

THE RESCUE RECORD

Frisky's Wildlife & Primate Sanctuary

ISSUE 41

WINTER 2019

Year in Review

Greetings, Dear friends of Frisky's! Let's review last year, Well we had brought New Year's Eve in, working on 2018 documentation. Our "2019" started off cold wet & muddy. Scott held 49 yr. Capuchin monkey, Cheechy twice a day, while I cleaned her enclosure & made her favorite meals with avocado. Besides residents which usually count about 125 critters, we had several raptors, opossums, & squirrels winter over. It is a challenge keeping all critters warm fed & clean. Scott was extremely busy always clearing snow in January from driveway & park spaces, to the paths around animal enclosures. We kept having problems with our plumbing, at least then, it was indoors. Our diabetic monkey Dawson steadily improved on insulin; he had given us several scares. We got in a bald eagle January 23rd. 1st of many this year. A pot belly pig was kept in one of the very large indoor primate enclosures & enjoyed all of the blankets & quilts people donated for him. Grisha, one of our marmoset monkeys, died peaceably in his sleep, January 30th. 10-15-05 to 1-30-19. All critters were spoiled from pigeons to opossums with extra food, bedding & visual to activity enrichments. The vets that come out to check our hoof stock, always leaves us with good words of what Stellar conditions they are in. Of course, I always believe it is between care, nutritional diet, vaccines, & parasite control. Everyone networking. The ice storms we all suffered on the 12th of February... tried to total our farm, no animals were hurt but many stressed out including the bald eagle. Landscaping & buildings suffered severe damage, which made everyone a lot of stressful work. We had a new Honda Rebel motorcycle donated to us to raise funds & we started setting up our fundraiser in the beginning of March. Debbie Travisano was in charge, she's always amazing, with accepting, cleaning, sorting, pricing & asking people for help. My back continued to give me problems off and on during the cold months. I did celebrate my 65th birthday last March and refuse to admit, I can't do it all again! But baby possums and squirrels were already being brought in early March, then came the baby foxes & raccoons, then the baby doves & raptors. We were still in March! Beginning of April we started seeing baby bunnies and baby owls, keeping us as busy as our fundraiser. We have but one fundraiser a year, our annual fundraiser is a garage/yard sale held every weekend of April from 9-5 here. We sell wonderful donated items to raise funds to run and care for the animals and sanctuary. The fundraiser did very well.. thank you to everyone! So lets do it again in April next year, same time and place. Frisky's summer to early fall kept us extremely busy rehabbing thousands of animals as they came in. We are nurse, maid, and waitress, we keep each one on the right track of rehabilitation. *Continued on page 6*

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**Find out what you can do to help
the many animals in need at**

www.friskys.org

2 Days, 2 Eagles . . .

K. Michael Lathroum

I first became acquainted with Frisky's about 20 years ago while working as a park ranger at Patapsco Valley State Park. This professional relationship continued for a number of years as I was merged into the Natural Resources Police and then retired March 1 of this year.

I've lost track of how many critters, I have taken to or from Frisky's, blue heron. Fox, hawks, barred owl seen round the world etc. I've also referred numerous people to the all volunteer wildlife rehab and rescue.

Colleen has a way of working wonders with critters and she doesn't do badly in the people department either, though I secretly think she prefers the critters. So imagine my surprise when about a year and a half ago, I get a phone call on a day off to see if I could assist with a grounded eagle. Knowing the public as I did after almost 30 years with DNR, my first question was are we sure it is an eagle? The homeowner had assured Frisky's that it was an eagle. So of course, how can I refuse a request to assist our national bird the symbol of everything our country stands for and holds dear. So off I go, only to get to the residence and find, you guessed it not an eagle. Turns out this homeowner didn't know a Bald Eagle from a Red Shouldered Hawk. Well it was in need of assistance so off to Frisky's it goes.

Fast forward to July of this year, you guessed it another phone call and another grounded eagle. Of course I posed the same question are we sure it's an eagle? This time the caller provided photographic evidence. Confirmed, this bird was in fact a juvenile Bald Eagle, so my wife and I ride to the address and a short foot chase later. The very weak and emaciated bird was on it's way for some much needed TLC. That bird was successfully released in September.

