

# FRISKY'S DONATIONS

In Memory of Tiger Lilly, a beautiful calico cat, a donation of supplies was made by her beloved human. A donation of \$50 was made in Memory of Donna Eber.

Julia and Leya from Girls on the Run sent in a cash donation. They were part of the Girls on the Run group who did a Wish List Donation earlier in the year.

Kerry Johnson, 13, of Columbia donated \$10. Kerry and her friends had made a donation earlier from a lemonade stand. Keep up the good work Kerry!

Maria Johnsonbaugh, 7, who is a neighbor from Woodstock, had a Frisky's birthday party. She asked for donations from Frisky's Wish List rather than gifts for herself. We do have some wonderful neighbors!

Harrison Young, 9, of Lisbon, had a Frisky's birthday party. Harrison's guests brought items from our Wish List as they came to a Moon bounce party. Great work Harrison!

5 young cadets from Girl Scout Troop 4719 of Ellicott City, donated 103 knitted wildlife nests which looked like hats for very small children. These are perfect for baby bunnies, squirrels, birds and other small animals in need of a warm secure cuddly space. These girls also spent the past 2 years knitting hats for American Cancer Society, Rt. 1 Cold Weather Shelter, Board of Child Care, Grass Roots Crisis Center and many were sent overseas to Army Troops. This knitting project was done for the girl's Silver Award. Our congratulations go out to these young ladies!

Animal Advocates of Mt. Hebron High School brought in a donation of items from our Wish List. Melissa Jacobson, the sponsor, and three of the senior girls came to Frisky's for the drop off. There students who participated in collecting the items for Frisky's are: Meghan P, Helen Z., Min K., Naomi K., Connor H., Olivia H., and Olivia R. Thank you al for your help and for caring about the animals.

Thank you to Andy at MD Monogram whose patience allowed us to make multiple changes on his latest donation of shirts to Frisky's. Thank you again Andy!

*Did you know that you can donate your vehicle to benefit Frisky's? If you have an unwanted vehicle that you would like to donate, please call Frisky's. We will help you get it removed, Frisky's will receive a donation in your name, and it's tax-deductible.*

*Our supporters have been very generous in dropping off donations of food and bedding for the animals. Also, thank you for the many donations brought in for the fundraiser. Let's not forget the volunteers that gave extra time this month to work at the fundraiser and those who gave additional time to help with the animals. Thank you, each and every one, you are making a difference!*



SAVING THE LIVES OF WILDLIFE AND PRIMATES SINCE 1970

# THE RESCUE RECORD

## FRISKY'S WILDLIFE & PRIMATE SANCTUARY

Issue 15 • MAY 2011

### MAY ISSUE

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*to find out what you can  
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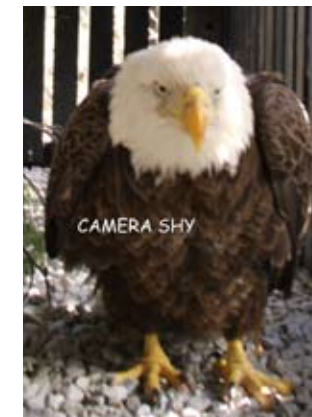
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### FRISKY'S DONATIONS

Visit us online at [www.friskys.org](http://www.friskys.org)

## EAGLE FINDS SANCTUARY PART THREE: WATCHING OVER US

BY JANICE ELLIS



Evidently the Eagle has been educating itself from the first moment it arrived, taking in everything around it and learning our every movement.

When Colleen was placing food in the enclosure for the Eagle, he ran right past her and headed to the doorway. The enclosure has an inside door which leads to another enclosed area with a second door. Both doors have locks and bolts. There was no chance he would escape, but then, he didn't know that. The Eagle ran to the door and threw himself feet first onto the door, trying to force it open. With each lunge, he could tell the door reacted with a bounce. This excited him and he continued to try to convince the door to cooperate with his plan. As Colleen moved toward the door, the Eagle's lunge was directed at her. Now, if you have not seen a Bald Eagle up close this may not sound like a big deal. But this Eagle stands almost 3 feet high with a wingspan of almost



6 feet and when he lunges at you, talons in front, you need to step aside. Colleen

is not frightened by this behavior, it is expected. She is well educated and knows that the Eagle's natural tendencies are to try to look as large, powerful and threatening as possible to any potential enemy. She simply moved out of his path and he returned to the fresh fish that Colleen had just brought him.

