The weather was hot, sticking to my skin like steam from a shower. I peered into the steel trap, the cottontail’s nose was severely lacerated and probably infected. The rabbit had spent several days in there without food or water, the fur jaunting awkwardly over its ribs. It was still alive, perking up when it saw me, scratching to be let out. The family was unapologetic saying that they had meant to catch groundhogs from ruining their garden and it was a magnanimous gesture to even bother bringing the animal in. The concern was if they would be in trouble with the law for trapping as they just got back from vacation and had not checked the trap for days. At the end, they were reluctant to leave a donation.

These days are very hard on my conscious, I believe in the potential goodness within us all. Carelessness, arrogance, and malice are a constant struggle for some, but the futility of teaching the few that believe animals are this below us is astounding. Even without debating intelligence, importance, or emotional awareness, when we are cut, we bleed. When starved, we suffer. It is the same for them.

I ask for something quite crazy, just to be the superior creatures we claim to be. Think of it as another reason to pat ourselves on the back, we just did something for someone who will give us no thanks and will grant us no luxuries. The bunny lived through the night, but I am not sure if how long this can continue.

Trapping is illegal in almost every county during this time of year because it is considered cruel to separate a potential mother from her young should she have them. It is illegal to trap in most counties at all, except for Howard and Harford, which also have the strict laws governing this practice. It is also illegal to trap without a license, not check the trap every single day, trap within 150 yards of another person’s home, or even to release the animal on someone else’s property. For further information: Maryland Department of Natural Resources has a webpage that can be accessed at: http://dnr.md.gov/

This also brings up another, but often accidental, trapping of animals. Glue traps, we hate them! Often people will buy these to trap bugs, but other small animals will get caught in these. In addition, birds, small reptiles, and small mammals will break their wings, or legs, trying to get free. Although we have been told that animals will easily come off these with vegetable or olive oil (while taking care not to get scratched or bitten), we advise never to use these! It is a very cruel fate to die of multiple broken bones and if not, starvation. (Please note, the tufted titmice in the picture survived.)
I am holding a check for $5,500 that the Frisky organization graciously donated to us for an event that they held in our honor. They held an auction and donated all the proceeds to Frisky’s! Because of their generosity, we have been able to rehabilitate an Eagle with a broken wing which will hopefully be set free soon. Concerned humans bring lots of baby birds and animals to us during the spring months that have been separated from their mother. Every wind and rain storm ends up shaking little birds and squirrels from their nest and they are brought to Frisky’s. This requires feeding with specific diets and around the clock feedings. All young, injured, and abandoned animals will be nursed until they are mature and healthy to fend for themselves and are then released. Also this money will be used for supplies and vet care. More information about this organization can be found at www.furthemore.org. Frisky’s is so truly blessed to call Gretchen Smith and the Furries organization as our friend.

Let me introduce myself, I am the “other” Colleen. Not to be confused with the Colleen. I cannot compare. I started volunteering at Frisky’s in April of 2013 and have learned so much from Colleen and all the other staff members. They are an amazing group and I am so happy to be a part of the organization. Recently, I learned some very valuable information about a bird’s health and well being. I have a question for you — How many people have brought bread to bodies of water to feed the birds; or saved that donut or loaf of bread to throw out to the birds? Go ahead, raise your hand. For those of you who cannot see, I too have my hand raised. I thought I was providing food for them. Plus when my children were younger (years ago), they loved the birds gathering around fighting to get that piece of bread. Little did I know that I was doing harm to these birds? This is especially true for young juvenile birds that need good nutrition to form strong muscles and bones for proper wing development. Birds when fed bread, crackers, chips and cookies, get filled up quicker with carbohydrates which make their stomachs feel less hungry. They are not interested in hunting for fish, worms, or eating grass. Plus bread with its “processed stuff” is not a natural form of nutrition for the birds. Breads and other starches have very little protein which birds need and do not contain fat that is needed for energy.

If you really want to give an occasional “treat” to birds make sure it is a healthy snack using whole or multi grain breads (organic would be even better). You can add toppings on the bread which would be extra beneficial like peanut butter, fat drippings or softened suet. Take the bread and spread the peanut butter or fat drippings and then press birdsseed into the bread. Put this bread treat on a limb of a tree or branch of a bush, as shown in the picture. By keeping the bread off the ground, you won’t have uninvited ants come to your picnic. Don’t offer the treat until mid summer which will allow the young birds to have matured. View these “treats” for birds like “candy” for children. You would not give candy to children every day which is how these treats should be reserved for the birds — not every day.

Check out our Facebook!
VOLUNTEER NEEDED
WOULD YOU LIKE TO WORK ONLY 1 HOUR, BE PART OF A SOCIAL CLUB, TALK ON THE PHONE, AND TEXT YOUR FRIENDS! INTERESTED????

Well Frisky’s doesn’t have that type of job available. Darn! But we do need volunteers who can spend a minimum of 2 – 4 hours each time they volunteer, clean cages (lots of poop) and feed the animals, keep phone stowed away and available only for calling other staff members. NO texting, be dependable and conscientious. Seriously, volunteering at Frisky’s is very rewarding work and you get a sense of accomplishment after you have finished cleaning the animal’s cages. After all, the animals cannot clean or feed themselves and when they are mature and healthy enough to be set free, you feel good to know you were a part of that animal’s freedom back to the wild.

Also, if you are a tradesman or handyman and you could volunteer your services for roof repair, door replacement, power washing siding, electrician, plumber, or odds and ends job, Frisky’s could use your help. Frisky’s would gladly pay for materials if you could donate your labor and time.

Anyone interested in helping Frisky’s, please send an email with your contact information to this address. Anyone interested in helping Frisky’s, please send an email with your contact information to this address. Anyone interested in helping Frisky’s, please send an email with your contact information to this address.

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BECAUSE OF YOU

BY COLLEEN LAYTON ROBBINS

It all started one fall day in 1970. My first husband was in Vietnam with the Marines and I was pregnant with my son, Rick. A young couple hiking on the railroad tracks in Gettysburg found four baby bunnies. It was suggested they bring them to me. I could only guess they figured a backwoods hillbilly farm girl, would know how to care for critters. So I committed myself. Over the years, I took in more wildlife and then domestics and exotics were added to our farm. Learning early on: No Matter How Much You Do, It Can Never Be Enough.

But because of you we can help what is suffering; we receive support that is needed. We have a future for Frisky’s natural and exotic wildlife. I am surrounded with people who want to help us thrive. I want happy healthy Thriving Animals, Friends, and Life.

On July 20th, 2014, my father took his own life. He was 80 years old and was not ill. He was an alcoholic and unhappy for many years. He only seemed to enjoy his two bottles of port every night. Though he was supposedly proud of my accomplishments and my dedication to the wildlife and exotics here at Frisky’s Wildlife and Primate Sanctuary, however, my father was a very abusive man, especially to his family. My regrets are that issues were not resolved between us. I pray he has now found peace after death.

On another subject Frisky’s has a dilemma: Please help! We have a surplus of enclosures for your donations of 20 to 100 dollars. And our barn is full of garage sale items we want to sell as a whole lot for a weekend sale. Offer, E. Storage Wars!