



# THE RESCUE RECORD

## Frisky's Wildlife & Primate Sanctuary

ISSUE 40

SPRING 2019

### Life Description.. The No No's

So I'm asked all the time, do we still need volunteers? Yes yes yes, we do. But I also very quickly try to remind people, as enthusiastic as you are at the moment, will you continue to be this way? Most of you enjoy the driveway on your way in and you may want to enjoy it on your way out. Cold hard but true fact is it's not meant for everyone! Simply saying and feeling you love animals is good but seeing the task through can be quite a challenge. Volunteers burn out very quickly and understandably so. Remember thousands of animals come here for rehab, they are orphaned, injured, or displaced. A percentage does not make it... it breaks our hearts to our very souls! To know we tried everything we could and have all the means to try to save their lives and some just don't thrive! So volunteers will burn out very quickly, many of them do not realize it's not like a cat or dog rescue. A cat might think of going potty somewhere outside the box, a dog might not want to put out a firm stool or not want to be walked or handled. Well wildlife is what it is, wild. It leaves a wild mess in its wake, everywhere when it comes to its enclosure. I've had volunteers say I didn't sign on for this!! Yes a hawk will whitewash the walls very quickly and a baby goose or duck will turn its swimming pool into a swamp in a matter of moments. Not to mention, their dishes and bedding, you have to make them look new again, sterilizing them is hard work. It does not just wipe off, you have to sterilize it so I can put the next animal into that enclosure that comes through the sanctuary for rehab.

Also please remember this is not just Frisky's Wildlife & Primate Sanctuary, this is also our home, and as much as I appreciate your help, I like being around animals a lot more than people, I am what I am as they say. So volunteers are here for 2-4 hours at a time, they are off Monday and Wednesday and they come in from 10 & 3 unless we have a project going on.

Debbie, our director who runs Frisky's fundraiser, always needs people to help her sort and clean up donations for our annual April fundraiser. If you can do that or help even by having a garage sale from your property, it would also be a huge help, especially if it's a success. Thank you for understanding, remember or even just note I myself Colleen receive no pay, no pension, no medical plan, no sick days, no paid holidays, no vacation time, no days off, no nights off, no dinners out, no fancy clothes or jewelry, but know I love my life and if God sent Jesus for me tomorrow I believe that I have done something worthwhile with my life and have no regrets.

Loves and hugs,  
Colleen Layton-Robbins

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Find out what you can do to help  
the many animals in need at  
[www.friskys.org](http://www.friskys.org)

# A little Caring Can go A long Way....



*Colleen Layton-Robbins, Eileen Sturgill, and Kristen Gary*

Towards the end of January, a severely sick female Bald Eagle found in Harford County, MD suffering from lead poisoning was brought to Frisky's. She is only one of hundreds of Bald Eagles that come through our doors suffering from this deadly intoxication that is often caused unintentionally by hunters and fishermen who use lead-based ammunition and fishing tackle. Since eagles often live near water sources such as lakes, rivers, and reservoirs, much of their diet consists of fish. However, Bald Eagles are also opportunistic feeders and will often feed on waterfowl and small mammals such as squirrels, raccoons, and rabbits as well as discarded carcasses or gut piles left behind by hunters.

The effects of lead poisoning are often fatal if not found in time. It can cause convulsions, head tremors, difficulty breathing, and the inability to stand (as seen in the picture of the Eagle the day she was found). Lead poisoning can also leave lasting, irreversible effects that may permanently affect an Eagle, making it unable to be released back into the wild.

Luckily for our girl, it appears that she was found just in the nick of time! After a concerned park patron called DNR, the Eagle was taken to Chadwell Animal Hospital where she was under the care of Dr. Keith Gold, DVM. After a full week of Chelation treatment, she was sent to Frisky's for rehabilitation. She will be in out care for quite some time, receiving around the clock care as needed.

A bird this size can eat ½ to 1 pound of food a day. Sometimes they don't eat every day.

In the end, EVERYONE can make a difference. Spreading awareness is always number one! Like the saying goes "you can't change something that you don't know". By learning and educating others, you are saving thousands of lives and truly making a difference in this world. As for helping the here and now, donations of any sort go a long way here at Frisky's. We are a non-profit organization and get no government or state assistance. We run on donations gifted by caring and generous people like you. Feeding and caring for this Eagle and all our other wildlife is not an easy task, but somehow, some way we make it work.

