

Free Again, Inc.

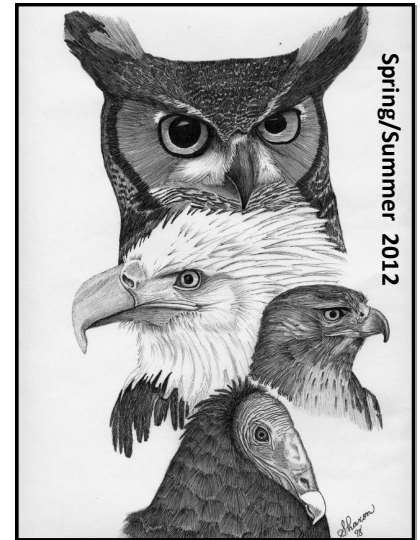
Conservation Through Rehabilitation & Education

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Mission Statement: Free Again, Inc. is a volunteer, non-profit organization providing the Southern Illinois region with rehabilitation services for injured, ill, or orphaned wildlife. Through awareness and education, we encourage a peaceful coexistence between people and our native wildlife. Founded in 1987, we serve nearly 400 avian and mammal species yearly.



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Calls flood in about disoriented raccoons; mark beginning of distemper season

Distemper is a serious disease that affects both raccoons, cats and dogs, as well as other wildlife such as ferrets, foxes, skunks, and bobcats. Management of this disease starts with responsible pet ownership and management of infected wildlife.

There are two forms of distemper, feline and canine. Although a cat cannot get canine distemper,

and vice versa, wildlife can get both forms of the disease. Raccoons and members of the Mustelidae family (minks, skunks, badgers, and otters) can be infected with both canine and feline distemper.

Canids, such as domestic dogs, coyotes, and foxes, can be infected with canine distemper. Felids, such as domestic cats and bobcats, can be infected with feline distemper.

Canine Distemper

Canine distemper is a very resistant virus that is not affected by cold temperatures. As a result, cases of distemper in domestic dogs occur year round. Cases in wildlife are usually seen in the early spring and summer but also persist year round.

Symptoms of canine distemper include coughing, vomiting, nasal and ocular discharge. In the final stages of the disease,

raccoons begin to wander, look as if they are searching for something, and may exhibit other behaviors associated with brain damage.

These symptoms are sometimes mistaken for rabies, however, only laboratory tests can distinguish between distemper and rabies at that point.

There is no treatment or supportive care for wildlife with distemper.

Unvaccinated dogs are fully susceptible to canine distemper. Vaccination of domestic dogs not only provides protection for your pets but also local wildlife.

Feline Distemper

Feline distemper is a highly infectious viral disease that is shed in bodily fluids and fecal matter. The virus begins to divide rapidly in the intestines and bone marrow of infected animals.

(Continued on page 2.....)



Communal food bowls act as reservoirs for the distemper virus.
© Free Again, Inc.

Distemper season continued....

(Continued from page one)

Symptoms of feline distemper include depression, vomiting, anorexia, high fever, and diarrhea.

Mortality from feline distemper is very high, sometimes reaching 100% in susceptible populations. Death is painful as the small intestine and lymph nodes hemorrhage and bone marrow becomes fluid-like.

There is no treatment for feline distemper, however, supportive care may be effective.

Vaccination of cats, both indoor and outdoor, aids in the minimization of the spread of feline distemper.

Distemper in Rehabilitation

Humans cannot contract distemper in any form, however, it is advised against having contact with infected wildlife. Sick and disoriented wildlife can bite and scratch and be very dangerous.

Wildlife rehabilitation facilities make every effort to reduce distemper in the wild. At Free Again, young raccoons receive vaccinations from both forms of distemper as well as parvovirus prior to release.

Distemper at Home

Feeding stations outdoors, such as cat and dog food bowls, are an invitation for wildlife. To prevent the spread of disease between domestic pets and wildlife, keep food bowls indoors. Otherwise, leave

only enough food for outdoor domestic animals to eat comfortably without leaving excess.

