The day finally was here – Tuesday, October 28, 2014, – my second annual primate exam. I arrived at Frisky’s at 3:45pm. Most of the volunteers had already arrived. It was a beautiful mild day and Colleen had set up the water, drinks, chips, sandwiches, sweets, and pizza in the outer wildlife area by the picnic tables. Even though it was only 4:15 in the afternoon, most of the volunteers were eating, knowing that may be the only chance to eat. Once Dr. Gold, our veterinarian, and his staff arrived, we would be in full swing and must be ready to start the monkey’s exams and cleaning of their enclosures.

Most of the volunteers are old hats at this exam process and have it down to an art like a well-practiced baton handoff during an Olympic race. When you go into the hospital for a surgical procedure think about how many people you get handed off to during your stay – admission, pre-op area for drawing blood, checking vitals, shot to calm you down, anesthesia, the operating room, and finally the recovery room before you head back to your hospital room. Well, that is pretty close to what the monkey experience. A zoo veterinarian administers a shot that is a combination of tranquilizing and calming agent for the monkeys. One by one, the sedated monkeys are carried downstairs to the exam area where Dr. Gold and staff do an overall examination, draw blood, check vitals, clean the teeth, clip the toenails and update any necessary shots and immunizations.

Again one by one, the monkeys are cradled upstairs to the recovery room and handed off to volunteers.

Bonnie, who has been with Frisky’s the longest, is in charge of the recovery room (Colleen and Scott’s living quarters) and has all these animals’ carrier cages sitting on the floor, the bed, and the table. Bonnie has the monkey’s name labeled on these carriers. Each carrier has a towel or fleece on the bottom of the cage to keep it soft for the monkey’s temporary recovery time.

Once the monkeys are out of the building enclosures, the volunteers go to work. We clean everything in the enclosure – walls, shelves, carriers with no doors (that serve as their beds), and floors. All sheets and towels are thrown away. We are given buckets with cleaning solution and rags – lots of rags. We use the rags to clean until it becomes very dirty and then throw the rag away. We are never allowed to put the dirty rag back into the bucket. Did I hear someone ask why? Good question, I asked the same thing last year. We do not want to cross contaminate the good cleaning solution with the dirty rags. Remember the monkeys have been poked, prodded, and given immunizations and shots, their immune system is vulnerable, so we want to ensure that their enclosures are as clean as possible.

Next another set of volunteers come into the enclosures and put new sheets, towels, comforters, clean water bottles and toys. Yes, toys – the monkeys love toys. For example Kiko and Dawson love to play with Tonka trucks, Willie, Babee, Johnny, Yoo and Gizmo love little Tyke playground items and Jackie and Grecia love small stuffed animals to hold and love.

We have volunteers doing many different important jobs. But the one fun part and what we all love doing is the holding the monkeys while they are still under the anesthesia. So one group of volunteers are cleaning the enclosures while the other group of volunteers are holding the monkeys in the recovery room. Then they switch duties. While the monkeys are in the recovery room.
Healthy Eating is for Animals Too!

Just like kids, animals need to eat a balanced diet to stay healthy. Each type of animal needs different things, and even within the same group of animals there may be differences, for example two birds with very different needs – hummingbirds, which need nectar & insects, and eagles, which can eat fish and feeder mice.

At Frisky’s we make sure to give all of our animals a healthy diet from any baby animals that come through our doors to the monkeys that live here. It is always best for baby animals to get food from their mothers, but when they come to us, we have special formulas made for each kind of baby animal. The formulas have the vitamins and nutrients needed in them to make the animals strong. For baby squirrels we use a formula that has extra proteins, and for baby bunnies a formula with extra fat. We make our own formulas for baby birds and fawns. For baby birds we add extra vitamin D3 and calcium to help their bones, and for fawns we make our formula with canned pumpkin for vitamin A and fiber. Also just like people, baby animals need to eat more often than adults.

We feed our baby animals as much as every 20 minutes to every 2 hours during the daytime depending on the type of animal. Some of our adult animals (like eagles) only get fish or feeder mice once a day. Adult rabbits eat greens, carrots, and timothy hay.