All was quiet for awhile and just like when dealing with small children silence is suspicious. October 26, 2019, I receive a text message from Frisky's can you go assess an eagle in your county for us. Off we go again this time with the 4 year old grandson in tow. It was apparent upon arrival at the location that the eagle had a wing injury. Of course the eagle was in a horrible location, perched on a retaining wall, right on the water. I just knew that this bird was going to wind up in the water, and it didn't disappoint. A swimming it did go, with some assistance from the home owner and her kayak the bird was coaxed back to shore, where I was able to catch it without incident. All the while my poor wife is trying to keep a 4 year old grandchild out of the water because he was trying his darndest to help Pop Pop catch the eagle. Up to Frisky's he went where he was placed in an enclosure with an immature female eagle that was already a third larger then him.

Once again silence is suspicious. October 28, 2019 brought another text message for another downed eagle in my county. For the second time in as many days my wife and I took a trip and sure enough a short foot chase later, I had another injured eagle in hand that was transported to Frisky's.

I couldn't believe it 2 eagles in 2 days. months or even years without seeing that maybe I should buy a double eagle weekend to the move in the fall.

I am often asked simple answer

year creatures and you career There about birds people want again, at least

Sometimes you might go weeks, an injured eagle. I remember thinking "lottery ticket. I didn't." I attributed the migration peaking and a lot of birds on

why I do these rescues and the is that the animals can't help themselves. I spent a 30 protecting and conserving those which can't protect themselves just don't outgrow that over night. is also something very alluring of prey and eagles which make to help them. All is silent once for now.



Eileen

I have been volunteering at Frisky's for nine years now. So much has stayed the same and some other things have changed.

One of the constants is the annual monkey examinations in the fall. Each monkey is sedated so that Dr. Gold of the Chadwell Animal Hospital and his staff can do a thorough exam, trim the nails as needed, check and clean teeth and administer shots. After the exam, each monkey is held and monitored until the sedation wears off. While the monkeys are out of their enclosures, other Frisky's volunteers thoroughly clean their enclosures. The change this year is the reduction in the number of monkeys.

A long time resident Cheechy died in October this year just after her 50th birthday. She was born 9/14/1969 and has been at Frisky's since 1996. Cheechy was a staff favorite. She would talk to you if you said her name, leaning against the bars of her enclosure so you could scratch her head.

Frisky's is no longer accepting domestic animals. So domestic birds, cats, dogs, and domestic rabbits are turned away. There are other establishments that accept these animals. Besides the primates, Frisky's is putting its emphasis on wildlife.

My work at Frisky's has changed too. I find I am more comfortable in working with certain animals. I have found that the wild Canada Geese are not as aggressive as they act. I can go in their enclosures to change the bedding - making sure I move slowly and show them I am not a threat. Possums can make nasty faces but usually back off when I work around them.

Colleen's work and devotion to Frisky's has not changed. She continues with her dedication to helping the sick or wounded wildlife. I feel privileged to be able to work at Frisky's. Humans are charged with taking care of God's creatures.

Not all stories have a happy ending, but it is a thrill to see the successes run off fly back into the wild after completing rehabilitation. Immature baby animals are raised to the point where they are mature enough to care for themselves in the wild. I'll always remember holding an orphaned baby river otter. She could not be returned to the wild, but she is now happily living a carefree life in the Kansas City, Missouri zoo with a new friend.



No Place Like Home



Julia Dagnello

When we release animals we always strive to get them back to or near where they were found and this is especially important to box turtles. Box turtles are one of the most common species of turtle found in Maryland, they live an average of 50+ years and did you know they spend almost the entirety of that in one location?

Box turtles have home territories, generally in an area less than 1 mile. They hatch out completely independent and begin to map out the location around their nest. Once they find a good area, they'll usually stay there their entire lives. They learn where food is throughout the year, where to go to hibernate, and even group up with other turtles in the area! Box turtles are not aggressive to each other, it's common for multiple turtles' home ranges to overlap.