This Eagle's talons were so dull when he was brought in that at Dr. Gold's first examination led him to ask Colleen if she had filed down his talons. We can only surmise that when he was shot, he was limited to being on the ground for quite a while, and used his feet to navigate when he was unable to use his wings at all. This unusual amount of time on the ground, or on the rocks in the river where he was found, would be enough to take the sharp edge from his talons and make them appear as though they had been filed down. Since then, his talons have grown quite a bit and are quite sharp once again.

Mike Kelley, one of our volunteers, and a friend, brought a fresh caught fish for the Eagle. His friend had been fishing and donated his catch. For Colleen, this was a photo opportunity. But before Colleen could get the camera for a photo, the fish was gone.



The Eagle was quick to claim his prize and made quick work of it. It was the very next day that Colleen saw him on the highest perch for the first time. She hadn't seen him fly, but he needed to fly to get up there didn't he? The only time we had witnessed his wings spread was on our security footage where he was

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# ADOPTIONS

As you know, we took in many baby bunnies at the beginning of the year when Howard County Animal Control needed help placement from the hoarding situation. We are happy to say that we have found homes for several of our baby bunnies and are showing others to new families this week.

One couple who came to look at the baby bunnies decided to adopt a mature lop-eared rabbit named Shadow that had been with us for awhile. Shadow was just about the friendliest rabbit you could find. He has visited schools and groups as an ambassador for Frisky's adoptions in the past, and now has found a "forever home". We also placed one of our Sugar-Gliders with the Andersen family. He is doing well and his new family keeps us updated. We still have more baby bunnies and mature rabbits, a pair of Sugar-Gliders, guinea pigs, a cockatiel and finches. We need families who will step forward and give these little guys a second chance. If you are looking for a family addition, please contact Frisky's or check with your local shelter.



# COLLEEN LAYTON-ROBBINS

FOUNDER OF FRISKY'S, SAYS "HI! AND HAPPY MOTHER'S DAY."

Doing Good On Purpose... There are so many of you. I know... I've personally met sooo many of you at my front door! You have gone out of your way to help animals in need. Some of you did even more by leaving or mailing in a donation to help us help them, because you know Frisky's bears the costs of Special Diets per species, not to mention Enclosures and Veterinarian Costs. We do not receive any County or State Funding or Grants. We are all volunteers, yes, that's right, no one is paid here. We are all here by choice, caring and working for the Welfare of Frisky's Animals.

These days, conversations lead to "...how is it going with the neighbor who is trying to get Howard County to make you get rid of the monkeys and/or move?"

Well, first, my husband and I own this farm and pay the taxes and some of bills ourselves. My husband works 50 hours a week besides all he does here. We won't move. This is our home.

Second, we are federally licensed and inspected annually. Howard County Animal Control says we are legal and an asset to the County.

Third, as manager of this safe, clean, peaceful Sanctuary, I know every inch of my property and we took the time and the care to have it just the way we need it. As manager, I also make sure that myself, my husband, and all the volunteers work hard together to see that everything is tended to properly.

Fourth, and finally, yes, the stress on our Ego is enor-

mous. There is a constant feeling that we need to defend ourselves or to prove that the rumors being spread are half-truths, words are taken out of context and what is being said about our animals is ancient history. Many of the incidents brought up actually happened before the animals in question were even brought to Frisky's. Yet, we remind ourselves to be patient; we know that the merits of our Good Work and our History will speak for itself.

We've heard all the noise, from lies being told about us, to the developing of our surrounding farm lands. You can only imagine how hurt I felt when I heard a neighbor say we should move away. Our neighbor has attacked and damaged the trees in our driveway. They say our monkeys are diseased. Yes...but the diseases that they have are Diabetes, Heart Problems, Stroke, Crones Disease and Cataracts. These monkeys do not have any diseases that would be a threat to anyone, nothing zoonotic, and nothing to be afraid of.

Our next Zoning Hearing is Thursday, May 26th at 6:30. It will be at the George Howard Building in Ellicott City and it is always wonderful to look around and see so many of you there showing your support.

