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THE RESCUE RECORD
FRISKY’S WILDLIFE & PRIMATE SANCTUARY
ISSUE 17 • FALL 2011
FRISKY’S FOR REHABILITATION
BY JANICE ELLIS

OUR SECOND EAGLE CAME IN ON JULY 4, 2011. Colleen received a call from The Dept. of Natural Resources (DNR) stating that an injured Eagle had been found and they needed to find someone to bring it to Frisky’s. After getting information on proper handling for transportation, Lanson Ross and his wife, Allison, brought the eagle in to us and told us that the eagle had been spotted the previous week, looking unhealthy and hanging upside down in a tree at one point. But no one had reported it to the DNR until that day. Colleen immediately checked in with the vet and also called Ashley Vanderloop, a volunteer who had experience at a raptor center in Colorado.

This new Eagle is larger than our male Bald Eagle but weak and anemic. Colleen immediately began to do sub-q fluids. Colleen administers the fluids 3 times a day. Initially, her diagnosis possibilities included an infected foot or leg, or a broken bone from falling from a tree, lead poisoning, West Nile Virus, or a combination of any of these. Not sure of her condition, all precautions were taken for the safety of our existing wildlife residents by quarantining this new Eagle. As she continued to improve, she was moved to a larger enclosure and Julia, Kerri and Cong did a superb job cleaning, not an easy task. It was immediately clear that this new Eagle could be a Golden Eagle, and if so, we would not be certain of its sex.

Two days later, the new Eagle was moved to the male Bald Eagle enclosure. It was immediately clear that this new Eagle was female. She was very skinny and anemic and she could not fly. Upon hearing the news of the new Eagle I did a little research on differences between Golden and Bald Eagles. Feathers on the underside of an Eagle’s wings and on its tail feathers are different for the two types. This one had lots of white markings on its tail. On the legs, a Golden Eagle’s feathers most of the way down its legs, but there was a little bare leg showing right above the talons. (Sounded like a Bald Eagle to us and if it is, it’s a female, so I refer to the new eagle as “she and her”. There is a chance that the new Eagle could be a Golden Eagle, and if so, we would not be certain of its sex.)

Tuesday, Joyce took the Eagle to Chadwell Animal Hospital. Dr. Gold was out of town but Dr Robin Urie is an Avian Vet and well qualified to take care of an Eagle. This new Eagle weighed 7 lbs and indeed was very weak and anemic. X-Rays were taken and nothing showed up. Blood was drawn for tests. She was put on two anti-biotics. Colleen was to continue to do sub-q fluids 3 times a day. She was fed tender mice and fish three times a day and seemed to be eating very well, but her system refused to allow her to keep her food and she vomited after each meal. (These are frozen mice and fish that have been thawed.)

Thursday, the first tests came back, proof of the anemia and she was septic. This means that at some point she had eaten waste matter that has poisoned her system. She had bacteria in her bloodstream. Colleen was to continue the treatment she has been using and wait to see how quickly the new Eagle recovers. Shortly we noticed a slight difference and she seemed to recognize Colleen as someone who is helping her. She allowed Joyce to upright her as she fell forward without showing fear or showing the need to defend herself. Anim’s animals amazing!” Friday, she was not lunging at the front of the enclosure, hitting her head and back on the door. Someone’s feeling better! Before she was lethargic and did not seem to care about her surroundings but now she wanted out. This is good. She’s feeling well enough to be concerned about something other than keeping herself upright.

As she continued to improve, she was moved to a larger enclosure and Julia, Kerri and Cong did a super cleaning on the smaller empty enclosure. Each time she would be moved, an enclosure would need to be cleaned, not an easy task. It was immediately clear that...
Where do I start? I guess at the beginning. In January 2007, Matt and I found an injured hawk in our neighborhood. We eventually found our way to Frisky’s. Believing that if you save a life you are responsible for it, we continued to check on the hawk and bring food for it until it could be released. On one of our weekly visits to drop off food, Colleen offered to show us around since we mentioned volunteering.

