The bald eagle came to us at the end of April after he was injured in a fight with another eagle. Tom, the man who found it, had spotted commotion in a neighbor’s field and went to investigate. He found the two eagles tangled up, one with its talons in the others back and wing. He grabbed some gloves and managed to pry them apart. One of the eagles flew away, but the other was too injured. He was transported to Chadwell Animal Hospital and treated for a wound on it’s back before coming to Frisky’s.

For the first month the eagle was confined to a small enclosure so it could get medicated daily and start recovering. Several vet trips and a lot of fish later, the wound was fully healed and he was ready to go into a flight enclosure. He was far happier in our large flight enclosure and slowly started building up his strength again. Initially he couldn’t fly all the way across and would go down to the ground. A few weeks later he was able to get from one side to the other, turn around and do it again. At this point, he was ready to go.

After two months with us, we finally got to see our bald eagle back where he belongs. On July 3rd we released him in the same location he was found with the people who had rescued him. Being able to put them back into the wild is why we do what we do and makes all the hard work worth it. If you want to see a video of the release, its on our facebook group: https://www.facebook.com/groups/friskyswildlife/
For many months now I have been wanting to catch our family, friends & supporters up on what is going on here at Frisky’s. We’ve had our annual fundraiser. Not quite as good as last year, but went very well! Yet, we still have a barn full of items left over, trying to figure out how to turn it into funds for Frisky’s. Please contact us if you have any real solutions.

So, animals have been coming in, born as early as March. Squirrels, bunnies & foxes, owls, baby fawns, ducklings, goslings & a variety of birds have been keeping us extra busy this summer as well as all the sanctuary exotics that live here. I, myself, am up before 5 a.m., and do not go to bed till 10:30. That’s why I have an unfiltered attitude when someone shows up after hours.

Question on our Balancing Act -- Many of you ask, when did I start wildlife rehabilitation or you may know that I started 9-15-1970, My 1st husband was in Vietnam & I was pregnant with our son, Rick, when I was brought my first litter of bunnies that were found on the railroad tracks in Gettysburg. So you know I’ve been doing this close to 45 years! You all know I can’t do this forever. Many have asked who will take on Frisky’s dedicated career for animals? Well, mainly our good staff. But #1 in place is Julia Dagnello. She’s been with us for 5 years now, 40 years younger than I am. Totally 100% committed & dedicated. A hard worker, very intelligent and sees the task through. She amazes us all with her diligence. Without Izzy’s vast medical/veterinary knowledge and experience, Omar’s computer know how, or Carolyn’s endless patience for data entry Frisky’s wouldn’t exist today.

We found out during all the storms that the very old roof of Frisky’s main building has three leaks. One of them comes down into the primate & exotic special needs room, one in the library and one leaks into the library office. Repair/replacement estimate is about $25,000.

My life of helping others especially animals with all of the compassion & empathy towards those, that were hurting with pain caused by outside forces i.e. other animals, humans, vehicles or nature. Well, I could relate to them and help them through their suffering which also helped me through my own. My life given, was worth it! I have never ever regretted or wanted to quit. In what I have gave and done. NO matter what stress it caused or cost me in my own health or personal life. To this day I still want to go out of my way to do good, and help others. Almost every person I’ve met who calls on us here has some real empathy for animals in need. And I’ve met thousand of you! THANKS!!!

I need for people to please understand that I rarely get a chance to answer the phone, we are extremely busy around here I don’t like misunderstandings...like when I say we are not taking domestic animals.

The balancing act is even here at Frisky’s in our little orchard, the cherry trees failed this year miserably but the pear, apple & peach trees are doing great. Grapevines...well the goats & horse pulled some of those down (darn kids) but there is still several yards left, that are producing well enough to feed the fawns, wildlife & primates. Our little garden which has squash, cucumbers & tomatoes. The berry bushes have done very well, but did not last very long. They did produce several gallons that made great smoothies for the volunteers & primates which made them happy.