It is vitally important to return box turtles back to the exact location they were found. Box turtles placed within 1-2 miles of their home range will likely find their way back. Turtles relocated to new locations will spend their time aimlessly wandering, trying to find where their home is. It might be tempting to move a turtle to a "better" location but that does more harm than good. Turtles found on the road should be moved to the side of the road in the direction they were heading. If you find one in an unsafe area, look around close by (visual range) for a yard or park and place them there.



You can help out your neighborhood turtles by making your yard a box turtle friendly habitat. Plant native foliage, especially things that provide ground cover and species of fruit such as blackberries or pokeweed. Leave large areas of leaf litter - turtles love to forage through it and will burrow under to hibernate. Check the lawn before you mow, it can be hard to see them in long grass. Box turtles have been hit hard by habitat loss and fragmentation so even the little things will help!

frisky's Newsletter



I first discovered Frisky's Primate and Wildlife Sanctuary in March 2019. A European starling had infiltrated my roof and built a nest above a light in my ceiling. I knew I had to do something when it was clear the eggs had hatched, and I was woken up throughout the night to the cries of hungry chicks. I called around to various wildlife removal companies and received the same answer from all of them; "European starlings are not protected by Fish and Game Laws in the state of Maryland. If we remove the birds, the birds will likely be euthanized." I knew I was not going to let that happen. I decided to carefully remove the nest myself. Maryland Department of Natural Resources referred me to Frisky's as the place to take the nest. "She'll take anything," the employee on the phone said.

And it was true, Colleen Robbins took in my shoe box of baby European starlings and nurtured them until they were old enough to be released.

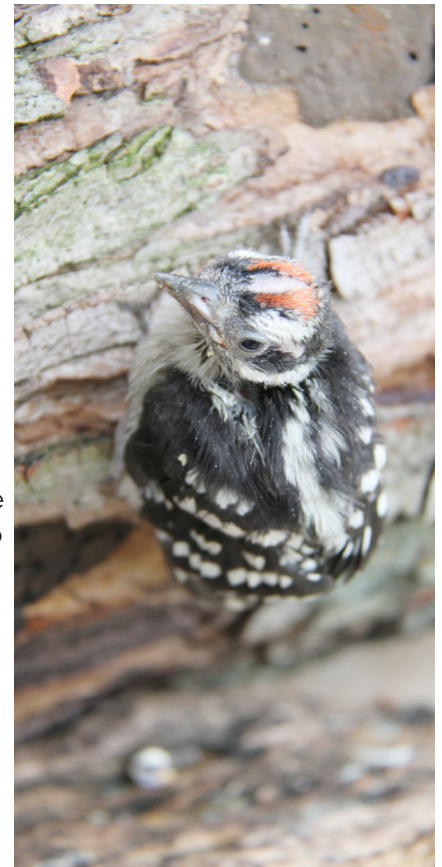
Our world today makes it extremely hard to coexist with wildlife, but that is where Frisky's shines. It may have been easier to call a pest removal service and let them handle my problem, but easy isn't always better. It was not my decision whether these baby birds lived or died. However, it is my choice and the choice of staff/volunteers at Frisky's to give every animal the fighting chance they deserve. This is why I chose to become a volunteer at Frisky's.

I began volunteering in August and routinely spend 2 days out of the week at the sanctuary. All of the staff members and volunteers alike were extremely kind, helpful, and welcoming while I learned the ropes. My daily duties include cleaning enclosures, refilling food/water, and observing the animals' general well-being. Cleaning up after wildlife is not always glamorous, but it is always rewarding. For me, it may be getting my hands a little dirty, but for the animals, it's the difference of having a clean/safe place to rest and recover from whatever ails them.

From a very young age, I always enjoyed animals of all kinds and interacting with them. I have volunteered at SPCAs and other shelters in the past, but being a member of the team at Frisky's is by far the most gratifying thing I could choose to do with my time. In the few months I have spent here, I have seen animals of all shapes, sizes, and conditions come through the door. One thing always remains consistent: at Frisky's these animals receive the best possible care. It is in the nature of wildlife rehabilitation that unfortunately not all the intakes will make it, but we do everything in our power to give them the best odds.

I would like to give a special thanks to Dr. Gold, Michael Lathroum, Chadwell Animal Hospital, Dr. Cranfield, all volunteers, all staff, all sponsors, and all other supporters of the sanctuary. Frisky's is able to save so many lives thanks to every one of you, and I am blessed to be a part of this wonderful organization.