That is when we saw him. He was small, the size of a house cat, with a long nose and small little eyes that looked straight into your heart. It was Weeble, and we were hooked.

How can you look into a Coatimundi face and not fall in love? We had volunteered at several Animal Rescues over the years that Matt spent in the Coast Guard. So this was really just another place that had animals that needed care. Because we had previous experience with Domestic Animals as well as Wildlife over the past 25 years, it did not take us long to get up to speed on what needed to be done.

We started taking care of the Coatimundi. Weeble was not very trusting in the beginning, who could blame him though; he had been through many changes over the past few months. His folks had divorced; he had been with them. There may have been over the past two few months. His folks had divorced; he had been with them. But you could tell that some things were not right, he was having some trouble on his ramps, he was sleeping more, and he tired very easily. We lost Weeble on August 19. As hard as it was to let go him, it was the right thing to do. Our hearts are broken, but we believe that we were able to keep the promise we made to him, and in the end that is what matters. I want to close with this poem that I am sure that most have seen at one time or another. The promise of this is what keeps us hopeful that we can help more animals.

RAINBOW BRIDGE
Just this side of heaven is a place called Rainbow Bridge.
When an animal dies that has been especially close to someone here, that pet goes to Rainbow Bridge. There are meadows and hills for all of your special friends so they can run and play together. There is plenty of food, water and sunshine, and our friends are warm and comfortable. All the animals who have been ill and old are restored to health and vigor; those who were hurt or maimed are made whole and strong again, just as we remember them in our dreams and days and times gone by. The animals are happy and content, except for one small thing: they each miss someone very special to them, who had to be left behind.

They all run and play together, but the day comes when one suddenly stops and looks into the distance. His bright eyes are intent; his eager body quivers. Suddenly he begins to run from the group, flying over the green grass, his legs carrying him faster and faster.

You have been spotted, and when you and your special friend finally meet, you cling together in joyous reunion, never to be parted again. The happy kisses rain upon your face, your hands caress the beloved head, and you look once more into the trusting eyes of your pet, so long gone from your life but never absent from your heart.

Then you cross Rainbow Bridge together...

Author unknown...

FOR THE LOVE OF WEEBLE
BY JOYCE DIETSCHE
Our first Eagle, the male Bald Eagle, continued to take short flights across the enclosure from one end to the other. Although we did not capture this with a photo, it still marks the first flight we witnessed. She is learning so much from the healing process of the Eagles. Everything worth while takes time and patience and we have learned so much from the Mother Eagles. Everything we do today is for the future.

We successfully released geese, ducks, hawks, owls, doves, opossums, squirrels, a variety of song birds, foxes and raccoons. Turtles and groundhogs were sent home to be released where they were found. The fawns are just about ready to be released as a herd, they have their "earrings" (tags) on.

Most of the enclosures at Frisky’s are used only a short few months out of the year. When the season is over and we look around, we see empty houses that animals just left the day before. It is sad to see them leave sometimes, but we remind ourselves that the releases mean we did our job correctly. These animals now have a second chance at the life they were meant to live all along. We wish them all well.

Our Eagles are doing better, she’s eating on her own again and moving around in her enclosure. She’s not stumbling around so much either. We are thankful that she was not released back into the wild, as she was falling on her head again. These are the symptoms she came in with, we were back to square one.

Recently, Ben, who is only 13, rescued a bumble from a nest where two cars were built try to get to her. He did not see any sign of the mother for hours and became concerned. He brought the bumble inside to protect him. He called Frisky’s to ask for help, but reached the answering system because we were so busy. He left a message asking for help on taking care of the bumble and even offered as he would be permitted to keep a couple of these bumbles as pets. I was very impressed by his message, it was very detailed, and the situation, the description and condition of the bumbles were all for me. I called the call and his mom allowed me to speak directly with Ben. He was doing a great job of caring for his pet, and just to make this day one day at a time, knowing that so much of each animal’s recovery is out of our hands.

