



Chihuahuan Desert Wildlife Rescue Inc.

Vol. 13 No. 4

THE EAGLE

2002

Dam-It

by Josie Karam

Dam-It was the name we gave the 35 lb. beaver that came to us for rehabilitation. As a rookie rehabilitator, I was wary about taking on such a rare (to El Paso) species, but after discovering that no one else in our city knew much more than I, I decided we could learn from other sources and attempt to do the job.

Mr. Beaver was found under the Stanton Street bridge downtown and was picked up and taken to Animal Control. I retrieved him in my SUV and a large animal carrier: Mistake #1! I should have used my pick-up. It took days and several deodorizing procedures to obliterate the very unique odor. Mind you, being a ferret owner for the last seven years should have prepared me for that!

Having been informed at Animal Control that Dam-It only had a puncture wound, I wasn't too concerned about his physical condition (Mistake #2). By the time I reached home, there was blood all over the carrier. Thanks to Crossroads Animal Clinic, especially Dr. Mark Lenox and Dr. Jim Koshmann, the medical treatment that Dam-It needed for his injuries was provided initially at no cost. Crossroads was willing to treat the beaver and Dam-It became a clinic celebrity! Dr. Lennox sewed up his lacerations and discovered that both pelvic bones were broken. The medical decision was made to not treat the broken bones but to allow them to heal on their own. I imagine a beaver, needing to be in water to survive, would not be too gentle on a cast or binding.

Provided with several names of rehabilitators in East Texas, I was able to communicate with a woman in Weatherford who gave me some excellent advice. Fortunately, one of the trees that beaver love is the Willow, of which we have two growing on our property. We cut fresh branches for him daily.

My son, Jim, who aspires to one day be a wildlife Vet, was a tremendous help in the month-long process of rehabilitation. Since he is a massage therapist, Jim literally massaged the poor beaver's pain-wracked legs and

back. It was amazing to watch Dam-It relax and actually enjoy these sessions. He would let his chin rest on the ground and emit these sounds equivocal to our ooohs and aaahs.



(Continued on page 3)

*** CDWR DIRECTORY ***
www.whc.net/cdwr

Whom can you call in the El Paso/Las Cruces area when you find an injured/orphaned wild bird/animal?