Upon remembering volunteers or the supporters promises unkept, sometimes we feel forgotten & very disappointed, a bit hurt from promises unkept. I remember a time back when a man on Valentine’s Day said he got a card but forgot to send it. Wasn’t it the thought that counted yet still had no apology or action to give. I felt hurt, unworthy, disappointed & a bit bitter. Now, onto the balancing act -- I have a wonderful man, Scott. He is very committed & never forgets anything. Dedicated Staff/ Volunteers & Loyal Supporters. I still to this day think I am...Living the Life! Even today, with all of its challenges.

There are challenges with Frisky’s Wildlife Center as with all organizations. Of course we deal with our community for the same common goal -- grounds to provide rehabilitation or sanctuary for animals in need. Did you know 9 out of 10 people do not leave a donation. Some of the ones that do of course compensate for the ones who do nothing. Yes many cannot afford monetary or in-kind donation. I must say it gets frustrating with the ones that we know can donate do nothing, but like I said it does all balance out. We have so many wonderful people who either come by, mail or send wonderful letters, cards and giftcards, or bring in donations.

From suffering and surviving many hardships and events at a young age. I’ve realized our life is a gift not to be wasted but do something worthwhile and appreciate the life we have. I always want to be a blessing on every path that crosses mine, yet on the balancing act, sometimes yes I snap at the person who shows up at 10:30 at night after they’ve heard Frisky’s recording saying respect hours from 8 to 8. When I’m pulled out of bed or a shower for a non-emergency, yes I’ve snapped. I have often said I want to write a book. They have books out of the mouths of babies. I want to write one out of the mouths of seniors, we lost our filter anyone want to help me write it?

The fact is Frisky’s is here on our personal farm. It is a 501c3 organization. We do not receive any state, county or federal funding and are not receiving any grants, no one here is paid. Yet we are licensed by DNR, Federal Fish and Wildlife and Wildlife Heritage. We have a rabie vector species permit and USDA APHIS license and a marriage license. I repeat - no one here is paid. Scott my husband works 60 hours a week to make ends meet. Last year we took in several thousands of animals. We received $98,000 in donations and fundraising. You to the math it’s a balancing act.

We are inundated & exhausted, but in balancing, we can’t & won’t shake off any of our responsibilities...so we need your welfare and continued support along with dedicated staff...we have cut back... we no longer take in companion pets.
Q: I’ve called multiple times and left multiple messages, why doesn’t anyone pick up?

A: We have a really long message for a reason and that is to answer 95% of typical questions we get. Most messages are “I found _____ can I bring it in?” “Do you accept _____?”. If your question is answered by our message, we will not be either answering the phone or returning your call. The reason behind this is that 80% of the time, Frisky’s is a one person operation. That one person, Colleen Layton-Robbins can not be running to the phone every 5 minutes when she’s in the middle of saving lives. To give you an insight at our call/message totals, we clear out 45 messages every other day and the phone calls are nearly double.

Q: Can I bring an animal after 8pm?

A: No you may not, Frisky’s is also the Robbins’ personal home and coming in after hours violates their privacy. Most wildlife facilities have days off and end at 5pm, out of the goodness of her own heart Colleen allows Frisky’s to be open 365 days a year and closes at 8pm. Please respect her and our wishes, they’re still a family and need family time. Just keep the animal warm overnight and bring it in the morning, or have someone else bring it in. DO NOT COME IN AFTER HOURS!!

FAWN SEASON

BY SANAZ NORGARD

Starting in May, we begin to see the fawns of white-tailed deer arriving at Frisky’s. These adorable little guys are sometimes brought in accidentally, as they often do not like being rescued. When the fawns are first born, they have almost no body odor and their spotted coats help them blend into surroundings protecting them from potential predators. Their mother will leave them in a secluded area, while she heads out to forage. The doe will only nurse the fawn periodically, and often people find fawns alone, thinking they have been abandoned. However, this is not the case, and the doe will not return to the fawn while humans are present.

Fawns have the best chance of survival with their mothers. Please do not remove the fawn unless he or she is lying on his or her side, surrounded by flies, kicking, crying, injured, or is obviously ill. If a fawn must be brought in, DO NOT chase it. Deer are prey animals, and stress from a chase can cause them to suffer capture cardiomyopathy, which can and will kill the very creature you may be trying to save. When bringing a fawn to Frisky’s, you can place a towel over its head. This can help keep it calm as you bundle it like a burrito for transport.