Please, with your help, my work, my health and my love continue to be strong.

Sincerely,  
Colleen

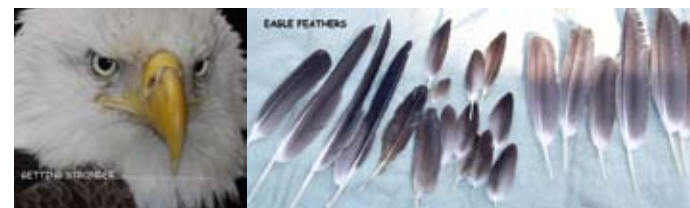
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Eagles Education

spreading and testing his wings while he was still at ground level. Colleen tried and tried to catch him in flight for a photo, but the Eagle had decided that anyone pointing the camera at him was not to be trusted. Every time the camera is pointed towards him, he jumps down to the ground from whatever perch he is on and goes to the far corner looking for a place to hide. We are very careful not to spook him, and happy at the same time that he has not fallen into the dangerous habit of trusting humans. This will make the chance of survival after his release much better.

The Eagle is in the process of molting now, and drops a feather almost every other day. These feathers are gently collected and put away in safe keeping. It is a federal offense for the public to be in possession of even a single feather from this magnificent bird. The feathers are sent in a protective packaging to the proper authorities to be dispensed to Native Americans who have formally requested them. The feathers will be used in spiritual practices and treated with the same respect that is offered to the Eagle itself.

The Eagle's diet is varied. He gets fresh whole fish, thawed mice and chicks that were purchased frozen. He has water for bathing, some pine branches spread about the floor, and several assorted protective boxes to provide shelter if needed. There are levels of perches that start at the ground level of the flight enclosure where the Eagle first stood his ground. He slowly moved up to perch on the tops of the protective boxes and is finally able to perch in the very top of the enclosure. There are several spots on the Sanctuary grounds where you can spot the Eagle when he is up high on a perch. He can be seen from a distance because of his size and no matter whether you are nearby or far away, he always looks regal. He sits on the highest perch and watches out over the Sanctuary in perfect stillness. You can watch him for the longest time and not see him even ruffle a feather. He is so still and so beautiful that you have to ask yourself sometimes if he is real. He has become the regal guardian watching out over us all. We are all enjoying the Eagle, but remind ourselves that he is just visiting and will one day soon be returning to his home.

To be continued...



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 wishlist, or send in your tax deductible donation!

www.friskys.org • friskyswildlife@yahoo.com

## DONATION RECORD FRISKY'S WILDLIFE & PRIMATE SANCTUARY, INC.

10790 Old Frederick Road • Rt. 99 • Woodstock, Maryland 21163  
Your donation is 100% Tax Deductible  
Retain this receipt for your records.

DATE \_\_\_\_\_  
 CASH \$ \_\_\_\_\_  GOODS \$ \_\_\_\_\_  
 CHECK \$ \_\_\_\_\_ CHECK # \_\_\_\_\_  
 (DESCRIPTION OF GOODS) \_\_\_\_\_

Thank you for your support!

## CALL FOR ACTION!

**Frisky's  
Wildlife & Primate Sanctuary, Inc.**

Federal & State Licensed  
Master Wildlife Rehabilitator  
USDA Licensed Exhibitor  
Nonprofit Organization  
A 501(c)3 Organization  
 www.friskys.org  
E-mail: friskyswildlife@yahoo.com  
 Phone: (410) 418-9899  
Fax: (410) 418-5402  
10790 Old Frederick Road / Rt. 99  
Woodstock, Maryland 21163  
Howard County

## STILL NEEDS YOUR HELP!!!

**YOUR EXPERIENCE AND SUPPORT OF FRISKY'S NEEDS TO BE BROUGHT TO THE COUNTY'S ATTENTION NOW!**

**TELL HOWARD COUNTY ENOUGH IS ENOUGH!**

**HEARING ON THURSDAY,  
MAY 26, 2011 - 6:30pm**

**LOCATION: GEORGE HOWARD BUILDING  
3430 COURTHOUSE DRIVE, ELLICOTT CITY, MD.**

**PLEASE, PLEASE, PLEASE COME  
OUT AND SHOW YOUR SUPPORT OF  
FRISKY'S SANCTUARY**

Thank you,  
Colleen Layton-Robbins

**FOR POSSIBLE POSTPONEMENTS,  
PLEASE CHECK OUR WEBSITE - www.friskys.org**

..... continued from page 3, Fundraiser

Then, we had volunteers who came extra days to help out with the animals so that others could be free to work the fundraiser. This gave Colleen the ability to move between the animals and the fundraiser. Thank you Bonnie, Pattie and Amy.