We successfully released geese, ducks, hawks, owls, doves, opossums, squirrels, a variety of song birds, foxes and raccoons. Turtles and groundhogs were sent home to be released where they were found. The fawns are just about ready to be released as a herd, they have their ‘earrings’ (tags) on. Most of the enclosures at Frisky’s are used only a short few months out of the year. When the season is over and we look around, we see empty houses that animals just left the day before. It is sad to see them leave sometimes, but we remind ourselves that the releases mean we did our job correctly. These animals now have a second chance at the life they were meant to live all along. We wish them all well.

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Our Falcons are doing better, she’s eating on her own again and moving around in her enclosure. She’s not stumbling around so much either. We are thankful that she was not released back into the wild, as she was falling on her head again. These are the symptoms she came in with, we were back to square one.

Recently, Ben, who is only 13, rescued a bumble from a nest where two cars were built try to get to her. He did not see any sign of the mother for hours and became concerned. He brought the bumble inside to protect him. He called Frisky’s to ask for help, but reached the answering system because we were so busy. He left a message asking for help on taking care of the bumble and even offered as he would be permitted to keep a couple of these bumbles as pets. I was very impressed by his message, it was very detailed, and the situation, the description and condition of the bumbles were all for me. I called the call and his mom allowed me to speak directly with Ben. He was doing a great job of caring for his pet, and just to make this day one day at a time, knowing that so much of each animal’s recovery is out of our hands.

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Hi! My name is Colleen Layton-Robbins and I am the nurse, maid and waitress for each rescued critter that comes to Frisky’s Sanctuary. Please rest assured, I am not doing this alone. Frisky’s has a very dedicated management team and at the end of each day, we are all exhausted, yet we feel good about what we’ve accomplished.

You should know that each one of these animals lives his own set of special needs to tend to and nurture. There are individual diets, bedding, enclosures and some of the animals need medication. Their needs can run from simple to complicated, depending on the animal and the years of education and experience. The years of education give us the knowledge, and when you add the experience from working with the animals, giving them that all-important second chance at life in the wild is what Frisky’s Mission has always been and will continue to be. Our goal is to be a blessing to all we meet on this path. Happy, healthy, thriving lives have always been Frisky’s motto.

I want to take this opportunity to acknowledge everyone at Frisky’s who work together to make up our team. I know you will enjoy this newsletter, and we thank Janice Ellis who is in charge of Administration and information and makes it possible for the animal caregivers to focus on the many duties that are needed to take care of all the animals properly. Thanks to all the staff volunteers who dedicate their time and effort willingly to help keep Frisky’s animals fed and cared for. Thanks to all the wonderful new summer volunteers we have had this season. We are very sorry to see some of you go back to school and hope to see you again. A special thanks to my husband, Scott Robbins, who shares my vision of Frisky’s and works so hard beside me to make it come true.

I wish to thank all those who have rescued animals, as you are also part of our team and we thank you for your support. In order for Frisky’s to help these animals, they need someone to care enough to get involved, to take the time and effort to bring them to us. For those of you who have made monetary or in-kind donations, thank you also for being part of our team, we cannot do it without any of you. Please remember, we are all here at Frisky’s as volunteers, whether it is working physically with the animals or behind the scenes. No one is paid. All donations, monetary and in-kind, go towards the care and welfare of the animals at Frisky’s Sanctuary. Our donations are currently at a low point. We understand that many of you are undergoing your own challenges in these hard times, but for Frisky’s to continue its work, you need our support. In all my years, I have always found a way to help animals in need. Can you please find a way to help us help them?

My Sincere Thanks,
Colleen Layton-Robbins

Colleen has stated many times throughout the years that she is not moving and she is not a quitter. We at Frisky’s stand behind her, together we stand, divided we fall. Where do you stand?