EL PASO AREA

CDWR CHIEF DISPATCHER

Helen Bigelow (raptors).....505-882-2910

EDUCATIONAL PROGRAMS

Gloria Villaverde.....577-9505

REHABILITATORS

Central -

Bill Howe (turtles/snakes/lizards/small exotics)..... 772-0695

Debbie Lofton (birds/water birds/sm raptors/sm mammals) .. 772-6011

Amy Rembold (doves & small mammals)..... 566-8682

Mickey Rupprecht (small birds)..... 774-9997

Gloria Villaverde (reptiles)..... 577-9505

East -

Sheila Barnes (birds) 772-8399

Debbie Lofton—Area Dispatcher 772-6011

Northeast -

Charles/Carrol Bella (raptors/reptiles/mammals) 751-4711

Holly Sanchez (small birds) 822-1902

Deacon Foote (turtles)..... 757-9330

West -

Carol Miller (water birds) 584-7088

Josie Karam (small mammals/birds/turtles)..... 920-7867

Danika Seidel (birds/reptiles/exotics)..... work 833-4883

COOPERATING VETERINARIANS

Central -

El Paso Veterinary Hospital, 4101 Montana..... 566-7387

Montana Animal Clinic, 1015 Chelsea 778-9588

El Paso Animal Emergency Center, 2101 Texas 545-1148

Dog, Cat, Bird Hospital, 3233 N. Mesa..... 533-9070

East -

Johnsen Animal Hospital, 1851 N. Lee Trevino..... 592-6200

Desert East Animal Hospital, 11635 Pelicano 855-4100

Eastwood Animal Clinic, 9509 Montana..... 593-0713

Americas Animal Clinic 858-1971

Animal Clinic, 7184 Alameda 778-5355

Northeast -

Skyline Veterinary Hospital, 4424 Titanic 755-7647

Northeast Veterinary Clinic, 9405 Dyer..... 755-2231

Bridges Animal Hospital, 3410 Hondo Pass 755-8314

Fairbanks Animal Hospital, 5320-C Fairbanks..... 757-8387

Harwood Veterinary Clinic, 4404-A Edgar Park..... 755-5653

West -

Crossroads Animal Hospital, 4910 Crossroads..... 584-3459

Country Club Animal Clinic, 5470 Doniphan 833-0645

Anthony Animal Clinic, 901 Franklin, Anthony TX..... 886-4558

TRANSPORTERS/TROUBLESHOOTERS

Northeast -

Joe/Inga Groff 755-2957

Charlene Ruddock..... 755-5575

West -

John/Jane White..... 505-589-3320

Susie Jensen 877-4036

East -

Linn Anderson..... 859-5413

Phyllis/Jim Harris

Alan Phelps..... 598-2103

Chaparral, NM -

Jochen Lange..... 824-3090

LAS CRUCES AREA

EDUCATIONAL PROGRAMS

Gerri Tillett 522-4966

REHABILITATORS

Gerri Tillett (birds) 522-4966

Las Cruces Reptile Rescue 373-1486

ELEPHANT BUTTE

Roberta Hirschhorn (birds, etc.)..... 505-894-9420

SILVER CITY

Margaret Cejka (birds, excluding raptors)..... 505-537-6624

COOPERATING VETERINARIANS

Calista Animal Hospital, 162 Wyatt Drive 525-1000

Jornada Vet Clinic, 2399 Saturn Circle 382-1710

East Lohman Vet. Clinic, 1700 E. Lohman 523-5654

TRANSPORTERS/TROUBLESHOOTERS

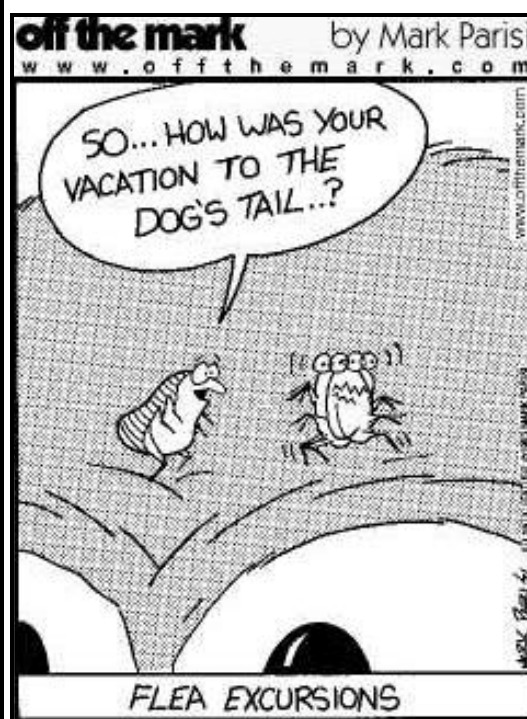
David/Sherri Byrd (raptors)..... 524-2314

Remember

Support our cooperating
Veterinarians!

**Thank
you!**

To
Petsmart
on El
Paso's
Westside
for their
generous
donation
of bird-
seed!



Dam-It *(Continued from front)*

We knew it was vital to get the beaver into water, so Jim and his cousin dug a hole and put in a children's pool. Dam-It had to be carried to the pool because of his disability. The obvious joy and sounds of relief from him when he entered the water made all that work well worthwhile. We also discovered that he liked the branches to be wet before he stripped them, and strip them he did-cleanly and smoothly. I'm not sure a human tool could do such a job. Jim decided to keep these specimens for future art work and I kept some of the branches for my bird perches. A beaver's front teeth are very long and razor-sharp.