Our Jr. Volunteers, Kerri and Julia, would come in and help with feeding, watering and cleaning before assisting with the fundraiser. Kerri took time to show our baby bunnies, guinea pigs and sugar gliders to prospective adoptive families. She also helped with incoming animals. (Orphaned and injured babies do not stop coming to our door just because there is a fundraiser going on. In fact, this was a very busy time for the intake of animals.) She also helped supervise children when they were separated from their parents and she directed traffic.

Kerri's Mom, Betsy found time in her busy schedule between a Texas vacation and a belated honeymoon trip to assist with the fundraiser on a Saturday. Andrew, Omar and Izzy came in to help with the Exotic Room and the fundraiser on more than one weekend. Lisa Kratz and her daughters, Jessica, Meagan and Becca were here to help us get set up in the early mornings each weekend. They worked during the early hours as we scrambled to get everything ready before customers start to come in. Thanks ladies. Bruce Pellicott came in on several occasions to tackle our electronic corner. He sorted through phones, computers, printers, radios, karaoke machines, tape players, lamps, and much more. He helped decide the value of some items and simply whether others worked or not. Bruce was able to salvage some items that otherwise would have been tossed out. Thank you Bruce for straightening



out the "man corner" as we called it and for all the many donated items you brought in.

Scott is Colleen's husband and does all the maintenance at Frisky's. During April, there is so much extra work for him to do on top of his regular chores. Scott brings coffee, tea and doughnuts for everyone after his early morning run to put up the signs and he does this each day before we even start to set up. He sets up tables, tents and whatever is needed

around the area to get us ready for this project. He helps cover the tables with huge tarps each time we are threatened to be rained out and again at the end of each day. He hangs the banner, the flag and a few dozen yard sale signs each weekend. He also has to take them all down. We call upon his expertise on tools and items that we do not know how to price. We call upon him to lift, move and load all the items that are too heavy for the ladies. The fundraiser is one of the few times that many of the volunteers actually spend time with Scott because he is always so busy working behind the scene. Sometimes we take it for granted that the yard is kept up, the garbage removed, the power washing is done, equipment is repaired and all the extra work that the fundraiser creates for Scott still manages to get done somehow. From all of us who know just how much you really do, thank you Scott.

And we can't forget Colleen. April is already a busy time for her. Wildlife has been awake and active long enough at this point that babies are everywhere. Many find their way to our door and keep Colleen busy with additional nursemaid duties. All our resident animals are more active and needing lots of attention. With the fundraiser, she has to make sure that things are going smoothly for Rose with all the preparations and that all the advertising has been attended to. The fundraiser creates a lot of new phone calls for donations, for directions and other information. Some people would call to see if we were open because of the rain. These extra phone calls became a challenge during the last day of the sale because our phone lines were not working properly and had to be forwarded to Colleen's private cell number. Colleen found time whenever she could to be at the fundraiser to talk with the many interested people who attended. She was able to catch up with volunteers from the past and was able to put faces to many of the names and voices she was familiar with. At times, someone covered for her with an animal because she was needed at the fundraiser, and at other times someone finished whatever she was doing at the fundraiser because she was needed back at the house for the animals.



*Many, many challenges came up, but we persevered. We loved the time we spent together in the planning, preparing and the sale itself. We loved seeing old friends and meeting new ones. It warms out hearts to know how much people support Frisky's and everything we do here. We want to thank everyone that came out to donate or to shop! Without your help and the cooperation and enthusiasm of all involved, this would not have been successful. Thank you all and we hope to see you again next year!*

## KATHLEEN MURPHY A GIFTED AND TALENTED STUDENT FROM MT. HEBRON HIGH SCHOOL



Volunteering at Frisky's is an amazing experience that can soon become addictive. One can become attached very easily to the people and the animals there. Only a few visits can change a volunteer. When I first

started I didn't expect to see some of the amazing things that I have seen. I was able to see baby bunnies the size of my palm grow three times in size and be adopted by loving families. I was able to have conversations and sing-alongs with Buddy the cockatoo. Each time I go to Frisky's now too, I continue to be amazed as I witness the bald eagle recovering from a bullet wound.