Special Mention: Cheechy, our oldest capuchin monkey passed on in October. Cheechy lived a very long, joyful life under Colleen's care for over 30 years. She was a very special member of the Frisky's family, and will be dearly missed. Rest In Peace Cheechy 9/14/1969 - 10/05/2019.



Written by Krystal Marshall, Dedicated Frisky's Volunteer



2019 PRIMATE PHYSICALS

Well folks, Frisky's has once again achieved & survived its annual Primate Physicals! As director Colleen Layton- Robbins I must say, we've learned from mistakes & we're only getting better!

This year October 22nd. We started & achieved it all, during the day. With our dedicated veterinarians Dr. Keith Gold DVM & Dr. Mike Cranfield DVM along with the veterinarian's staff, all bright-eyed & bushy-tailed' starting the primate physicals this year at 10 a.m.

Now, I had to be up very early, 5am early, making sure nobody had food or water in their enclosures & of course they all knew I was up to something since I've been doing preparations/stealing a lot of their toys, swings & you know the bigger items that I felt were going to be in the way when we were trying to capture them.. so none of us would go through any difficulties or distress.

To note, we used to start these annual physicals at 5 to 5:30PM everyone came together & worked cooperatively despite it all, but back then it was, the end of the day. We all had challenges, being the end of our working day... fatigued and with unsavory tasks before being totally done... you know the cleaning and of course not just fecal management.

But this year all the veterinarians, staff and volunteers maintained professional and upbeat attitudes. No one being extremely tired... Halloween candy everywhere plus sodas and pizzas helped!

Anyway we all worked together, each primate is given a complete physical examination once a year. For the safety of both the vets and the animals the primates, must be sedated in order to perform a complete examination. So sedation and complete physicals and tests were done to each and every monkey. Everyone's dedication and gentle care was provided in their best caring ways. And all was completed successfully. No hectic moments and no changing of staff during physicals. I was so proud of everyone.... even every one of the primates!

The wonderful memories and accomplishments is sincerely appreciated. Thank you all, with hugs

Colleen Layton-Robbins



Year in Review *Continued from page 1*

Mid May the well pump needed to be replaced = \$1600 bill. Gee whiz, trying to cut back since we are now on social security. Scott sold our suburban, sold his cub cadet mower snowplow, and even his old Studebaker. To get them back out to the woods or back to where they were found ASAP. It was a very successful rehabbing year. I was amazed at all the hawks, fawns, and the variety of critters we got this year. I had a lot of very special people brining in needed items regularly... special thanks to you all! I try to keep people updated on facebook. Now you may have noticed we only did one newsletter last year, well between the cost pf printing and mailing, the staff and volunteers were extremely busy here, caring for all the animals. This may be the way it will continue. We have started several new staff volunteers to handle the overload of work at hand. Always remember to keep us in your thoughts and prayers... when you can, make donations. Your in-kind donations, financial support, gift cards to any store are always needed and appreciated. Frisky's really had an awesome year, a roller coaster ride, but if it all did not balance out we could not continue. Love and hugs to you all!

Colleen Layton-Robbins

Helping the Eastern Box Turtle Survive?

Wendy

The day was May 31, 2019. It was a beautiful warm and sunny day. I was sitting in the field behind my house, looking at the woods, when I spotted a female Eastern Box Turtle less than two feet from me, laying her eggs! So I sprung into action to protect the egg nest. Here is some background information on Eastern Box Turtles:

Eastern Box Turtles have become a threatened species due to habitat destruction, being hit by cars, and a high mortality rate. Predators such as foxes, raccoons, skunks, and opossums often dig up and eat the eggs, or eat the baby turtles when they hatch.

The female Eastern Box Turtle digs a hole with her hind legs, deposits 3-8 turtle eggs, covers up the hole, and then leaves and never comes back. The egg laying process can take more than 8 hours, as the hole to deposit the eggs must be the exact depth of the turtle's back leg for proper gestation and temperature. Turtle eggs are very soft and look like white ping pong balls. The gestation period for box turtle eggs is 60-95 days.