As tempting as it may be, try not to hug, talk to, or cuddle the fawn, as this causes them more stress. Equally important is not to attempt to keep them. It is illegal to keep wildlife as pets and a small, baby fawn will grow rapidly, losing its spots in about 3 months and later becoming dangerous as a 125 to 225 pound adult. We also ask you do not attempt to feed them before bringing them into Frisky’s. All wildlife have different nutritional requirements, and without the proper diet, they will become very ill. Cow’s milk is especially dangerous, since the intestinal upset it causes can quickly lead to death. Once showing signs of illness or diarrhea, fawns can be extremely difficult to save.

Therefore, we ask you to bring the fawn promptly to Frisky’s, keeping the fawn in a warm, quiet area until arrival. As always, we are open 8 am to 8 pm, every single day of the year and you do not need to call in advance. Fawn season is a beautiful time of year and we hope all of the fawns will grow up healthy and happy!
Frisky’s would like to take the time to honor one of our biggest supporters, Bill Kuhn who passed away earlier this year. Bill and his wife Debbie were long time supporters of Frisky’s, they have done it all for Frisky’s from monetary donations, to supplies, and even supporting us during our court cases. Many friends and family of Bill & Debbie made donations to Frisky’s in Bill’s honor, which shows what kind and generous souls that we were blessed with knowing. Thank you Bill, you left a large impact in the lives of everyone at Frisky’s, you will be sorely missed.

For the past 3 years we’ve been delighted to have a new major supporter that has pretty much come out of the blue; this supporter is actually an annual convention that goes by the name of “Fur the ‘More”. What is Fur the ‘More? It’s a Furry convention, the only one in the tri-state area! Now you’re probably asking what is a Furry? They’re people who have a hobby of dressing up into anthropomorphic characters (half human/half animal) that they associate themselves to which they call a Fursona (a play off of persona, very cute!). They dress up in full bodied Fursuits that represent their Fursona and like to meet/greet people, just hang out, or other activities like dancing, art, and more. I personally love it when they meet kids since their eyes light up like they’re meeting Mickey Mouse for the first time.

This year, they held their convention at the Sheraton Premiere in Tyson’s Corner, Virginia during May 29-31. It was a weekend filled with wonderful events and kind people! One of my favorite events was the Chimaera Challenge build, in which you have 2 hours to create a fursuit out of random pieces of leftover materials. After everyone is completely covered in fur, the finished products range from masterpieces to hilarious monstrosities. In addition, there were 3 charity events held this year, which included a charity poker game, Red Dragon Inn tournament, and Charity Auction! The highest item sold for $600 was a signed cup of Gatorade by PepperCoyote who was the announcer for the auction.

Three years ago they chose us as their charity convention, which totally makes sense since they’re all huge animal lovers and it really shows! They have since raised us over $12,000! This greatly helps Frisky’s pay for the supplies needed for animal husbandry, and bills such as water, electric, and veterinary. We are very grateful for all the support we receive, and since Fur the More is one of our top contributors, we especially want to thank them for all their help!
Kids Can Help Too

Kids are a very important part of Frisky’s. Every day we have kids like you, that want to do their part to help the animals in some way. In the past, Boy Scout Troops have done projects for Frisky’s, like building benches, birdhouses or other houses for animals to live in. Girl Scouts have knitted nesting baskets for small animals to cozy up in or they have done drives for things we need, like paper towels and linens.

Other kids have done bake sales, lemonade stands, car washes or sold candy bars to help raise money to support Frisky’s. Kids can also do things around their homes or neighborhoods, like raking leaves, mowing lawns, or shoveling snow, then have people donate money to Frisky’s in return.

As a way to say thank you, we often have educational programs for Scout Troops or organizations to help with badges or certificates. Don’t forget about our summer programs. Children as young as five may come on a summer tour. More information can be found about the tours on Facebook or the Frisky’s Website. Once we have said when the summer tours will be, you can have your parents contact Frisky’s by e-mail to sign-up at friskyswildlife@yahoo.com.