My family and friends love that I am able to volunteer at Frisky's. When I tell stories of the different animals to my cousins they get so excited and some can't wait until they are old enough to volunteer, too. Volunteering at Frisky's has helped me become more responsible and have something meaningful to do in my life. It makes me feel amazing that I am helping animals get a second chance at life.

## FRISKY'S 2011 FUNDRAISER IS A SUCCESS



Frisky's 2011 Fundraiser was a success despite the rainy weather each weekend. Our first weekend was very busy, even if we did have to move the sale tables in and out of the barn several times to keep everything dry. People flocked to the sale even as the rain came down. We outdid the previous year's opening weekend and everything looked very promising. However, the weather rained on our parade for

the next three weekends! It was drizzly and cold or it was raining hard on and off, just slight differences in the amount of rain each weekend. But some of our loyal supporters continued to show up bringing donations weekly and taking home a few new treasures. The general public did not

relish a day in the rain though and we really got behind as the weeks went on. On April 30th, the final day of our sale, we offered \$2 bags of clothes and box-lots at give-away prices. We sold books and cds for \$1 a bag; we marked down furniture and kitchen items to half price. We wanted everyone to benefit, those who came to support us with their purchases and donations, and of course all the many rescued animals here at Frisky's. Our target each year is to do a little better than the year before, still, at 5 pm; we found this year's sales were still below last year's. We arranged for Gail and Richard Collins to pickup the leftover clothing, shoes, books, kitchen items and children's



toys to be used at the Jonah House in Baltimore. After loading the bags on their truck, as Gail handed Colleen a donation, Colleen's sudden squeal told us that



for help. We are thankful that we are able to help such an organization reach out to those in need.)

Frisky's would not be able to have this fundraiser yearly without all the wonderful volunteers who make Frisky's a priority for the month of April. We all gave extra hours for the entire month. This year, Rose Craig became our new Fundraiser Director. Rose was one of our largest contributors to the fundraiser with monetary donations and items for resale, not to mention her purchases and the time and effort that were needed for planning and organizing. Rose brought homemade cookies and brownies for the sale and provided lunch for the volunteers all nine days of the sale. Janet Styles who stepped down from leading the earlier year's fundraisers became Rose's partner. Janet was here to offer advice from her earlier experience when needed and to help with anything else asked of her. Rose's niece, August, came to assist us for the 3rd year in a row. August is our youngest volunteer at the fundraiser and still too young to be a regular volunteer behind the gates and doors of Frisky's. But she was a great addition to the fundraiser this year and was able to do everything that the rest of us were doing. Under the supervision of her Aunt Rose and Janet, she worked from the very start, sorting and pricing and running errands for all the ladies. She began working with the customers when we opened, answering questions, getting prices or taking offers. She helped the customers take their purchases to their cars and carried any new donations in. She was very courteous and helped the customers find things they were interested in. She kept the traffic moving at times and even ran the cash register. She helped watch for shoplifters, (yes, we have shoplifters even at a non-profit fundraiser!). She worked hard and earned her title of *Jr. Fundraiser Director*. We are all thankful to have her with us again this year and hope she continues to help in the years ahead.

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## ONE FINAL GIFT

Death is not easy for anyone. But planning ahead can make it easier for everyone involved. Deciding where money from trusts, life insurance, pension plans and charitable trusts will go is something that should be prepared for while you are able to make the decisions for yourself. If you would like to continue to support Frisky's with One Final Gift after your death, it is a simple process. You can make a bequest that reads:

I give, devise and bequeath to Frisky's Wildlife and Primate Sanctuary, Inc., located at 10790 Old Frederick Rd., Woodstock MD 21163, the sum of \$\_\_\_\_\_ (and/or specifically designated property or stock) to be used for its general purposes.