As the weeks passed, we created a concoction of vegetables, herbs donated by Dr. Jody Kincaid and rodent food (Yuck!), blended it all in the osterizer and fed this to the beaver through a very large syringe. He loved it and this helped tremendously in his recovery. I might add here, because this was one of many things we learned, that beavers are very docile. He never tried to bite us. Sometimes, when we were treating his wounds, he would turn his head back and look at us-I can't say in a threatening manner because I don't think a beaver could look mean, no matter how hard he would try. However, at first, we pulled back because we weren't sure what he was going to do. After growing accustomed to his docility, we lost all fear of him. As the days wore on, Dam-It's pain seemed to become a little more tolerant and he was dragging himself from one side of the field to the other and in and out of the pool. But, feeling better also brought out his desire to be free and I would often find him trying to climb the chain-link fence that separates our property from the canal. I'm sure he sensed the water on the other side. He was beginning to show signs of depression and he was losing weight, in spite of the amount of food we were feeding him so we knew it was vital to get him released. Even though his broken bones were not completely healed, we knew that water therapy would be the best way for him to exercise. Not having the proper facility to provide him, we begin our search for the ideal release site as far down river as we could reasonably go.

Through the help of Warren, a member of the large lower valley Ivey family, we were able to locate a canal in Tornillo that has water flowing through it year round with ample vegetation on its banks and this became our place of choice. We took him in the carrier (this time in the back of the pickup), chose a spot and Jimmy carried beaver and carrier to the water line. The picture I have submitted to accompany this narration is of that moment and I hope you can see the smile. Because of his injuries, he was still very



awkward, but he worked himself out of the carrier and, when he entered the water, he was as graceful as a ballerina, swimming and diving and exploring his new home. Sometimes, he'd stay underwater so long that I thought he had drowned.

I cannot say that we did everything right in rehabilitating the beaver and there were many times I wished I could have delivered him to a more experienced rehabilitator with better facilities, but the experience for us was awesome and will probably never be matched.

We don't know if Dam-It survived, but we do know that he was ready to have his freedom and do whatever it is that these beautiful creatures do in the wild.

I think about this little guy often and am so grateful for the experience he gave us. Touching him, feeding him, tending to his wounds and enjoying his personality were a blessing to us; I can only hope they were enough for him.

- Josie Karam

Board of Officers

President: John White

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Board of Directors

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Enrique Rodriguez

Barbara Snow

Newsletter Editor

Susie Jensen

The Purpose of CDWR

Wildlife rehabilitation is the care of injured or orphaned wildlife for return, where possible, to the wild. Successful rehabilitation takes a lot of time, a lot of effort and no small amount of money.

It is challenging work, done by special people. Chihuahuan Desert Wildlife Rescue is a nonprofit organization which exists to help the rehabilitators in the El Paso/Las Cruces area. Our purposes are to:

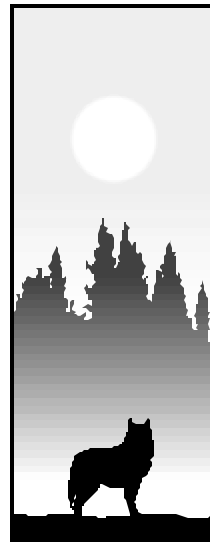
- ◆ provide a volunteer network to assist active rehabilitators in their work
- ◆ support wildlife rehabilitation programs financially
- ◆ provide education and instruction in wildlife rehabilitation
- ◆ educate the public about wildlife conservation problems
- ◆ work for the reduction of pressures on native wildlife from domestic animals and humans

**EL LOBO:
FORUM FOCUSES ON MEXICAN GRAY WOLF**

On February 7-8, 2003, historians, wolf-experts, ranchers, and environmentalists will discuss the history and future of the Mexican gray wolf at a public forum in Las Cruces, New Mexico. "El Lobo" will open on February 7 with a keynote session at the New Mexico Farm and Ranch Heritage Museum. The session will feature Susan Flader, the historian, biographer of Aldo Leopold, and author of *Thinking Like a Mountain*; L. David Mech, the country's foremost wolf biologist and author of *The Wolf: The Ecology and Behavior of an Endangered Species*; and Caren Cowan, executive director of the New Mexico Cattle Growers' Association. On February 8, a day-long symposium at the Corbett Center auditorium, New Mexico State University, will include talks and a round-table discussion with leading environmental historians, biologists, policy-makers, environmental activists, and ranchers on both sides of the issue. Hank Fischer, Special Projects Coordinator for the National Wildlife Federation, will be the featured speaker at dinner. The event will be free and open to the public, although there is a charge for lunch and dinner. Seating will be limited, and advanced registration is required by January 24, 2003. For registration information, contact Vanessa Stewart at wolfconf@nmsu.edu or visit the conference website at www.nmsu.edu/~histdept/wolf. The

Department of History at New Mexico State University has organized the forum, which is co-sponsored by the New Mexico Farm and Ranch Heritage Museum and the NMSU College of Agriculture.