The monkeys at Frisky’s also need a healthy diet. We give the monkeys Monkey Chow, which is like dog food for monkeys with Vitamin D3, Fiber, Protein, and Fat. We also give the monkeys fruits and vegetables for snacks, and sometimes whole grain spaghetti with extra tomatoes or mac and cheese with mixed veggies. For birthdays and holidays, they sometimes get special treats, like carrot cake or pumpkin pie.

What is most important to remember is that just like people, animals need to eat a balanced, healthy diet. So if you have questions about what to feed your pets, have an adult e-mail Frisky’s.

Frisky’s is a Non-Profit Organization (a 501 (c) 3 Organization) and is NOT Federally, State or Locally Funded. Frisky’s survives solely on the generosity of the public for funds.

Medium exam gloves and heavy work gloves
Paper Towels
Simple Green
Disinfecting Wipes (Any Brand)
Long Handle Scrub Brushes
Tide with Bleach Laundry Soap and liquid bleach
Hand Sanitizer Gel
Baby Wipes - Unscented (Any Brand)
ZipLock Bags – Gallon & 2 Gallon Sizes
CLEAN Wash Cloths, Towels, Sheets, Blankets, Comforters:
(New or Used - Must be Clean)
Pedialyte – Unflavored Cases of Bottled Water
Batteries – Any Size
Flashlights
New Battery Operated Smoke Detectors
Heavy Duty Trash Bags – Kitchen size and 30 Gall.
Canned Fruits / Canned Vegetable
Saltine Crackers
Nuts Shelled and in Shell - (NO Salt)
Healthy Cereals
Wild Bird Food
Comfort Care Bedding
Timothy Hay
GIFT CARDS for Feed, Office, Grocery, Wal-Mart, etc.

Please remember to detach this form and leave it with your donation so we can thank you. If you would like to restrict this contribution for a specific project, please mark here.

Check us out on Facebook

As always, you can go to our website and safely donate through paypal!
A MESSAGE FROM FRISKY’S PRESIDENT COLLEEN LAYTON-ROBBINS

Colleen Layton-Robbins
President and Chief Executive Officer

FALL 2014

I am so pleased to be a part of Frisky’s Wildlife & Primate Sanctuary, Inc. since 1970. So, Hey! Happy Thanksgiving to you all!! We all here have so much to be thankful for. Although we may have many challenges, I do believe each and everyone of us are going through some kind of struggle in our lives. That is why we all do OR should network, Help each other when we can. Even I still go out of my way to do so good on purpose. Even in areas where I have little or no interest. Let me ask you, to ponder a moment, what kind of good works are you helping to promote? Yeah it’s difficult. Yet goals reached have us feeling successful.

Proving true to Frisky’s mission, we can highlight the thousands of animals we rehabilitate annually with the many accomplishments because of our important caring dedication.

Here is a brief rundown of typical day at Frisky’s. My husband wakes at 5:30am to go off to work full time. I’m up before 5 for my personal routines then start the load of laundry, load of dishes, as well as meal preparations, dogs out & in, blinds up, lights on, surveillance checks, animal checks (which can total in the hundreds mid summer). Then its time to get most fed between 8 - 10am. Volunteers arrive at 10am which leads to a mini-meeting for the day - updates on who can be treated, who is worse, and who is ready for release. They set off to do their individual cleaning projects or animal treatments. Sharing a workload I couldn’t do alone. All the while there are the arrivals of animals for rehab. Paperwork and more paperwork, and appoints made for the animals up for adoption. Everybody here does their share and we always try our best to see that it all comes together with the benefit of improving the quality of life in each animal.

Inspiring others to do anything they can do. Well it is so rewarding because I desperately want Frisky’s to go on when I can no longer manage. When I can no longer deal with the labor of each day and the real drama that goes with all of this, Frisky’s needs to be here now and in the future.

Thank you all for your interest and your support.