Or you can stipulate that monetary donations be made to Frisky's in lieu of flowers at the service. Keep in mind that we are all volunteers here and all money donations go to the care of the animals. Please contact your family attorney if you are interested in leaving Frisky's One Final Gift after you are gone. Please feel free to contact Frisky's with any questions at 410-418-8899.

# REHABILITATION AND RELEASE

WRITTEN BY JANICE ELLIS

Frisky's main objective for orphaned and injured wildlife is for it to be returned to the wild. Wildlife that comes through our door is taken directly to the infirmary where it is given a physical check-up by Colleen. Animals are warmed if cold, dehydrated animals are then given fluids and injuries are attended to. Most of the wildlife that comes in this time of year are orphans.



Mom was hit by a car or became a cat toy. Dogs dig up rabbit nests and make squeaky toys out of any small animal they find. Trees and bushes are being trimmed and bird's nests become disturbed. Baby birds fall out of the nest onto the ground. Sometimes a nest is disturbed and the mom just doesn't trust the area enough to come back. There are many reasons why we have so many orphaned animals here. We do the best to give each one a second chance at life.

Already this spring we have released four dozen bunnies, squirrels that had wintered over, and a raccoon. The bunnies are still small when they are released. If you have the chance to look at a baby bunny,



you will notice a small white marking on the top of its head. We refer to this as its racing stripe. When the white is gone, even though the bunnies appear to still be babies, they are actually old enough to be on their own. We release bunnies in large groups; the group that they were rehabbed in now becomes their new family. It doesn't take long for the baby bunnies to catch up in size with the adults. As early as 5 months it can be hard to tell them apart. Right now, we have

over 6 dozen baby bunnies rehabbing at Frisky's.

We had several squirrel releases already this season. Joyce, one of our apprentices, released two flying squirrels that she had wintered over. These two were tiny when we received them. They were born late in the season and were not old enough or strong enough to be released last year. Squirrels are kept over the winter when they are not ready to be released by November 1st. Flying squirrels live in colonies and need to be released in an area where there is already an established colony. They are nocturnal and are not seen during the day, so it's not an easy job to find an area for the release. But these two were released where others had been observed before. Pattie, also an apprentice, had numerous squirrels wintering over. When they were ready to be released, she did a pre-release. This meant that Pattie set up larger enclosures on the property where the squirrels were to be released. The squirrels are then moved to that new enclosure in nesting boxes. The boxes were made for us by Mike Kelley, a volunteer, who took a pattern, some research, some advice and some of his own ingenious ideas to come up with a unique

nesting box that also serves as a transport box. It has a hinged door to close off the opening so that the squirrel can remain inside while being moved to the new location. The nesting box is then put inside the new enclosure and the door on the box is opened. Now they are in a similar enclosure, with the same nesting box, but in a different location. This is calming and less stressful than just turning them loose. They will remain in the en-



closures for a few days, long enough to become accustomed to the new location. Then the door on the enclosure is opened, allowing them to come and go as they feel comfortable. When they are no longer coming back to the enclosures, they can be removed. Depending upon where the squirrels are released, sometimes squirrel boxes are put up high in trees to provide housing for the new neighbors.

Many people who drop off these injured, orphaned and displaced animals ask Colleen if they can follow her inside to watch her take care of the animal. They are always given the same answer. No, and they are not able to visit them while they remain at Frisky's. Once the animal



is brought in and the necessary paperwork is filled out, the public no longer has a say in what happens to the animal. These wild animals are given medical attention and placed in an area that is safe, secure and quiet from human voices, but the sounds of nature are softly playing in the background. It is essential that the wildlife not become too accustomed to the humans who tend to them. Talking is kept to a minimum. When the time comes for their release we do not want them to trust or depend upon humans, but rather to return to their natural instinctive lifestyle. It can be difficult to watch these cute little babies and not want to pick them up to cuddle and love them. But, we are here for them; they are not here to become our pets. It can be a mixture of sadness and joy when the time to part with them comes. We just have to remind ourselves that everything we do here is to give wildlife a second chance at life, the life they were meant to live.



## WHAT CAN NEW VOLUNTEERS EXPECT AT FRISKY'S

Each spring, Frisky's becomes almost overwhelmed with the number of wildlife animals that come through our door. This is the time of the year when we need and welcome new volunteers more than any other time.