The forum will address the history of wolf eradication to favor deer and elk hunters and large predators in the southwestern ecosystem, and the current battle over wolf reintroduction. In addition to the keynote and dinner speakers, participants include historians Thomas Dunlap (author of *Saving America's Wildlife*), Dan Flores (author of *Horizontal Yellow*), Louis Warren (author of *The Hunters' Game*), and Diana Miller of the Center for Wildlife; Michael Roberson of the Center for Biological Diversity; ranchers Hugh McKeen, Laura Schnerberger, Kay Diamond, Jan and Will Holder, and Jim Winder; ecologists Michael Phillips and David E. Brown (author of *The Wolf in the Southwest*); Brian Kelley of the Fish and Wildlife Service; and a number of other policy-makers and scientists, including representatives from the Apache reservations.



El Lobo is the first Leopold Forum focusing on environmental history and policy in the Southwest borderlands. The series is named in honor of conservationist Aldo Leopold, whose career began in New Mexico. The forum is funded by grants from the Environmental Leadership Program, the New Mexico Endowment for the Humanities, the Thaw Charitable Trust, the McCune Charitable Foundation, the Charles Redd Center for Western Studies, and the Southwest and Border Cultures Institute.

For additional information please contact: Marsha Weisiger at 505-646-4037; email: mweisige@nmsu.edu

Close Encounters of a Wild Kind

The prolonged drought that the El Paso area has been experiencing the last few years has been an inconvenience and discomfort for humans. However, the lack of precipitation has turned into a life and death struggle for our native wildlife in the surrounding mountains and deserts. As a last ditch effort to survive, many animals are coming into the city looking for food and water. Local residents are increasingly having encounters with animals that many never even knew lived in our area. Just in the last year there have been reports of skunks, foxes, bobcats, ringtails, raccoons, deer and even mountain lions and bears within the city limits of both El Paso and Las Cruces. While there is little reason for concern, there are a few precautions that citizens should be aware of should wild animals be sited in their neighborhood.

Never feed a wild animal. Once an animal has learned to associate human beings as a food source, a casual wild visitor to your yard can quickly become a serious nuisance. This includes not leaving food outside for your pets, especially at night when most wildlife move about. Keep trashcans firmly closed. Even a well-stocked bird feeder can attract unwanted hungry guests.

Never attempt to approach a wild animal. The animal may interpret your movements as a threat and act accordingly.

If you find what you believe to be an abandoned baby animal, do not be too quick to intervene. Animals such as deer, rabbits and foxes, frequently leave their young alone for hours at a time while they go off searching for food. The parents will return to the den or nest to care for their offspring. If, however, after a couple of days you have seen no sign of an adult and the young appear to be in distress, call an expert. Do not take matters into your own hands. Taking a wild animal into captivity can put you and your family into unnecessary danger and, in most cases, is illegal. Above all, *never* try to make a pet out of any wild animal. That sweet, gentle baby raccoon or fox will quickly grow into an adult which will greatly resent your intrusion into its life. Also, the proper care of any baby animal requires specialized training that only a licensed wildlife rehabilitator can deliver. There are certain animals, foxes and coyotes for example, that even licensed wildlife rehabilitators are currently forbidden by law from assisting because of the rabies quarantine.

If you find an animal that appears overly friendly, sick or injured, do not go near it. While the incidence of rabies or other diseases in wild animals is low, any animal that is not acting normally should be avoided and reported to Animal Control or Texas Parks and Wildlife immediately.

If animals have been sited in your neighborhood, keep your pets confined at night to avoid potential conflicts that could lead to the injury or death of your dog or cat.

If you find feces (solid wastes) of wild animals in your yard, carefully dispose of them. Many animals, especially raccoons, can carry a number of parasites that can be deadly to humans or pets that come into contact with the material.