— Colleen Layton-Robbins

FRISKY’S ADOPTABLES

Jejo - Parakeet
Reno - Cockatoo
Shadow & Patches - Guinea Pigs
Kaloos - Hamster
Real - Gerbil

“Frisky’s is no longer accepting domestic animals for adoptions, we will be solely focusing on the wildlife and exotic residents of Frisky’s”

RELEASE OF THE RAPTORS BY JULIA DAGNELLO

When I show up at Frisky’s in the morning, I usually have a mental to-do list and the expectation that I’ll be adding more to it as the day goes along. I’ll have a quick meeting with Colleen to catch up on anything that happened, if there are any specific projects that need to be done, and debrief about any new animals and their conditions. After that (and adding some more items to my to-do list) I’m off. I do a lot of the animal care when I’m there, which involves feeding, cleaning, maintenance of enclosures, more cleaning, administering medications, and observation of animals progress. One new thing I seem to need to do more of is cleaning. But at the end of the day I do get the privilege of seeing many of those animals released. And there is nothing more rewarding than being able to see them get back to their natural habitat.

One of the most rewarding types of wildlife to release is the raptors. When asked what my favorite wildlife to work with is, it’s hard to answer, I have a soft spot for reptiles (having many of my own at home) and I can’t deny the baby mammals tend to be adorable. But there’s something special about raptors that just draws me in. From the smallest American kestrel to the largest Bald Eagle, I can’t help but be fascinated. Maybe it’s the great variety of personalities of different individuals or the regal posturing they all seem to share, but I have a great amount of respect for raptors. And being able to see their progress as they come in injured and unable to fly, to leaping into the air to soar away at release is something that will always amaze me. There’s something special about seeing these great predators do what they’re meant to and being a part of helping it happen.

Every release is special but some tend to stand out. Just a short time ago I had taken a hawk and a barred owl to be released at a state park. I released the owl first then hiked up further to release the hawk. On my way back to my car imagine my surprise about seeing these great predators do what they’re meant to and being a part of helping it happen.

It’s experiences like that, which remind you that no matter how difficult things get at times, it’s worth it. To be able to help just one animal makes every enclosure cleaned worth it, a reminder that every unsuccessful story is lesson in how to improve, and to be even more motivated to continuing doing what we do. I’ve been with Frisky’s for almost 4 years now (seems like a lot longer) and there is nowhere else I’d rather be. It’s a lot of work (you really wouldn’t believe the amount of cleaning) but I enjoy every moment of it and wouldn’t give it up for anything.

BORN IN THE WILD

BY SANAZ NORGARD

There are so many different species of wildlife, each with their own unique needs, that it is impossible to cover them all in a small space. However, the basic principles for helping injured or abandoned wildlife are widely applicable to most situations.

The first question when approaching any wildlife is, does this animal really need my help? For example, baby birds (fledglings – fluttering, hopping, feathered) often will be found close to their nest while learning to fly. If left on its own, it will probably be fine. However, if cats or dogs could be nearby, placing the bird on a limb of a tree or another protected place can also be helpful. An even better solution is to remove the threat, if possible. After storms, though, nestlings (without many feathers, or just downy) can be saved by keeping them warm and dry (a cardboard box with tissues works fine) until they can be brought to a wildlife rehabilitation center.

Any young animal that is injured or its parents killed, should be considered as needing our help. They will need warmth, protection, and food. However, birds do not live on just bread and milk, and giving them these foods may cause additional harm. Each type of bird has its own specific diet and the best course of action is to bring them to someone who can identify and treat the bird.

Reptiles and amphibians such as turtles, snakes, lizards, salamanders, frogs and toads that are found by the road normally do not need our help. In fact, we advise to never touch them. They can carry salmonella, which is a type of bacteria that causes illness in humans. Therefore, unless they are in some danger or injured, they will be fine on their own. If they must be moved or transported, using a shovel for the bigger snapping turtles or scooping up the smaller creatures into a cardboard box or plastic container can work well.

Baby opposums found in the pouch or clinging to the mother, who has been injured or killed, need help. But commonly, baby skunks, raccoons, rabbits and other young mammals are brought into the sanctuaries that do not need to be rescued. Although it is commendable that people bring in these creatures, often times such actions are unnecessary or even detrimental to the baby. Animals that are old enough to be out in the open, following their mother, are able to feed themselves.