Whether you help in a big or small way, everyone here at Frisky’s, especially all the animals, thank you for all that you do!

Gizmo’s Fun Fact

One power bill this winter at Frisky’s cost over $1200!!
When working with wildlife, personal safety and hygiene is absolutely necessary. Therefore, we ask everyone who brings in an animal to wear gloves to protect themselves from the internal and external parasites that are found on wildlife. Many of these parasites and their eggs cannot be seen by the naked eye. Some can survive baths of bleach and even freezing at temperatures below zero degrees Fahrenheit. In addition, even boiling water may not destroy their toxins and/or spores. But throwing on gloves is not enough, these items must be carefully put on and removed. Gloves should be fully extended to protect the wrist. While gloves are worn, limit surfaces that you touch to avoid spreading contamination, keep your hands away from your face or any other exposed skin, and change gloves when they become torn or heavily contaminated. If you touch any part of the glove that is dirty, promptly wash your hands or use an alcohol-based sanitizer.

The outside of gloves are contaminated and removing them also must be done with caution. This can be done in a series of steps to ensure no bare hand contact is made with the contaminants. First, while both hands are gloved, grasp the palm area of the first gloved hand with your other gloved hand, peel off the first glove. Then, while holding the first removed glove in the still gloved hand, slide fingers or thumb under the remaining glove at wrist and peel off second glove over the first. The gloves will be inside out at this point and can now be safely discarded.

Once you discard your gloves, you need to wash or sanitize your hands again. This is a very important last step, which is often forgotten. When you follow these guidelines, you help prevent the spread of illness, which also benefits wildlife.
Many people have misunderstanding thinking we are no longer taking in bunnies or birds...No it's just domestic pets, adult deer or raccoons that are no longer accepted here at Frisky's. Our outgoing message says you can bring over orphaned, injured or displaced wildlife between 8 am and 8 pm. We are sorry, we cannot come out to pick up animals off the side of the road or private properties.

I have heard from one of my neighbors who stops over regularly say I should remind people the cost of wildlife rehabilitation. A species specific diet can be challenging when mothers of wildlife do not feed their animals from anything that has been processed. Of course this means we regularly have special orders for frozen feeder mice, costing Frisky’s $400. to $600. about every two weeks to feed the hawks, owls, foxes, snakes & alligators. For the many species of birds we use different kinds of worms/mealworms, along with a staple diet formula mixture. Groundhogs, bunnies, squirrels and fawns start with special formula with canned pumpkin, working their way to peanuts, grapes berries, greens & hay.

Many of you would like to take an interest in Frisky’s Wildlife & Primate Sanctuary & Rescue Inc., and many have shown more than interest. We hear quite often...No one would do this day in and day out year after year. But there are us wildlife rehabilitators!!!!! Yes, it takes a real commitment! It involves every waking & sleeping moment for me! I know some of my staff are very dedicated with the welfare. I’m seeing animals that pass through this property with the dedicated staff, to name a of few, Scott, Julia, Bonnie, Joyce, Eileen Tom, Izzy, Omar, Matt & the many veterinarians & volunteers. I appreciate your ongoing generous support.

In closing... it’s all a Balancing Act. I probably have attention decifit disorder. Getting it all done & living life. In doing good caring work for purpose. As always THANKS for caring, sharing & giving.

Sincerely always & all ways,
Colleen Layton-Robbins, Founder of Frisky’s

Colleen of Friskys Wildlife

“Wish List”
FRISKY’S WILDLIFE & PRIMATE SANCTUARY, INC.
Your Support Is Greatly Appreciated

- Dog Food (canned or dry)
- Cat Food
- Rabbit Food
- Juices
- Extra Baby Bottle
- Nipples
- Litter Boxes
- Canners (non-toxic) (like Clorox or Simple Green)
- Office Supplies & Equipment

A 501(c)3 Organization — PLEASE MAKE CHECKS PAYABLE TO 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.

Check us out on Facebook