



# Walden's Puddle Newsletter

## 2021

### Happy Blessed Holidays

A message from our CEO, Lane Brody



#### RED FOX

Habitat loss is impacting our red fox intakes at an increasingly alarming rate with over 40 foxes in our care this year. The highest year on record previously was nine years ago with just five fox patients. Gratefully, we were awarded a grant and built a new pre-release fox enclosure. This red fox pictured above had an unusual injury. After a speedy recovery from mange and emaciated open sores, he required a specialized surgery to repair a torn ACL. Our professional staff has provided the best care resulting in a 92% rehabilitation success rate for this species.

Dearest Puddle Friends,

We pray our Annual Newsletter Appeal finds you well and enjoying this blessed Holiday Season!

We as you have had our challenges this past year, but we continue to adapt to the changing times and conditions. We have peace in our hearts knowing with your ongoing support we can continue to serve our community of humans and wild ones in their time of need.

Please know that like you, we are deeply committed to this cause and we are all going above and beyond to get the work done and save as many lives as possible! We pray you have a wonderful joyous Christmas and a new year that is blessed with health, happiness and prosperity!

God bless us all!

Lane Brody, the board, advisors, staff, and all the critters



#### GREAT HORNED OWL



This Great Horned Owl recovered quickly from some minor injuries and was joyfully released! Great Horned Owls have unique bright yellow eyes due to an uncommon pigment in their iris, xanthopterin. The facial disc, made up of feathers in a black parenthesis shaped marking on either side of the face, captures and funnels sound to their ears that are right below those feathers.

Walden's Puddle continues to help both orphaned and injured wildlife. This year we cared for an additional 25% more wildlife than last year helping over 2,250 animals. Special thank you to our wonderful staff for their dedication!

In 2021, we made significant capital improvements including: roof, windows and loading dock for our animal care building, three freezers, and additional animal pre-release enclosures.



#### GROUNDHOG

Meet Butternut, the groundhog nicknamed after his favorite food. He was found in someone's backyard, floundering around unable to walk. He suffered some intense head trauma and head wounds not even capable of sitting up on his own, but since has made very encouraging improvements! He has an enormous appetite and spends a lot of time chucking logs and branches.



We serve a number of animals seeing a 19% increase in the number of unique species admitted year over year; this year totalling around 150 different types. Rare patient for us this year pictured here - a River Otter.

All of our orphaned Spring raccoon kits have been released! We release them on large wild properties in hopes that they won't have to come in contact with humans.



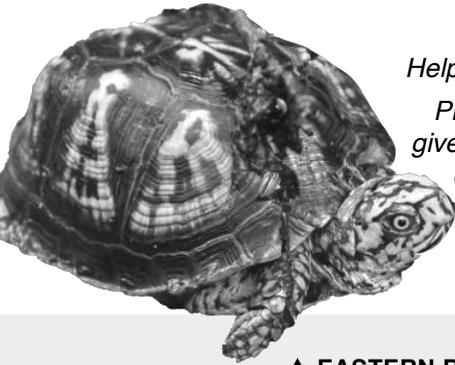


Wildlife Center of Greater Nashville

P.O. BOX 641

JOELTON, TN 37080

[www.waldenspuddle.org/donate](http://www.waldenspuddle.org/donate)



*Help us live!  
Please,  
give all you  
can.*

### ▲ EASTERN BOX TURTLE

Shell injuries are the main reason we admit Eastern Box Turtle patients. If you want to help turtles, here's small things you can do:

 If you see a turtle in the road, pull over when you can safely and move the turtle to the side of the road in the direction it was heading.

 When mowing your lawn or using a weed eater, walk your yard first to look out for turtles or any other wildlife that may be hanging around.

 If you know you have turtles in your yard, please keep your dog on a leash.

## Donate Online Now

[www.waldenspuddle.org/donate/](http://www.waldenspuddle.org/donate/)



**Kroger Rewards:** <https://www.kroger.com/account/enroll-CommunityRewardsNow>

**iGive:** <http://www.igive.com>

**Amazon Smile:** [www.smile.amazon.com](http://www.smile.amazon.com)

**Amazon Wishlist:** <https://tinyurl.com/y2kdqkjb>

This Eastern Screech Owl is down an eye, but after his damaged eye was removed, he quickly gained a lot of sass, posturing and fluffing his feathers at us. This is exactly what we love to see, a wild animal acting wild. It's a good sign that they're feeling much better and the pain is no longer debilitating. After he finished his medications and pre-release conditioning, he was released! As they rely on their hearing to hunt, owls can be released with one eye.

### ▼ EASTERN SCREECH OWL



# Stay Warm & Cozy

## GRAY SQUIRRELS

Our front desk received a call from a rescuer, Nick, who had found two baby Gray Squirrels in his yard. Following the instructions on our website, he put the babies in a box, placed them near the tree, waited from a good distance, and watched for Mom. After a few hours, nothing had happened. Remembering something about a baby squirrel call, he looked it up on his cell phone and played it in his yard. At the sound of babies, the mother came back and gently carried her tots, one at a time, back up the tree to their nest. Needless to say Nick and the staff at Walden's Puddle are thrilled that the babies were reunited with mom!

Just a Reminder: Though we may not see them and they may not move at a pace which we would like, wild parents are always watching and listening for their young. Sometimes it just takes a little patience and creativity to reunite them.

Fun Fact: We use this same technique when we re-nest or foster Birds of Prey into a new nest. We alert the parents to the presence of the new or returned babies in the nest.



We are here to help 615-559-WILD (9453). We can guide you on the best way to go about reuniting babies with parents and that is best for all!