Therefore, before you remove an animal from the wild, consider the harms and benefits to the creature. Many animals are not in need of our help and will do better without the stress of capture or transport. In addition, their natural habitat is outdoors and once they are able to feed themselves, they should be outdoors.

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Bald Eagle - For the release video by Richard Taylor visit our facebook page!
Brought back by popular demand, as well as Colleen’s personal request, we’re going to be answering your most frequently asked questions once again!

Q1: I have a (type of dog/cat) that I found and can no longer give it the proper care it deserves, I hear you guys take in injured and orphaned animals. Can I bring it to Frisky’s?
A1: Sorry but I’m not sure where you heard this but we don’t take in any dogs or cats. It’s Frisky’s Wildlife Sanctuary, they aren’t wildlife. In Frisky’s entire 44 years of existence we never took in dogs and the last time we did was 13 years ago… why you ask? There are so many dog and cat rescues out there that specifically cater to them and there are only a handful of Wildlife Sanctuary’s left in this state.

Q2: I belong to (such & such organization) and we’d like to build up a big group and come down and volunteer for one day! We don’t care about getting our hands dirty! Will you guys let us?
A2: Listen, we really appreciate the sentiments with this, we really do but there are a few problems with this. Problem 1, volunteer hours are from 10am to 5pm, first thing we do with new volunteers is have an orientation which takes up a majority of that time and if there are late stragglers we’ll have to repeat it for them. Problem 2, we can’t just let you in, we have to have applications, background checks and need references from everyone in your group to protect you and ourselves. Why? Because we have to filter out people who won’t listen to “hey, don’t put your fingers in the alligator enclosure.” Also everything you guys do anywhere on the property, we will know about because it’s on surveillance. We already have enough liabilities to worry about. Problem 3, you won’t get to work with the animals like you’re all hoping to. In order to work with the wildlife you need to be volunteering here for at least 80 hours and be over 18, and no matter how much you ask, no you cannot hold the bald eagle. Problem 4, we will have to supervise you the entire time because you won’t know where anything is or what to do most of the time. We have very few dedicated volunteers who take care of the animals, if they’re busy supervising your group someone might lose a finger to a crawl. I’d like to call this time of year “Catch up on our work season.”

Q3: I want to volunteer at Frisky’s for school/college, I’m currently studying animals for school and would like to work with them one day!
A3: That is a noble cause that you’ll be studying for and we really hope you get there one day, you’re more than welcome to come to Frisky’s to help pursue your goals. As long as you plan to become a dedicated member of our organization. We are not your stepping stone that will lay forgotten as soon as the summer ends, and if you think we’ll give you a good reference if that happens, think again. Also please note, references can be retracted (most people don’t know that).

Q4: Why do I have to wait until next Spring to volunteer? Why not now?
A4: Well, there isn’t much to do around Frisky’s during the Fall and during the Winter it pretty much slows to a crawl. I’d like to call this time of year “Catch up on paperwork and certification” Season. That’s pretty much it in a nutshell. Things don’t really kick back up into gear until April, once breeding season happens. Even then we only take new volunteers if they’re willing to help with the Fundraiser; otherwise we’re too busy to train you until May.

Q5: Are you guys still accepting stuff for the fundraiser? And when is it?
A5: Yes we are accepting small items for the fundraiser, we won’t be accepting big furniture until March. Unless stated otherwise the Fundraiser will be held every weekend in April because of county regulations.

Q6: Can I come to the monkey physical night? I promise to be quiet and you won’t realize I was there.
A6: Sorry but no, monkey physical night is a privilege for our most dedicated volunteers. They spend all year cleaning up around here, that night they get to clean, eat, and hold cute cuddly sleepy monkeys who would never let you near them if they were awake. Also you might get in the way of the vets and vet techs since it will be a packed house.

Thanks for reading! Didn’t have your question answered? Please email us at friskyswildlife@yahoo.com and we’ll get back to you in a timely manner. If it’s asked frequently enough, we might even have a part 3!