

Native Animal Rescue
P.O. Box 1001
Santa Cruz, CA 95061

Where There's a Way, There's a "Will"

Native Animal Rescue, like most non-profits, worry about how we'll keep going financially. Well, this year we were very fortunate that a kind woman remembered NAR in her Will. The funding from her Will kept NAR afloat and we were again able to feed and care for all the animals we received. I would like to encourage anyone writing a Will to include NAR as a recipient. Funding to NAR helps save thousands of animals each year. Besides the daily costs of caring for the animals such as food, medicines, laundry, etc., NAR has to pay for building and maintaining aviaries and other enclosures. With the funds from a Will, we are able to build enclosures like the one in the photo to the right. Our trained volunteers take care of orphaned mammals on their own properties in enclosures that NAR provides. Many of these volunteers live in wooded areas where they can release the animals into an adjacent park or green belt area.



Raccoons in spacious enclosure



Tips For Handling Uninvited Guests

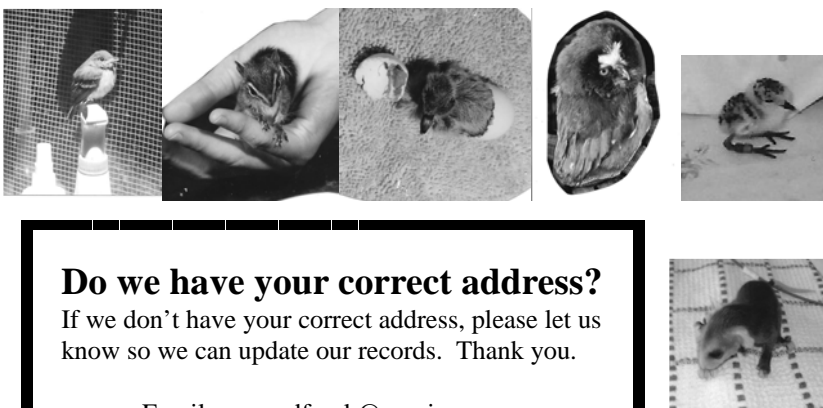
Eliminating the attraction (invitation) to your home or yard is key to keeping raccoons from moving in. Often times, blocking access to food or shelter will keep them from hanging around. Make sure there are no openings to any buildings that you don't want wildlife getting into. Also, installing a pet door that only allows pets wearing a special collar to enter, can keep wild animals out.

If a raccoon has had babies at your home, be reassured that they will move on as soon as the young are old enough to toddle off with the mom. Unless human health is an issue, I encourage you to let them stay until the babies are old enough to leave with their mom. Then you can repair any damage they caused and block their access. Trying to trap and relocate them doesn't work because they're too smart to all be trapped. Once one of them sees another getting trapped, they'll know to avoid the trap, and baby raccoons can't survive in the wild without their mom.



A Hole For All Seasons

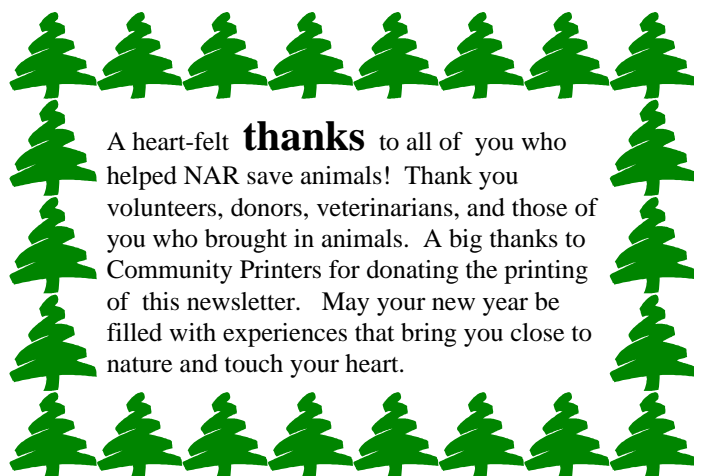
Much maligned for digging holes in the earth, the California Ground Squirrel has worked for Mother Nature for thousands of years, mixing and aerating the soil. Their holes that run deep, are a natural conduit to hold water in the earth. Compare that with the "come lately" humans who dig holes that can damage our environment. Also, people that poison ground squirrels or other rodents probably don't realize the extent of their actions. The poison can spread through the environment via the food chain killing each animal in turn. From the poisoned rodent to the snake that eats it, to the hawk that eats the snake, to the buzzard that eats the dead hawk . . . Another wonderful fact about the ground squirrel is that they have a symbiotic relationship with the Burrowing Owl. The owls, who don't dig holes, use the squirrel holes for a safe nesting place. In return, the owls are the eyes that look out for predators and sounds an alarm when one is near.