Vaccinations are of the utmost importance. Low cost vaccination clinics and vouchers are available in many areas. Some animal control offices hold low cost vaccination clinics.

Relocation of raccoons is not recommended. Areas that are distemper-free may become infected when a relocated raccoon is introduced from a distemper infected population.

Pet owners with doggie doors should secure the doors, as well as home doors and windows, to prevent raccoons from accessing the home.

Oh Deer... Assessing potential abandoned fawn situations

As fawn season begins, people spending time outdoors might stumble upon a small spotted bundle tucked away in the grass.

Unfortunately for some fawns, this is the beginning of a long journey in captivity.

In Southern Illinois, fawns are born May 15 through June 15. Once a fawn is born, the doe will clean it

up, feed it, and move away from the area so as not to attract attention from predators.

At this age, fawns have no odor. They will stay motionless in the grass until the doe comes back, usually at dawn and dusk. A doe will rarely abandon her fawns.

Every year, people stumble upon the fawns and take them to rehabilitation centers, thinking that these fawns have been abandoned.

Humans are always a young animal's last hope for survival, never its best!

Please use the following guidelines in assessing a potential fawn in danger. Sometimes, they truly need help.

When should a fawn be taken to a rehabilitator?

- If found next to a

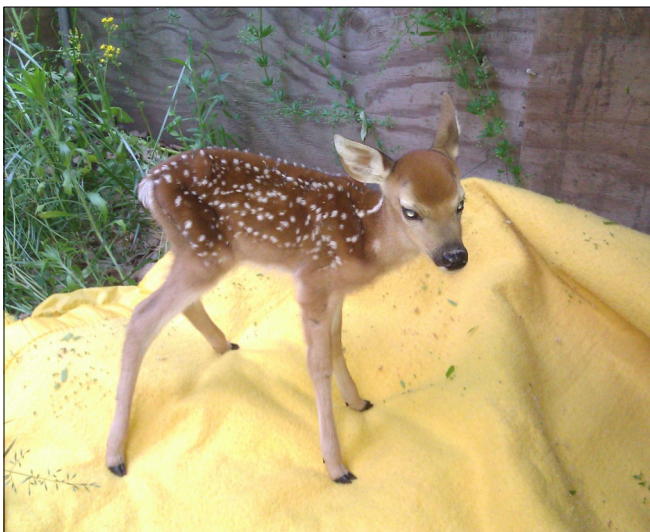
dead doe or a dead twin.

- If it has been in the possession of an unlicensed person.
- If it has diarrhea, maggots, or puncture wounds.
- If it is severely dehydrated.
- If something is broken.

If those conditions are not present and you are concerned, check back on the fawn in a few hours, however, keep in mind that a bleating fawn will attract the attention of a protective doe. Make sure you are able to retreat safely.

Sometimes, rescuers complain that a fawn is in danger because of domestic pets. Keep pets indoors or supervised, the doe will move the fawn on her own. Moving the fawn will only cause panic for the doe, as she will continue to search the area she left her fawn in for days.

It is illegal to possess any wildlife without a permit. For assistance, please call your local wildlife rehabilitator. Orphaned wildlife requires specialized care.



Native Wildlife Spotlight: Pied-Billed Grebe (*Podilymbus podiceps*)

It's small, it's fast, and it's got a bite that will leave you looking for a band-aid. The pied-billed grebe is a small water bird that is a year round resident of Southern Illinois.

Description: Small, duck-like bird with a banded bill in the summer breeding season. Overall brown plumage. White eye ring.

Life History: Breeds on ponds and lays 3-10 bluish eggs in a floating nest. Hatchlings are born with down feathers and can leave the nest within a day. Although active, young grebes are bad swimmers and will ride on the back of the parent until 4 weeks of age. When threatened, they will climb on their parents back until they become efficient divers at 4 weeks of age.