**As always, thank you from the bottom of all our hearts. We couldn't do this without you.**

# MONKEY SEE MONKEY DO

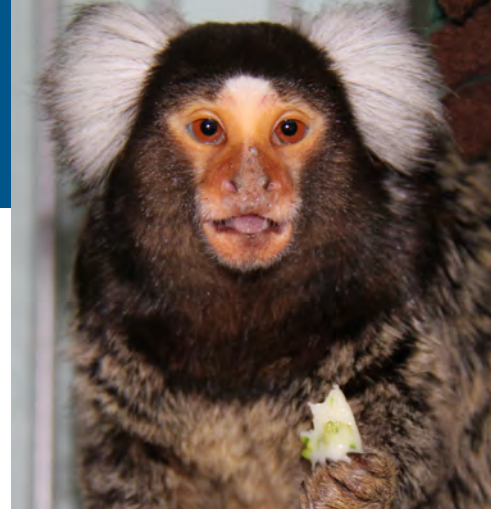
Julia Dagnello

Just the other day I saw a popular blog post about a puma that was “rescued” and now lives like a pampered house cat. It’s a cute story of how the puma was too sick to go to a zoo, so a couple rescued it and kept it as a pet. Unfortunately like many of these clickbait stories, there is a lot more going on behind the scenes. Turns out the puma was bought from a zoo in Russia after the couple saw it and decided they needed to have it. Not a rescue in any form, they wanted it so they purchased it. Besides being untruthful, the problem with this story is how it promotes dangerous interactions with wildlife and encourages the exotic pet trade.

We see it all the time: pictures or videos of an adorable exotic animal in someone’s house being treated like a pet. It might seem harmless, it’s only a picture after all, right? Unfortunately, this type of media has had some consequences. One of the biggest issues is that people see it and decide that they also want that animal. Exotic animals require very specialized care and knowledge to keep them safely and in good health. There is also a serious issue with illegal animal smuggling around the world. The rising popularity of exotic pets is due in part to social media. The demand for otters and slow loris as pets is directly impacted by popular videos of them online. Poaching of these often-endangered animals for sale into the pet trade is concerning. This is happening with local wildlife as well, which is often illegal and harmful to the ecosystem.

Let’s say someone finds a baby raccoon and decides to keep it. They and their friends play with it and post pictures to facebook. As its shared, someone sees it and thinks it’s a good idea that they should also get one. In reality of course it’s not. It is against the law and dangerous. The authorities will find out, people get in trouble, the animal gets put down, and everyone must get post-exposure rabies shots. No happy ending for anyone. It’s a story that is depressingly common.

This is not to say you shouldn’t enjoy adorable animal pictures, social media has been extremely helpful with raising awareness for lots of animals! Just take a minute when you look at a video and think about what’s going on behind the scenes, do some research into the real story, and think about its potential impact before you share it. We are all susceptible to being influenced by social media, even if you know better, someone who follows you might not.



Our little old lady Cheechy is still with us and enjoys sharing time with the staff and volunteers. One of her favorite things is being held by Scott twice a day while her enclosure is cleaned.

# Surviving Winds, Ice, & Snow

*Colleen Layton-Robbins*

Glancing at any weather reports from anywhere other than Woodstock MD, I know we can't complain! I know we have angels watching out for us. It breaks our hearts to see all the natural disasters that are happening on this planet.

Frisky's Wildlife Center suffered as many as in our area, all the fallen trees, huge broken limbs, the destruction it did on our fences, enclosures, and buildings, and of course our historical driveway! All the animals and primates going into high stress modes, probably thinking the world's coming to an end and they can't get away from it. This will all humble you as a human being and we ponder on how life is so short with many struggles of our own and those we care about. You can feel hopeless and wonder what you can do? Our life is so short! Well I have always believed, just me maybe... that it is what we can do for those who can't help themselves. So many people get caught up in what they don't have, not think what they have can help so many others around them.

My husband, Scott Robbins, is now retired for the last year and a half. He's found out how much work goes on here all day long! Yeah I am so glad he's not out there doing the job commute, worrying that he is on our roads or at a construction site fixing or welding something in bad weather, hot or freezing cold.

My husband's four years older than I am and a tall, strong, healthy man, although I stress that he smokes occasionally. After his last doctors visit it was noted he lost 10lbs. So now he's trying to clean up just after storms have added to the rest of the grounds maintenance work that has to be done here regularly. Of course you have to be very quiet and very efficient as to not disturb the animals. The eagle stressed so much during the storm since so many huge limbs dropped from an 80ft high pine tree on top of her very enclosure, damaging the roof as it did on many other buildings here, not enough to get out but enough she did a little bit of damage to her wings trying to get away from it all!

We all heard that loud pop swish and smash of limbs and trees falling. We're probably going to do clean up till late spring. Scott is still picking up limbs, trying to get them off the buildings and areas as much as possible, taking several truckloads to the landfill a day. Yet with one storm after another we're hoping we will have it all done to handle our annual fundraiser by April 6th. All my friends and family know I believe I am married to an amazing man who holds Cheechy, our old monkey, twice a day while I clean her enclosure and yet strong enough to be able to do all the hard manual labors and still be kind to everyone who comes here.



