

ANNUAL REPORT 2020



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Message from the President

On behalf of the Washington Wildlife Rehabilitation Association's (WWRA) Board of Directors, we are pleased to share the WWRA 2020 Annual Report.

WWRA was officially formed in 2003, as a member-directed organization created to support the science and profession of wildlife rehabilitation and its practitioners. Board members represent the membership and work with one another on committees to develop professional resources, create networking opportunities, and connect with others working with wildlife throughout the state.

2020 was a year that no one will soon forget. As the start of the pandemic aligned with the start of "baby season", rehabilitators scrambled to make changes to protocols and adjust to the state mandates regarding safety and social distancing. Early on, it was determined that the work done by wildlife rehabilitators was an essential service to the community. The consensus has been that it was a very busy year and wildlife intakes overall increased at most facilities. It seems with more people staying home and spending time in open spaces, more wildlife was found and brought in for care.

Plans for the annual WWRA conference were changed to create a virtual experience. We opted for a one-day event with two tracks and recorded sessions allowed for more attendees to review all the sessions even after the conference.

As we look to the new year, we know that many things in 2021 will remain the same. Despite a pandemic, orphaned and injured wildlife will continue to need the care of rehabilitators dedicated to this mission. WWRA will continue to provide networking opportunities, trainings, and engagement with our members. The profession of wildlife rehabilitation is an important asset to the wildlife and citizens of Washington state.

We appreciate your support of our mission,

Suzanne West, WWRA Board President [2021]

Committee Achievements

BOARD DEVELOPMENT COMMITTEE

- The Committee revised and established deadlines for the Board of Directors and Board Officers election processes.
- The Committee updated the Board Manual, Bylaws, Standing Rules, and Board Development Committee charter.
- The Committee posted the Application for Prospective Board Members to the WWRA website so that applicants can submit their applications directly through the website.
- The Committee compiled a Board Development Resource Library of articles and recommendations for building a strong Board of Directors.
- The Board welcomed Fawn Harris and Corrie Hines as new Board members in January 2020.
- The Committee led the nominating process for the 2021 Board of Directors election.

EDUCATION COMMITTEE

- WWRA hosted its fourth annual conference in November 2020 in a one-day virtual format. The speakers were wildlife veterinarians and rehabilitators, including two from outside of Washington state.
- The conference offered 9 talks and one roundtable discussion. Topics were wide ranging and included avian diseases and parasites, traumatic brain injury, capture myopathy, raptor husbandry and operant conditioning, patient caging and habitat, managing COVID-19 in wildlife rehab settings, volunteer management, setting limits, and wildlife rehabilitation in social media.
- The conference was attended by 52 people, including 7 speakers. Individuals who were unable to attend the live conference were given the option of watching presentation recordings for up to 30 days following the conference.
- Each attendee was able to earn up to 9.75 hours of continuing education credit for attending the full-day conference and/or watching presentation recordings.

FINANCE AND DEVELOPMENT COMMITTEE

- The Finance and Development committee acquired QuickBooks online in 2020.
- They worked with a consulting accountant to create new Profit and Loss Report and Balance Sheets.
- All budget sheets have been incorporated into the new format.

MEMBERSHIP COMMITTEE

- The committee fulfilled their goal to establish a new electronic newsletter for the membership. The first newsletter was sent out in late November. Future newsletters are planned for twice a year, one in early spring and one in late fall.
- Committee members reached out to new members, as well as distributed regular correspondence with the membership on behalf of other committees regarding educational opportunities, upcoming elections, and surveys to gauge interest in participation or feedback on committee planning.

WILDLIFE CARE COMMITTEE

- The Committee successfully supported the intern who received the Partners for Wildlife grant to be able to attend the WWRA and the National Wildlife Rehabilitators Association (NWRA) conferences; WWRA 2019 conference (Tacoma, WA) and NWRA Symposium 2020 (South Padre Island, TX). Due to the sudden implementation of Coronavirus protections and restrictions, the intern was unable to participate in a hands-on internship.
- The committee is working to prepare educational materials to aid the public in learning about wildlife rehabilitation and how they can help wildlife.
- The committee is working to prepare a training for the veterinary community on basic wildlife care and triage.

Membership Overview

WWRA had 73 memberships representing 102 members in 2020. All six Washington Department of Fish and Wildlife (WDFW) regions are represented by the membership base. Home-based rehabilitators and rehabilitators from large centers form a vital part of WWRA's ongoing membership.

- Organizational memberships
 - 11 organizations with 40 associated members
- Family memberships
 - 1 family membership, 1 individual
- Lifetime membership
 - 4 lifetime memberships
- Individual memberships
 - 57 individuals
- WDFW Regions represented
 - All Regions 1 – 6

2020 Statement of Financial Position

Beginning Balance	\$7,564.21
Ending Balance	\$11,466.24

2020 Board of Directors

WWRA Board members are fully committed to and engaged with the organization. Board members attended monthly board meetings (by conference call) and the annual conference. Board members volunteer their time as committee chairs and members for all aspects of the organization. WWRA had a total of 8 Board members in 2020.

President

Wildlife Care Committee Co-chair

Website Content

- Jenny Schlieps, Focus Wildlife

Vice President

Membership Committee Co-chair

- Suzanne West, Sarvey Wildlife Care Center

Vice President & Secretary

Board Development Committee Co-Chair

- Stephanie Estrella, Raindancer Wild Bird Rescue

Treasurer

Finance and Development Committee Co-chair

- Emily Meredith, PAWS Wildlife Center

Education Committee Chair

- Lauren Caruso

Membership Committee Co-chair

- Mathew “Tigger” Birch, Featherhaven

Wildlife Care Committee Co-Chair

- Alysha Evans, Whatcom Humane Wildlife Rehabilitation Center

Directors

- Fawn Harris, West Sound Wildlife
- Corrie Hines, Twin Harbors Wildlife Center

Mission Statement: *WWRA acts as a collective voice dedicated to advancing professional wildlife rehabilitation in Washington state through education and community building.*

Guiding Principles: The Washington Wildlife Rehabilitation Association supports the science and profession of wildlife rehabilitation and its practitioners through:

- Fostering continued improvement of wildlife rehabilitation.
- Disseminating knowledge through meetings, reports, publications, symposia, and other means.
- Promoting educational programs, teaching natural history, and explaining the kinship among all living things.
- Promoting cooperation between professional and governmental agencies, wildlife rehabilitators, and the public at large.
- Providing support to its members through networking and mentoring.