Grebes dive for crustaceans, fish, and aquatic insects. Grebes will eat their own feathers and will feed feathers to their young. This is thought to aid in the regurgitation of indigestible bones.

Rehabilitation: Grebes sometimes mistake black asphalt for water and may land in a parking lot. They become stranded and are unable to take off because their body design requires long stretches



of water for taking off. Calls come in about duck-like birds that cannot fly. Usually, when presented with water, these birds are able to take off.

**We are on
Facebook!**

Visit www.Facebook.com/FreeAgainWildlife for updates on Free Again animals and upcoming events.

- Check out our albums for photo stories of the amazing animals that come through our doors.
- You do not need to be a member of Facebook to stay up to date with us!

On Behalf of Free Again, Inc.: We Thank You!

Free Again would not be able to operate without the time, effort, knowledge, and kindness of the individuals, businesses, and groups that have opened up their heart to wildlife. With your help, we are able to help injured and orphaned wildlife be free again!

Contributions & Support from: Kroger of Herrin, Wal-Mart of Herrin, Target, Cooksey's Bait Shop, Bowlin's Foodland in Christopher, Marion Animal Control, Central Hospital for Animals, Creekside Veterinary Clinic.

We would like to extend a generous thank you to Girl Scout Troop 8115, Girl Scout Troop 8097

We thank Joe McFarland for a generous donation of mice. We thank Libby Wood for her valuable donation of a nebulizer. We thank Mark Cosgrove for a donation of fish. The Wild Alaska Salmon & Seafood Company graciously donated frozen salmon.

Commitment of Time & Service from Volunteers: Barb Burd, Ginnie House, Janette Smith-Manning, Marija Gorinshteyn, Dani Eichholz, Amy Larson, Melissa Hadley, Monaleya Piper, Dee Chambers, Christy Chambers, Katie Chambers, Lucas Gabel, Keisha Luhrsens, Elijah, Briana Caldwell, Bryan Talitsch, Carolyn Baxter, Steve Smith, Elaina Muskopf, Brehm High School work crew, Will Safran, Cole Hamilton

As always, we thank everyone who has donated either monetary or material items!

Rehabilitation versus Rescue:

Teamwork/strategy necessary for rescue, long-term care

By Beverly Shofstall

Several times a week the phone will ring and we will hear the caller ask "Do you rescue wildlife?"

After a moments hesitation (because I can guess what's coming next) I attempt to get the information that I need from the caller; what kind of animal was found, how was it injured or orphaned, do they actually have the animal caught or contained at that time. The caller never seems to notice that I've neglected to answer their original question.

The truth would shock them as it will probably shock you, our supporters. The reality, for the most part, is that we rarely rescue an animal. Surprised? Many people are—so let me explain.

By definition, wildlife rehabilitation is the taking care of (with proper permits) injured or orphaned animals until they can be released back into the wild.

Wildlife rescue, on the other hand, involves locating, safely restraining, and removing from danger, the injured or orphaned wildlife.

Confused? Think of it this way, the doctors and nurses at the hospital don't rescue people on the streets. They may save lives once the injured are brought to the hospital, but the rescuing is usually done by the first responders—police, fire department, or the EMT's.

If the doctors and nurses were running all over the area rescuing people themselves, then people

back at the hospital may not survive due to lack of care.

The analogy also applies to us at Free Again. Unfortunately, we are unable—at this time—to do most of the rescues ourselves. We just don't have the resources (time and personnel) to do rescues across the whole area of southern Illinois.



A young red-tailed hawk was spotted grounded on a property. With quick thinking, the property owners were able to safely capture and transport the bird. After healing, it was released back on the property.

Photo courtesy of Lisa Thompson

We routinely get animals from Chester to Carmi; from Mt. Vernon to Metropolis. There are a few big centers in the country that do rescues—they have teams of people or staff just for that purpose (many people have seen such wildlife rescues on Animal Planet).

