

WILVOS Wildlife Whisperings



**MAY
2017**

Wildlife Volunteers Association Inc (WILVOS)
PO Box 2555 Nambour West Q 4560.
Ph: (07) 5441 6200 www.wilvos.org.au

HELP NEEDED

Lyn Lovell does a wonderful job co-ordinating the WILVOS Hotline. Now Lyn would love to train someone else to take on this work. This involves doing up a roster with Excel each month and then making roster changes if someone phones in and is unable to do their allocated time. Contact Lyn: hotline@wilvos.org.au or 0421 853 007



It is countdown time for Fauna Returns. The years records need to be recorded up to June 30th and submitted by the 10th July for inclusion in the year's Annual Report. If you wish to retain your rehabilitation permit with WILVOS, these need to be submitted.

NO RETURNS. NO PERMIT.

MEMBERSHIP RENEWAL INVOICES

will be arriving in your mailbox in the not too distant future.

PLEASE RETURN THE INVOICE WITH YOUR PAYMENT.

If there are any changes to any details on the invoice, please add these but still PLEASE PLEASE return the invoice. It makes the membership secretary's job just that much easier.

For any payment by EFT then please put your SURNAME and MR as reference for membership renewal as our treasurer, Annette, isn't psychic!

DEATH BY FACEBOOK

As I've mentioned before, I really understand the comments made by a vet at the last Australian Wildlife Rehabilitation Conference. His thoughts were that social media was in danger of taking wildlife caring back into the dark ages. Facebook and carer sites can be good for networking but incorrect diagnosis and medication recommendations via internet are just plain dangerous. We have the Australia Zoo Wildlife Hospital and local vets to call on for expertise in such matters.

In this lovely electronic age it is not unusual to receive emails from all over Australia about wildlife.

I strongly recommend reliable sources such as Wildlife Health Australia. Who has been to this website and read the Fact Sheets? If you haven't, then shame on you! It has been in the newsletter for years so hopefully carers are interested in reading this well-researched information on wildlife health.

To mention a few topics: Lead Poisoning in Australian Birds, Shearwater Mass Mortalities, (we need this information to advise those that ring up on the hotline), Botulism in Australian Wild Birds, Snake Mites, Sunshine Virus in Australian Snakes. Mammal carers can read up on coccidiosis, leptospirosis, toxoplasmosis, or Salmonella in Australian Macropods. How about the latest information on Pentastomiasis in Australian Crocodilians??? Ok, I might be pushing it there, but still interesting! Equally interesting are the Fact Sheets on Public Health. We need to know about zoonotic diseases and similar issues.....Donna

<https://www.wildlifehealthaustralia.com.au/>

To become a member email:

admin@wildlifehealthaustralia.com.au

Opinions expressed in this newsletter are not necessarily those of the WILVOS organization but all contributions are welcome. DEADLINE FOR NEXT ISSUE 21st July 2017 Email: newsletter@wilvos.org.au

**HELP OUR WILDLIFE: Visit www.feralscan.org.au
Install the FeralScan Pest Mapping app on your phone.**

Donna speaking at a recent event.....

"I am very proud of being a WILVO. I especially admire the fierce loyalty of many of our members. It is not uncommon in volunteer organizations for people to criticize associations and there are always those 'followers' who can easily be manipulated into being critical, but WILVOS have an amazing cross-section of members of all ages and from all walks of life who form a cohesive beautiful group of people. Thank you all."

"We may not be perfect but we are working on it!"

On April 18 WILVOS were invited to attend an information morning at Kawana Community Centre organised by Sunshine Coast Regional Council. The purpose of the morning was to provide guidance to community/not-for-profit groups who were interested in applying for funding in the next round of Environment Levy Partnerships (it was also a good opportunity to network informally amongst the groups as there are often cross-overs in our activities).

A selection of existing funding recipients (Reef Check Australia/Bat Rescue Inc/Mooloolah River Landcare/Glasshouse Mountains Advancement Network) gave brief presentations on their recent activities, many made possible largely due to Council financial assistance. WILVOS have benefitted to the tune of \$30,000 over the past 3 years – this is most appreciated as our annual expenditure is now approaching \$50,000, as we offer increased food subsidy and equipment loan support to our wildlife carers.

We have lodged our expression of interest for the next round of funding and are now preparing the formal application – successful applicants will be advised in August (fingers crossed!!).

While we often malign our Council (much of our work is needed as a result of habitat destruction) we must acknowledge their proactive environment levy programme and sincerely thank them for their assistance.

Jeannie and Keith Campbell

A Council
funded hanging
basket possum
drey.