Do we have your correct address?

If we don't have your correct address, please let us know so we can update our records. Thank you.

Email: eveandfrank@cruzio.com



A heart-felt **thanks** to all of you who helped NAR save animals! Thank you volunteers, donors, veterinarians, and those of you who brought in animals. A big thanks to Community Printers for donating the printing of this newsletter. May your new year be filled with experiences that bring you close to nature and touch your heart.

Our motto is Animals First!



Because no life is too small to save!

Donations

to Native Animal Rescue are tax-deductible, and can be sent

To: Native Animal Rescue
P.O. Box 1001
Santa Cruz, CA 95061

Or given on NAR's website:

www.nativeanimalrescue.org



Life in a Pair of Pants

Sometimes you are confronted by a story so sweet, so caring, that you can't help but be moved by it. One day, a sixty-ish woman came to our center. She said, "You probably think that what I'm going to ask you is stupid, but would you take care of a spider?" Something in her eyes told me that I wouldn't be able to refuse her request, but I still had no idea what she had in mind. She continued, "I can't afford to live in Santa Cruz anymore even though I've lived here most of my life. I'll be driving south to find some place where I can afford to live, and hopefully stay warm." She then unfolded a pair of pants and inside the fold was a tiny spider with her eggs. What else could I do but accept! She carefully handed me the pants with the spider and her eggs. After about a month the eggs hatched. Now when I look up in our trees I see strands of silk reflecting the sunlight and I realize that she gave me a gift, a gift of Life! And isn't that what you do when you bring us a furry little raccoon, or squirrel, or baby bird? You bring us a gift, a gift of life. And all we can say to you is, thank you!

Happy Holidays To All!

Heart Warming

With the end of another year, I'm thinking of all the little nestlings and fledgling birds that our rehabilitators cared for, now flying free. And the baby mammals that we cared for, now grown up and frolicking in the woods. Also, the birds and mammals that came to us with broken limbs, cat bites and/or sick that we were able to save. This work can be very rewarding. But not much time for reflection because now is the time of year when NAR receives injured and sick seabirds that are wintering here in the Monterey Bay. They fly from faraway places like Alaska and the Northeast. Often these seabirds get battered by the winter storms, and we receive them cold and exhausted. They are treated and cared for until they are strong enough to fly free again. Last winter, we had some very cold weather, and with a lack of fish in the bay, we received a lot of starving Pelicans. They were fed and cared for until they got their strength back. Many weak Pelicans that were cold and shivering found refuge at a bait shop where the proprietors, out of the goodness of their hearts, put a big patio heater on their deck where the Pelicans could rest and warm up.



Pelicans get warmed up by a patio heater

It warms my heart to think of the incredibly caring people we have in our community. It takes a village to save these animals, and we thank you for your help!



Lucy the goose walks up the bank near the rowing rack area in the Santa Cruz harbor.

JULIA MOORE/SENTINEL

Everybody Loves Lucy

About ten years ago, one of the boat people at the Santa Cruz Harbor brought NAR a lame domestic goose. We repaired its leg and released it back to the harbor. Recently, she was brought back with a superficial wound to her head. We treated her and she was returned again. It was then that we heard about her name, Lucy and her twenty two year history in the harbor. She originally had a mate that went missing and she spent most of her years alone, but was looked after by some "harbor" people who thought of her as their mascot. In time, she became the unofficial icon of the harbor. It was shortly after hearing her history, we heard another story: There was a threat to her life! Now What? One of the floating dock renters complained to the "powers that be" that Lucy was a menace, a health hazard, and he was tired of stepping in her poop. It was then, that the harbor officials called for a meeting, the date was set and the public was invited. But, there was no publicity for the event! Well, we made our own publicity. It was a make shift sign placed where Lucy was fed that was seen by those who loved her. And that was enough to put her on the front page of the Santa Cruz Sentinel! The meeting was held to an over flow crowd of Lucy supporters. The harbor officials not only voted not to remove her but designated an area for feeding, and made a little dock, just for her! We all gave a sigh of relief, a round of applause and went home feeling SO GOOD! NAR appreciates how our wonderful community came together to save The Harbor Goose, Lucy!