.

With our new, much larger facility currently on schedule to open before the end of 2024 (see photos of our exciting progress on page 4), we are focused on meeting our needs for this year while also increasing our operational funding and reserves to provide care for more patients once we move, to replace aging equipment and refurbished appliances instead of bringing them with us, and to be prepared for unexpected expenses that might arise despite our extensive planning and research. If you have ever moved to a new home or business site, you probably agree that we should expect the unexpected. In our case, animal lives are on the line and we need funds on hand to address critical needs immediately.

Thanks to a generous supporter, all unrestricted gifts made to SCWC during this Baby Shower campaign qualify for our Million Dollar Match - essentially doubling the impact of each gift you make. In fact, from now through December 31, 2024, each unrestricted donation made to Second Chance Wildlife Center will be matched dollar-for-dollar up to ONE MILLION DOLLARS.

We hope that you enjoy this issue of our newsletter and that you will join our social media community for more great SCWC content and for frequent updates on our new facility.

Facebook: www.Facebook.com/SCWC.org
Instagram: [@SecondChanceWildlifeCenter](https://www.Instagram.com/SecondChanceWildlifeCenter)



Ducklings have many special care requirements. We provide fresh food for young ducklings every two to three hours and access to clean wet and dry enclosures all day - all while taking care to ensure they learn natural behaviors from other ducks and do not imprint on humans.



Before they can grip and sit upright like this one, many of the orphaned baby birds we admit require time in expensive incubators to continue developing, and hourly feedings.

Donate online today at www.SCWC.org or help us avoid service fees with a check mailed to:
Second Chance Wildlife Center 7101 Barcellona Dr, Gaithersburg, MD 20879

BABY SEASON 2024 IS HERE!

Injured, ill, and orphaned baby animals are arriving at SCWC at a steady pace. Not many people realize that different animal babies can require dramatically different care and feeding. We think you will find the information that follows interesting and informative, and we ask you to keep in mind that the SCWC team must manage all of these different needs *simultaneously* every single day from now through October.



Special Rabbit milk formula must be supplemented with additional probiotics for best success. And, baby cottontails require specialized feeding at dawn and dusk to mimic their mother's care. We provide these morning and night feedings daily for about six months a year.



Baby Mourning Doves are hand-fed for weeks before they are old enough to eat on their own. Young individuals must be tube-fed every few hours before being weaned and transitioned to a seed-based diet. Even once they begin eating seeds, many require a special hand-feeding method that replicates their mother's feeding behaviors before they learn to eat on their own.



Squirrels are some of our most labor-intensive patients and they are also some of our most numerous. Young squirrels require feeding every two hours up to seven times a day to ensure they meet their nutritional needs! Our team is on a constant rotation of squirrel feeding, cage maintenance, and treatments all spring.



Opossums are opportunistic and their wild diet is extremely diverse. Our Clinic Staff prepares an opossum diet fresh daily that includes over half a dozen ingredients such as fresh produce items and numerous forms of protein. We also make sure to regularly change our recipe, to ensure our patients never get bored! Fresh (perishable) produce must be restocked regularly and will not last if bought in bulk.



Chimney swifts may be our most unique bird patients! These amazing birds cling to the inner walls of chimneys and hollow trees for their entire juvenile life, until they are old enough to fly and catch prey on their own. Our team must hand-feed them a house-made high protein diet EVERY HOUR from morning to night, while ensuring they have a safe enclosure with vertical surfaces to grip.



Have you ever seen an owl in MD? All of Maryland's native owls like to remain high in the forest canopy hidden from view, but each spring we receive young owls that are found on the ground having fallen from their nest - like this very young Barred Owl. Fortunately, as long as owlets are deemed healthy by a licensed rehabilitator, oftentimes they can be successfully reunited with their parents! Owls are fiercely protective of their young, and will continue to care for them when reunited properly. As rehabilitators we love to care for all wildlife, but we are even happier when we can return a wild animal to be raised by their parents in the wild!



Our baby shower wouldn't be complete without an amazing mother! Have you ever seen a turtle crossing the road? Female turtles seek high, dry ground for potential nesting. Sadly, many of these gravid (egg-bearing) mothers are hit by cars in their search for nesting sites. If they survive, they require surgical repair and long-term care for their wounds. If you do find one in the road, keep an eye on traffic and, when it is safe to do so, gently and carefully move her across the road in the direction she is facing.

NEW FACILITY UPDATE



Progress continues on our future home in Clarksburg, Maryland. The photos below are from early April 2024 and show our main clinic building (which is nearly 3 times the size of our current, rented farmhouse). While work on the building continues, work should begin soon on the outdoor acclimation enclosures. At this time, we remain on target for opening before the end of 2024. The dream of SCWC's founder, Chris Montuori, and all who have ever been part of Second Chance Wildlife Center, is finally coming true. From the bottom of our hearts, thank you.

If you are interested in having a room or enclosure named for a person, organization, or business, there are still some opportunities available. Contact MSmith@scwc.org today.



Found an animal that might need help? Always call before heading to Second Chance: 301-926-9453. After hours, visit our website (www.SCWC.org) for resources.