WILVOS's carers have received many 'freebies' at workshops and events this past year. Besides the usual mammal pouches, saline, betadine and various utility supplies, bags of Insectivore, Crittacare and Lorikeet Mix have also been given to workshop attendees. Jane and Colleen turned up with a huge van full of native shrubs to give away at the Christmas party. Some of those plants are thriving in our backyard jungles!

The recent macropod 'pinkie' training was a special event. These days are not a general interest day. They are for carers who are prepared to do 2am feeds for months.

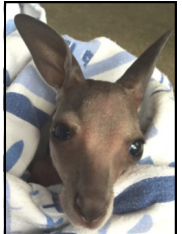
Jo Waters specializes in these creatures rears them constantly, with a consistent success rate with very small macropods. Now, in her wisdom, after many years, Jo says she has put a limit on the size that she sees as a viable rearing size. That would be a tough decision for this dedicated lady! The viable weight she has set is 150 grams for eastern greys, as under 150 grams the success rate is not so good. Carers do have to be realistic with their time when so many animals are in need of care, though it is not an easy decision.

The new carers received 'starter packs' with everything needed to care for these little ones. I was packaging milk at midnight the night before! Jo made up little glass jars of her 'pinkie' macropod lotion, and sewed bags and flannelette wraps. Her obliging husband, Michael, took time to make timber stands.

It was a very successful day with knowledge for all.

If anyone is interested in future 'pinkie' macropod workshops please email me so I can keep your name on file. Numbers are always limited and those doing this training need to be committed to taking on a little joey, and prepared for months of four-hourly around the clock feeds. There are no shortcuts and no room for error with these little 'premi' joeys.

If I have a problem with a 'pinkie' macropod, Jo is first port of call! Understandably, Jo wants constant feedback and likes to see them first if there are any issues. Thanks for a great day Jo!.....Donna



After 2
months my
eyes are open
and I'm
getting furry!

MANY THANKS TO ALL THE GREAT BAG SEWERS OUT THERE!

Though numbers of the majestic Golden Eagle appear to be increasing in Scotland, the last bird disappeared in England in 2016. This male bird had been alone for twelve years after the death of his mate. They hadn't successfully reared any offspring from the sixteen eggs they had produced.

Declared extinct in England since 1850, a few birds moved into the Lakes District in the 1950's. "Eddie" was the last of the line.



It was sad to hear of the death of WIRES long-time wildlife rehabilitator, Chris Borthistle. Chris was a regular attendee at the Australian Wildlife Rehabilitation Conferences, and had a great sense of humour in her writings about wildlife.

Chris will be sadly missed by her family, friends and her wildlife.

As wildlife carers we are expected to pick up any wildlife species as quickly as possible from the member of the public or the vets. After all we are WILDLIFE carers. (There is not the same urgency from wildlife hospitals but respond as soon as possible.)

So Hotliners, give out **any** number in the area where the wildlife is found.

On the Phone Contact List, the majority of people have 'Birds' beside their name. This DOES NOT mean that they only pick up injured or orphaned birds. Those on the Contact List will pick up any species as soon as possible. Once it has been collected, a carer for that species can be contacted. It is imperative that we pick up orphaned or injured life regardless of any personal preference. Being a wildlife carer means caring for ALL wildlife. They all desperately need our care. The members of the public who take the time to call us really care.

EVENTS IN JUNE 2017

June is a very busy month for events and we would like to see some willing members come and help out on our community awareness stalls.

SAT 3rd June Nambour Collectorama
7am to 2.30pm

Contact Rosemary on 5475 4455

SUN 4th June World Environment Day
Festival 10am to 4pm Cotton Tree
Contact Roslyn 5485 0056 or
pomonarozzie@bigpond.com

SUN 25th June Noosa Festival of Water
Contact Roslyn 5485 0056 or
pomonarozzie@bigpond.com

There are always interesting people to meet at these great local events.

Then on **7th 8th and 9th July** WILVOS have an information stall at the Queensland Garden Expo at Nambour.

Please contact Donna on 0413 861 757 or email donnaswildlife@gmail.com if you can help out at the Garden Expo.

Sammy had called me about an male adult ringtail possum that had to go back to its 'concrete jungle'. It reminded me that we, as carers, don't get too excited about returning possums to these seemingly habitat desolate areas but it is their home, and they know where their food and shelter is. They have a better chance in their home territory, that their generations have grown up in, than being put into a forest as a mature suburban animal.

On a brighter note, Sammy had a happier story!!! "Received a call today from a MOP who had a baby ringtail they found on the ground under a large tree. No injuries, bright as a button. I had taken a 'basket drey' with me and suggested they hang this in the tree with bub inside and put a banana on top or inside it after dusk. Told them that the mother might come back but I couldn't guarantee it.