I have worked with primates, such as macaques, previous to my volunteering at Frisky’s. I comprehend the potential dangers of working with any creature, regardless of its nature. Still, it is evident to me that Frisky’s has the adequate facilities to address the concerns of security. There are multiple layers of protections in place and there is a dedication to these animals that is paramount. It is human to fear that which we do not understand and often people will fill in the gaps of their unknown with misconceptions. But, as humans we are also extremely intelligent and able to discern when our fears have basis or when they are driven by other covert designs.

I would love to see all the energy spent in this zoning hearing brought to more philosophian causes. I have no fear of the animals that are harbored there, but I immense-ly fear how empty our lives would be without Frisky’s and without the resilience needed to keep seeking freedom.

Our beloved Bimbee was born Septem-ber 15, 1971. We didn’t much know much about her life before she came to us. What we do know is that her previous owner had her for 28 years before her death and that she was well taken care of. That didn’t change once she arrived at Frisky’s. Bimbee was spoiled by everyone at the Sanctuary. She always greeted you with a smile.

I first met Bimbee when my husband and I started volun-teeering at Frisky’s in 2005. Bimbee had an instant liking to me. I think that I must have reminded her in some way of her previous owner. I either looked or sounded like her, we just don’t know. But we had an immediate bond, which could not be broken. Bimbee led a very quiet life until the day we got a call from Jon Gallo. He is a sports writer for the Baltimore Exam-iner. He had an idea for a series of articles, they wanted to know if a Monkey was Smarter than humans. They wanted to publish a story the sports section that would have a monkey pick the outcome of football games. He asked if we knew of any monkey that we thought would be willing and able to do this. Because of our connection I immediately thought of Bimbee.

So before the season started, Jon dropped off a package of pennants; he put out her hand and picked one of them. Jon thought of Bimbee. We didn’t know how old Bimbee was, all we knew is that Bimbee had a 62% average both years. Jon came to Frisky’s on Tuesday mornings and we would go through all the games being played that week. After Bimbee made her picks, Jon would then contact local sports figures, celebrities and political figures from around Balti-more and the state of Maryland to pick against her. Some weeks she would just have one challenger other weeks she would have many. After that first week or two, a Star was born, she became known as the “Pigskin Picking Prin-cess.”

She had fans, Bimbee got fan mail and gifts, all addressed to her in care of Frisky’s. If they changed the day that the paper had the articles with the picks, the sports department would get calls asking where they were. I think she really enjoyed it. Bimbee picked against many people in her 2 years, she had a 62% average both years. However, all good things must come to an end. Jon called one day after the season was over to tell me that the paper was folding and along with all of them Bimbee would be out of a job. I would guess that the news affected the other employees at the paper more than Bimbee because they were all receiving pay checks, and Bimbee did her job for free.

Bimbee went right back to just being her loveable self. We all spoiled her. I bought her all her favorite things every week, and spent time with her, brushing and cuddling with her. She spent time doing my nails. In May of 2010, Bimbee suffered a stroke. After the stroke she had trouble with her left arm, after a few months she overcame that and was doing all the things that she had done before. We never really thought about how old Bimbee was, al-though we knew that she was older. We gave her all the extra care that an older monkey should receive and never thought of her as elderly.

One morning, Bimbee started having seizures, Colleen called me and I drove right away to the sanctuary to pick her up and take her to the vet. There was a part of me that was hoping that there was something that they could do for her, but I was very aware that her age was not going to be on her side. It was probably one of the longest rides I have taken.

On the evening of July 14th, Bimbee passed away, 2 months shy of her 40th birthday. This is a loss that was felt by everyone at the Sanctuary. Bimbee touched so many people. For me personally it will be something that will take some time to get over. I do take comfort in knowing that she is now reunited with the woman that first loved her and took such good care of her for those many years. What a happy day that must have been for the two of them.

All of us at Frisky’s would like to thank you for your many prayers for Bimbee.