# I'M 65....

## Very alive and healthy

*Colleen Layton-Robbins*

So yes my dear friends. March 11th I turned 65! I'm not looking for compliments or a party or anything like that, actually I kind of find them embarrassing. I'm actually surprised I made it this far! Every morning, 5am I wake and make a mental list of all I have to try to accomplish that day. First thing first, Let the dogs out, so upon swinging my legs over the edge of the bed I think I'm going to have a great day. I roll my head side-to-side throw my shoulders back and stand up wondering why everything is snap crackle pop, one leg doesn't want to move as fast as the other one, one eye doesn't want to open up at the same moment. I'm doing the grandma shuffle, all the while trying to straighten up my back, by the time I make it past a mirror, I glance at the mirror and I realize I'm a delusional old woman!!! Who's faking it well. I'm going to keep faking it, I let the dogs out, jump in the shower, to do my 30 minutes of physical therapy in hot then cold water for the torn rotator cuff that has atrophied so bad, they couldn't do surgery. Discovering way too late it was a full tear, three-quarters of the way through. So in the last 7 years it probably has gotten worse, with arthritis setting in all over my body. I'm just happy I'm moving around as much as I am. I can still hop over fences and I can still climb the enclosures, with of course doing several loads of laundry a day, running up and down steps, in and out of doors and handling all the animals' needs. I thank God for another day to be alive and do what I've always believed in and dreamed of doing! Believe me it does not come without paying my dues. We all know experiences taught us so much but you got to put in the work and breathe through, work through any difficult times so our pity parties, yup we all have them, have to be short and sweet, splash water on your face get back at it. Let things that hurt or upset us... Go!!! I always try to do better.

So happy at 65! Love and hugs



## Annual Fund Raiser / Garage Sale

As usual, Frisky's will be having their annual fund raiser/garage sale in April. This is the only fund raiser conducted by Frisky's each year. A garage sale needs a lot of helpers in the set up and running of the sale.

In March, many hands are needed to sort donations, clean items, and set up tables. Workers must be able to work independently under the direction of the head organizer. In order to get things done, work must be done quickly and efficiently.

The garage sale will be open every Saturday and Sunday in April from 9 a.m. to 5 p.m. At least two people are needed all the time to man the cash register and to help shoppers and keep merchandise straight. Helpers can also be used during the week to handle new donations. Contact Frisky's if you are able to help.



# IMMEASUREABLE BLESSINGS

Okay so you all know I turned 65 on March 11th. I'm in awe in what I can do and what I get in to rehabilitate or give sanctuary. It's a lot to keep up with I'm trying to stay healthy, I'm not on any scripts at this time. But please note I'm not doing it alone, I have a wonderful husband who works very hard and yet every time he passes by me he tells me he loves me bunches with real feeling! I keep our lives simple being sure to keep our laundry, dishes, bathroom, floors, and bed clean daily, although donations can give our home the cluttered look. We are sure to show each other and the animals, including our friends, we care.



We value our friendships. I've got to say I respect common sense, common courtesy, and people that can do manual labor... there is always so much to do and then of course repeatedly. Wildlife and exotics make a real mess, everything from floor to ceiling! We take this mission/responsibility very seriously. Only surround ourselves with what works, from people to supplies. So thank you!!



One of our directors Julia has been with us for 9 years and has never wavered being Frisky's Sanctuary facilitator. I've asked her at least a thousand times is this really your dream and nightmare that you want to live as we have... she's always said yes! She's 40 years younger than I am and always impressed us with her work knowledge and values, we always know you don't know how strong you are until you have no choice. There are times of extreme exhaustion, yet this work always will put a smile on our faces, our hearts, and our souls because rehabilitating wildlife, well this is our life full-time day in and day out.

**So love and hugs to you all,**

Colleen Layton-Robbins



## Special list & Special needs

1st I want to thank everyone, who supports Frisky's! Plus so many veterinarians especially DVM Keith Gold of Chadwell Animal Hospital who does so much for our exotics and our wild Life.

But I have a special request, we have so many animals that the bedding used is tossed out for obvious reasons cannot be washed. And of course, animals tear things up quickly. So besides bedding and please note no one takes, pillows, rugs or mattress covers.

Frisky's also needs and can never seem to stock up on special formula. KMR, Esbilac, goat's milk, mealworms, crickets, also always need wood ladders.

# Orphaned or not?

Julia Dagnello

It's almost spring and that means lots of baby animals. It can be difficult at times to determine if a baby animal needs help or not. We get a lot of animals every year that have been unknowingly kidnapped from their parents. It's important to look at the situation and see if that baby animal is really orphaned or not.