They were wonderful! They put up the drey/banana and sat and waited after dusk. Then I received a call from them at 8pm to say mother arrived, ate banana, took bub onto her back and went on her way!!!

Some days you get lucky."Sammy



This is the ideal scenario if we can reunite a possum with its Mum. It is usually successful if the mother is seen around nearby. A wildlife carer can't always be there, and if this is the case, then clear instructions have to be given to the members of the public. The youngster can't be just put on a branch where it can fall down again. A basket, such as Sammy suggested, even a carton with a bunny rug in it, will do the trick, as long as there is no danger of falling to ground. The little joey can't be just left out there to its own devices. If the mother doesn't collect the joey after observation for an hour, or less in cold weather, then it has to come into care. Before trying to reunite the youngster it has to be carefully checked out for injuries and to ensure there has been a very recent separation from its mother. We can't put back a joey back that is severely dehydrated or with some injury.

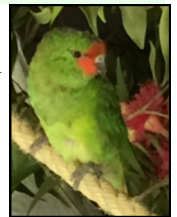
If no adult ringtail has been seen, then the mother may be dead, in which case another joey could be around also. This goes for gliders too, as they also usually have two young.

Always be polite to members of the public. Any rudeness will just reflect badly on wildlife in general. We want respect for our native animals.

	SPECIES	J	F	M	A	M	J	J	A	S	O	N	D
	FAMILY - PODICIPEDIDAE												
1	Australasian Grebe <i>Tachybaptus novaehollandiae</i>												
	FAMILY - PHALACROCORACIDAE												
2	Little Black Cormorant <i>Phalacrocorax sulcirostris</i>												
	FAMILY - MEGAPODIIDAE												
3	Australian Bush Turkey <i>Alectura lathami</i>	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X
	FAMILY - PHASIANIDAE												
4	Brown Quail <i>Coturnix ypsilophora</i>		X	X	X					X		X	X
	FAMILY - ACCIPITRIDAE												
5	Pacific Baza <i>Aviceda subcristata</i>			X		X							
6	Black Shouldered Kite <i>Elanus axillaris</i>												

This is a few lines from a bird survey list in 2015/16 (from Terrie Ridgway, showing what birds have been observed in her area, at what months of the year. It was compiled from surveys by Wildlife Protection Society of Qld and Bird Observation Group of NPA. If you are looking for a release site for birds, check with Terrie. *This is a good format to record birds in your backyard. You will be surprised at how many birds visit throughout the year. Great project for young bird lovers in the family too.*

Carers and Hotliners.....Would it be possible for everyone who does their monthly fauna and phone returns electronically to cc their returns to membership@wilvos.org.au Sylvia often needs this information quickly when consulted by carers so a copy of your monthly return would be a big help. Electronic submission of returns is the preferred method. Remember even if you have no wildlife in care, then still email in the return form to the above email addresses with your name, membership number, month, year and NIL on it.



The Night Shift.....Sammy Ringer

The 5pm-9am hotline shift might *seems* to be hard yakka – especially for people who sleep at night. However, it's got its upside – most of the calls come during 'morning and evening walk times' – those periods when people are out on foot and come across wildlife.

Of course, it's got its downside. The majority of late night calls are for animals hit by cars, especially kangaroos. If the roo has a severely broken leg, euthanasia is usually the outcome. Fortunately, we have support from our local police who will undertake this unhappy task. (I would like to give them a big 'thank you'.) Unfortunately, this is not always possible for the police.

Case in point:

A 9.30pm call from MOP who came across a kangaroo on the road with a broken leg – in the middle of Cooran township! A call to Police Link got the process underway but by 9.45pm I had a call back from the officer assigned: "I've found the kangaroo but I *am* sorry, I cannot discharge a firearm in this area."

He was super apologetic but I understood his predicament. You can't just go firing a gun in the middle of town. What to do??? The animal was totally disabled, in pain and helpless. The officer said he would stay with the injured roo until I called him back, bless him.

Fortunately - I did have an option. A woman with a euthanasia licence who lived not that far from Cooran.

It was now 10pm and I didn't want to make the call – but of course I had to. She took the call, expressed no annoyance at the hour and told me she'd attend.

What can I say? I called the police officer, gave him her ETA and went back to bed with a book. Meanwhile, this wonderful woman got on the road with her kit and did the kindest thing for the kangaroo.

If I didn't live within 20 minutes of the Australia Zoo Wildlife Hospital, I would seriously think about getting a euthanasia licence myself. Perhaps others might think about getting one. I grieve for every critter we lose - but I know that euthanasia is painless....and, at times, it certainly beats the alternative.