Sometimes it may be necessary to trap and relocate an animal if it becomes a serious problem. However, this is always avoided since it frequently results in injury or death to the animal. It may create actual animal orphans should young be left without the support of a parent. Because of both legal roadblocks and the practicality of caring for so many young animals, most of these babies will end up being destroyed.

Baby birds are another issue. If you should find a downed nestling bird (no feathers) and it does not appear to be injured, try to place it back into the nest. The parents will not reject it. If the bird is injured or putting it back into the nest is impossible, place the bird into a dark box or paper bag. Do not give it water or food. Call a wildlife rehabilitator for help. If the downed bird is a fledgling (it has feathers but can't fly) leave the bird alone if it is not injured. The parents will continue to feed it if they are not disturbed. Try to remove pets from your yard until the bird learns to fly and leaves on its own. Again, if the parents do not feed the bird or it is injured, place the bird in a dark box or paper bag and call a rehabilitator.

(continued on back)

Chihuahuan Desert Wildlife Rescue, Inc.,
P.O. Box 96, Canutillo, Texas 79835

MEMBERSHIP APPLICATION

I hereby apply for membership in the
Chihuahuan Desert Wildlife Rescue as a/an:

INDIVIDUAL: \$10.00 _____

FAMILY: \$15.00 _____

CONTRIBUTOR: \$25.00 _____

Enclosed is my contribution for \$ _____
in addition to my membership

Membership gives you the opportunity to help
orphaned and injured wildlife and to support the ef-
forts of the CDWR volunteer rehabilitators. Mem-
bership includes a yearly subscription
(4 issues) of the newsletter.

Name: _____

Address: _____

City: _____ State: _____ Zip: _____

Phone: _____ Email: _____

CDWR is a non-profit 501(c)(3) organization

Close Encounters *(Continued from page 5)*

For assistance or additional information.

Texas Parks and Wildlife 915-834-7050 or 915-
790-0833; New Mexico Fish and Game (Las Cru-
ces) 505-522-9796; El Paso Animal Control 915-
532-5966; Dona Ana County Animal Control 505-
382-3825; Chihuahuan Desert Wildlife Rescue
505-882-2910 or 915-772-6011; website [www.
whc.net/cdwr](http://www.whc.net/cdwr)

- Bill Howe



General Meeting Announcement

Bugs, Bugs, Bugs! Please join us as we
welcome Dr. Paul Hyder, as he gives a presenta-
tion on the wondrous, diverse, invertebrates in our
area. Dr. Hyder, who has a PhD in range science, is
currently teaching chemistry and physics at Parkland
High School. He has also won awards for
his natural history photography. It should
be very interesting.



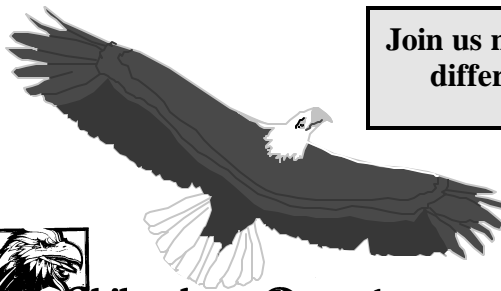
Please Join Us!

Tuesday, January 28, 2002

7:00 p.m.

**El Paso Community College,
Northwest Campus, 6701 S. Desert Blvd.,
Room 45**

For additional information contact Susie Jensen, 877-4036



Join us now and help make a
difference for wildlife!



**Chihuahuan Desert
Wildlife Rescue Inc.**

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A Meditation For Children

*I am a member of the world family.
I am related to those who stand next to me
By the air we breathe, by the light we share
By the hope we have for a better world.
I have a responsibility to give...
To receive...to be open minded, tolerant and free.*

*I have inherited this world from those who have lived
before.*

*I occupy space and time for a few short years.
I hold this world in trust for those who follow.*

*My life - with others - can fashion this world toward
PEACE - rather than strife; HOPE - rather than
despair; FREEDOM - rather than slavery.
I, with those about me, can make the family of
humanity a living thing.*

*I pledge my willing spirit to this thought.
We will do this together.*

- UNICEF