## Squirrels

If a squirrel falls out of a nest or the nest is destroyed, the mom will come back to look for the baby. If the baby is uninjured then you can leave it alone, keep pets and children away, and watch from a distance. The mother will often come back to move the baby to a new nest. If it is cold then you can put the baby in a shoebox with a towel and put a heat pad/hot water bottle underneath it. If the mother is not back in a few hours, then the squirrel should be taken to a rehabber. A young squirrel with a fluffy tail that can run and climb is independent and does not need help.

## Rabbits

Rabbits only visit their nest a few times a day. The nest is usually a shallow depression with fur and grass covering it. If the babies are uninjured and the nest intact, it should be left alone. If the nest is destroyed, you can rebuild it by placing the babies in the same spot or within 5 feet of the original location and covering them lightly with any fur or grass that's left in the area. Avoid handling the babies as much as possible. Place two small sticks in a X over the nest and check the next day to see if they have been

moved. If it's untouched then the mom has likely abandoned the nest and the babies should be taken to a rehabber.

## Birds

Baby birds that have fallen out of their nest but are unharmed should be put back into their nests whenever possible. If the nest was destroyed you can create a makeshift one with a shallow wicker basket or box and place it where the original one was. Watch from a distance for an hour or so to see if the parents come back. Feathered birds that are hopping around but not flying are fledglings that are learning to fly. They may stay on the ground for several days; the parents are still there feeding them so they can be left alone.

## Fawns

Fawns are left by themselves for most of the day. A fawn only needs help if you know for a fact the mother is dead, it is injured/has flies on it, or is constantly crying. If the fawn is lying calmly then it is perfectly fine and should be left alone. Keep pets and kids away from the area, the mother will be back to get it later.

## Opossum

Baby opossums ride around on their mother's back after coming out of the pouch. If you find an opossum under 7 inches long (not including the tail) then it most likely fell off or is orphaned and needs help.



# Frisky's Call to Action

We all know the choices we make can affect tomorrow or our future. So normally when someone gets here with an orphaned or injured wild animal or bird, they feel so helpless. Not knowing if they did the right action. I usually step back look them in the eye and share my thoughts. Noticing something out of the ordinary when the whole world seems to be distracted including myself... we are ... Doing something, in the forward motion in the right direction, without a reason excuse or an apology and showing up here with the little animal. Letting us all know that we can network! We can do something, so now, it is not out there suffering, with no assistance. They can't help each other and a lot of times they can't help themselves and yes sometimes you feel like a fool that keeps trying to do something and maybe somebody's laughing at you for caring! Telling you it's just an animal and sometimes you will feel like your actions are futile. But your actions are a very deep sign of your being... you knowing that you did something and it is not out there starving, suffering, dealing with the predator or the elements or with it's own pain and helplessness!

Because we're caring and working together. Thank you, thank you, thank you! God Bless you for being you! Know also, we do need your continued support so Frisky's Wildlife Center can be here for the animals. We are a 501 c 3 tax deductible center. if not a monetary donation to cover the expenses then maybe you can gather up towels, sheets and blankets for their welfare while being here.

Thank you,  
Colleen Layton-Robbins



As always, you can go to our website and safely donate through paypal!



## WHAT CAN I DO?

Frisky's is a 501 (c) 3 Organization. Frisky's DOES NOT receive any county, state or federal funding. Frisky's survives only by public donations. All proceeds and donations go directly to the care and welfare of the animals. Please donate an item from the wish list, or send in your tax deductible donation!

[www.friskys.org](http://www.friskys.org) • [friskyswildlife@yahoo.com](mailto:friskyswildlife@yahoo.com)

### DONATION RECORD

#### Frisky's Wildlife & Primate Sanctuary, Inc.

10790 Old Frederick Road • Rt. 99 • Woodstock, Maryland 21163

**410.418.8899**

*Your donation is 100% Tax Deductible. Retain this receipt for your records.*

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Thank you for your support!

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*Please remember to detach this form and leave it with your donation so we can thank you.*

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Yes, You can count on me to help support your efforts to care for the animals of Frisky's

My check/gift is enclosed. Donations are tax deductible to the fullest extent of the law. Frisky's is a 501 (c)3 organization and receives no financial support from federal, state or county government.

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Check \$ \_\_\_\_\_ Check # \_\_\_\_\_

(Description of Goods)

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If you are interested in collaborative opportunities or donating your time and expertise, please write us with your thoughts, call or email Frisky's

We try very hard to use your contributions for the most urgent need at the time we receive them.

If you would like to restrict this contribution for a specific project please mark here

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With a donation your name will be placed on our mailing list to receive The Rescue Record.