I wish we had that resource.

Some people become angry with us or tell us we don't care. Nothing could be further from the truth. We try to explain that we would be willing to spend the next 4 months (if that is what it takes) to rehabilitate that animal until it can be released. But we need their help first. They are there now while we might be 90 minutes away. We need them to be the first responders. They can be that animals rescuers!

Unfortunately, it doesn't always happen. "Reporting it to someone" was all the effort they wanted to do.

So what can the public do to help? We understand that handling a wild animal can be intimidating and even dangerous. But in most circumstances we can talk people through the situation—almost always without actually touching the animal directly.

Sometimes the help we need is just having someone stay with the animals until someone can get there. Remember the directions you give me make perfect sense to you, but may not make sense to someone that is unfamiliar with the location.

Ideally, it would be wonderful if we had a person, or team of volunteers in every county that could capture and/or transport wildlife in need. If interested, please contact us.

Lastly, we ask for patience as we find a strategy to rescue an animal. We have no magic, so sometimes it takes time to organize a rescue or a transport.

T-shirts and Hoodies are on Sale 6/1-6/21!

www.AttitudeDesigns.com/Free_Again



Free Again is happy to announce online sales of merchandise. We have partnered with Attitude Designs to bring you quality t-shirts and hoodies.

We will be holding an online fundraiser from June 1st through June 21st. Attitude Designs will take online t-shirt orders for three weeks. At the end of the

time period, all orders will be shipped or will be available for pick up at Attitude Designs.

T-shirts are \$15.00 and hooded sweatshirts are \$26. Proceeds go to Free Again to feed, shelter, and medicate our patients.

Questions? Email mg.wild34@gmail.com

Upcoming Events:

For more information on F.U.N Programs, call Crab Orchard Wildlife Refuge Visitor Center (618) 998-5933. For the most up to date information on Free Again events, check our Facebook page; www.facebook.com/FreeAgainWildlife

Jul 14: F.U.N. Program—White-tailed Deer, 10:30am-12:00pm

August 11: F.U.N. Program—Vultures, 10:30am-12:00pm

September 8: F.U.N Program—Raccoon, 10:30am-12:00pm

Sept 22 & 23: Hunting and Fishing Days, John A Logan College Learn about Southern Illinois' native birds of prey as Free Again displays its raptor ambassadors three times daily.

Oct 20 & 21, 11am-2pm: Vulture Fest, Makanda IL Free Again's resident black vulture and turkey vulture make an appearance at Vulture Fest where you can learn all about the great services vultures provide for the environment.

Don't Forget About Our Annual Yard Sale!



It's almost time for our biggest annual fundraiser! Every October, Free Again puts together a huge yard sale in Carbondale to raise funds for the animals. We depend entirely on donated items from the community to sell in our yard sale. Are you moving? Did you have a yard sale and not sell everything? We will gladly take your re-useable items (no clothing, please) to sell at our fundraiser. Electronics, furniture, jewelry, knick-knacks, books, media, kitchenware, bedroom, bath, pretty much anything except clothing. To arrange a pick-up or drop-off, please feel free to give us a call at (618)988-1067. We look forward to helping you help us!

Wish List

Chain link kennels
Motorcycle tires for cages
Aquariums
Dog/Cat food
Disposable exam gloves
Gift cards to assist w/ printing costs
Pet bowls
KMR
Gravel

Esbilac
Brooms
Whisk brooms
Pine litter
Welders gloves
Newspapers
Pedialyte
Duct tape
Useable lumber

Straw (no Halloween decorations)
Alfalfa hay
Ear corn
Peanuts
Gerbil food/ Bird seed
Keep us in mind when cleaning your freezers—
our predators eat meat and fish!



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Remember to save commemorative stamps to be used by the Illinois Audubon Society to support land acquisition. Go to www.IllinoisAudubonSociety.org to download the "Stamps for Wildlife" brochure.