When born, baby Eastern Box Turtles are the size of a quarter, and have small orange spots along their spine. They will have a tiny "egg tooth" on their mouth for awhile, just like birds do, to break open their egg shell. The baby turtles will start eating within 24 hours. They eat small bugs, worms, cantaloupe, fruits, and vegetables. They should be released where they were born. Eastern Box Turtles can live up to 40 years of age, and spend their entire lives in a quarter mile radius of their birth place.

If you come across a turtle that is digging with her back legs, chances are it may be a female laying her eggs. Please help this nearly endangered species by immediately creating a cage around the turtle egg nest to protect it from predators.

1. Put some sticks or rocks around the turtle to help identify the egg nest area in case the turtle leaves before you return.
2. You will need to gather the following supplies, which you can purchase at your local hardware store:
 - a. 4 metal posts/stakes
 - b. Chicken wire or metal hardware cloth (which is actually metal mesh fencing with a tight pattern)
 - c. Mallet (for driving the posts in the ground)
 - d. Wire cutters or aviation snips (for cutting the metal hardware cloth)
 - e. Thin rope or jute string (for the top of the cage)
3. After the turtle has finished laying her eggs, covers up the hole, and leaves, use the mallet to drive the 4 metal stakes in the ground about 2 feet around the egg nest.
4. Unroll the hardware cloth/chicken wire and secure it around the stakes to make a protective cage. Make sure the hardware cloth goes all the way to the ground, and all the way around all stakes so nothing can crawl in or out of the cage.
5. Use the thin rope/jute string to weave several criss-cross patterns at the top of the cage. This helps deter birds of prey from going down into the nest to eat the eggs.
6. Take note of the date, and mark on your calendar the dates for 60, 70, 80, and 90 days gestation period. Now the waiting begins! Starting on Day 60, check the nest once a day to see if any baby turtles have hatched. Toward the later gestation period days, you may want to check the egg nest twice a day.
7. It's Hatchling Day!!! When all the babies have hatched, remove the fencing and stakes and let them wander off to a safe spot near their birth site. Or you can take them to Frisky's Wildlife Sanctuary to make sure they are healthy and strong enough for release. Then release them in the exact spot where they were born. In my case, there were 5 baby turtles that hatched on Day 93! All 5 babies were successfully released.

Thank you for caring about our wildlife and helping to preserve this beautiful turtle species!



In Memory of Cheechy RIP



It is very difficult . To share sad news with my dear friends of Frisky's. The passing of our 50 year old capuchin monkey Cheechy..this is especially so. Her date of birth was 9-14-1969 she passed 10-05-2019. I believe in the arms of many angels.

It was believed that she was the oldest monkey living at the time. Living just a few weeks past her 50th birthday. Oh she shared so many dances & smiles in her lifetime. She held hands with just about everyone she met. Cheechy left us with a million fond memories.

Jo McFarlane had her stay at Frisky's many times when her health was failing. Jo placed her permanently here in 1996. Cheechy, becoming best friends with the other primates quickly. One of her roommates was Oogie a blind capuchin monkey, who now misses her dearly & we're doing all we can to keep her content & comfortable. Cheechy continued to surprise us to the very end, always amazing us with how she recognized people, to how she was able to feed herself & pull the blankets over herself when she was done for the day! Scott Robbins held her two or three times a day just to give her a special time while I cleaned her enclosure & made her special meals, Healthy Choice meals with slices of avocado, her favorites along with snacks of yogurt covered pretzels. Always reaching for him/Scott to share an extra hug, when it was time to go back to her enclosure full of fluffy fleeces.

Julia, put on our Facebook her passing.. receiving 129 special comments, we received cards in her honor & memory. Now... Our hearts will always ache a bit when we think of her & share our memories. But I'm so glad I had our time together, what an honor it was!!!

Heather Wendell said it best..." Cheechy always made you feel like you were the most important person in her life. Her love made me beam from ear-to-ear!!! Our hearts will miss her.

RIP Cheechy. 9-14-1969 to 10-5 -2019

Love from us all.

Colleen Layton Robbins

Frisky's Wildlife & Primate Sanctuary

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 • friskyswildlife@yahoo.com

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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.