Our volunteers should not be afraid to get dirty, because they will become maids, nursemaids and waitresses for all the animals here. They will be given 80 hours of training, giving them the opportunity to observe and learn about the nutrition, the activities and the enrichments that are needed for each animal here at Frisky's. During this time they will learn the routines of the animals and what will be expected of them as a volunteer. They will learn where to find the everyday items needed to clean up after and care for the animals. They will learn our security measures, locking every gate and door as we pass through and how to handle weather and power failure emergencies. They will learn rules for specific animals where needed. They will learn respect for all the animals and for each other. It is a learning process that is valuable for working here at Frisky's and is a valuable lesson for life.

These 80 hours of training are necessary before anyone works with the animals. This has proven to be effective in providing the best animal care, preventing accidents and preventing escapes. Just as we learned early in life, we have to crawl before we can walk. At the completion of the 80 hours of training, each volunteer is asked what they have learned.

## MEET FRISKY'S STAFF and VOLUNTEERS

*In past issues, you have met Janice Ellis, our Administrative Assistant, Kerri Rowe, our Jr. Administrative Facilitator and Kathleen Murphy, our Gifted and Talented Student Intern. We are offering this new column to introduce you to other members of the staff and volunteers you might see on a visit to Frisky's.*

### EILEEN STURGILL

I have lived most of my life enjoying the wildlife in my back yard. I have tried to help baby rabbits and injured birds when I could.

When I retired, I wanted to give one day a week to helping animals and I had several places in mind. Over a period of a few months, Frisky's kept rising to the top of this list and I finally made a commitment and became a volunteer at Frisky's. Like most people, I guess I envisioned myself caring for baby animals, injured animals, etc. Petting cute furry things!

What I came to realize is that Frisky's is a complex operation. There are many tasks to be done. With a facility's maintenance background, I saw that there were many things that need to be done on a regular basis. I like helping to maintain the grounds, and when needed, I also fill water jugs, organize some of the food that is donated regularly and help with our newsletter mailings.

I am sure as time goes on, I can learn how to help with the feeding, watering and cleaning of the animals. Summer will be a busy time.

*Eileen is currently our oldest volunteer. She showed up at our front*

door one fall day with an application for volunteering. After Colleen spoke with her, she told her we would check her references and then call her. Considering her age, we weren't sure what she would be able to do, but she was quick to show us. Eileen had noticed on the way in that we had leaves everywhere, so she took a rake from her truck and began to gather them. When she did leave, she took a truck full of leaf bags with her, filled to the top. All the leaves from our parking area and our flower beds found their way to the landfill on her way home. We are thankful that we made it to the top of her list. Eileen will soon be learning to work around the animals, because we will need all hands onboard for the abundance of baby animals that the Spring brings to us.

### WHY SHOULD YOUR CHILD VOLUNTEER AT FRISKY'S?

If your child is at least 16 and has an interest in helping animals, you might want to talk to them about becoming a volunteer at Frisky's this summer. At Frisky's, your child will most likely be given more responsibility than they would in a paying job. They would have the opportunity to learn why wildlife should remain in the wild and not become household pets. They would learn respect for the animals, the humans, and for all life. This is a lesson we can only hope is passed down to future generations. They learn compassion as decisions are made to end an animal's suffering. They learn cooperation, as they understand how we depend on them to be on time and to be able to work with different people on different tasks. In time, they are given jobs to carry out on their own, giving them a sense of accomplishment and pride. We let them know that we could not stay open without the volunteers and welcome them into our extended family. Is this something you would like your child to experience?

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### CAROLYN CLOUGH

*Carolyn began volunteering in the beginning of April this year. She was a very quiet, shy woman who wanted to do anything she could to help the animals. She has grown immensely and we quickly learned we can depend on her as she spent all her free time preparing for the fundraiser here and then working every weekend in April for the event. She is like the flower of spring that stuck its head out of the ground quietly and almost unnoticeably. This flower has come into full bloom and will bring a smile to your face when around. She's still quiet but has left her shyness behind. She fits right in with the family here and she's about as Frisky as the rest of us. Welcome Carolyn!*