Editors note: Future training for more euthanasia permits is being considered, but understandably those holding these permits do not always wish to have their details made available to the general public.



A big 'Thank You' to Vet Sheree and Vet Nurse Dawn of the Yandina Veterinary Surgery for very promptly dealing with a big male kangaroo who needed to be euthanized after being hit by a car and suffering a severe compound fracture of the leg. Well done, girls! Not a pleasant task, but necessary.

We thought you might like to share our experiences during our recent 'holiday'.....

OUR HOLIDAY (or... a Wilvos carer's work is never done!)

After a frantic couple of months we took the opportunity to sneak away for 2 nights camping in Maroochydore. Jeannie was between rescue animals so it was the perfect chance to get away. After setting up the tent and savouring a welcome beverage we headed over to the amenities block to freshen up. The FIRST THING Jeannie spotted was a juvenile magpie on the ground and looking a little weak and underweight. After quizzing some of the other campers we learned he had been there for several days – there were adults around but they weren't feeding him so we suspected he may have something wrong with him and had been abandoned. We caught him, made him comfortable in our rescue box and Jeannie christened him 'Lou' – as he was found near the toilets. After a quick dash to the shops we made up a meat mix for him but he wasn't really fussed about eating! We kept him overnight, in the tent with us (Keith didn't seem to mind – he said he loved getting birds into his tent!). The following day we went in search of a nest and soon found one high in a tree. There was another juvenile on a lower branch so we set about constructing a temporary nest nearby. With no ladder handy, Keith stole a wheelie bin from the nearby Information Centre and hoisted Jeannie precariously on top, drawing inquisitive stares from passers-by (probably didn't satisfy any workplace, health and safety requirements??). We then parked a chair near the tree and took shifts to see if the parents would feed both juveniles. One of us sat and watched while the other ferried snacks and coffees back and forth. The parents tried to feed Lou but he didn't beg at all - something was obviously wrong. We decided the best option was a trip to Australia Zoo Wildlife Hospital... diagnosis: metabolic bone disease, and little Lou was hospitalised. We got back to the tent late, had a quick snack and hit the sack, feeling very satisfied with our work. A great holiday so far??

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Next morning we woke early and decided to enjoy a beach walk before brekky. As we left the tent we were hit by a commotion under our car – a young spotted turtle dove must have strayed into someone else's territory and was being given a right-royal touch-up by some noisy minors and a scrub turkey. We managed to shoo the attackers away and rescue the dove (back to the rescue box – we hadn't had a chance to put it away yet!). After a thorough check (only thing hurt was his pride!) and making sure he was over his shock, we decided he was okay to be released - these birds are really common right? wherever you go you see them right?...we walked around the caravan park and nearby parks for 2 HOURS with the little guy and didn't find a single mate - amazing! Eventually we found an appropriate release site and after monitoring him for a while we headed off to enjoy what remained of the day.

We ended up extending our stay an extra night (to help recover from our "holiday") but the plan went pear-shaped when Australia Zoo Wildlife Hospital rang to say that Lou was ready for pick up - we spent most of the last day getting him organised. By now we were actually looking forward to getting home!!!

Can't wait for our next holiday???

Jeannie and Keith Campbell



There is more to *Saving Wildlife* than rehabilitating animals. Their habitat needs to be protected. Make a regular habit of checking your local Council's website for new developments that may impact on our wildlife. Then be proactive, as is Jeannie in the above photo.(A) 2nd from left.

WILVOS runs 24-hour hotline for wildlife



UP CLOSE AND PERSONAL: WILVOS is a group of volunteers helping our region's wildlife including rehabilitating and caring for orphans in their own home before release back into the wild. Photo: Donna Brennan

CONTRIBUTED

THE Wildlife Volunteers Association Inc - better known as WILVOS - has been in operation for more than 24 years, helping injured and orphaned wildlife.

The highly respected wildlife organisation takes in a large area from Caboolture to Gympie and out to Kingaroy and beyond.

It initially formed with the help of National Parks and Wildlife in Queensland, is now an independent and mainly self-funded group.



WILVOS is a group of volunteers helping our region's injured and orphaned wildlife.

CONTRIBUTED

Photo: Melanie Penman

Thank you
to all our
wonderful
volunteers!

WILVOS vice-chairwoman Donna Brennan said the generosity of the general public, along with partnership grants from the Sunshine Coast Regional Council and fundraising stalls, all helped towards administration and operational funding.

"Even with this financial help, WILVOS could not exist without the amazing team of volunteers who recognise the desperate need for assistance in this wildlife field," she said.

Melanie Penman looking very glamorous for her possums!
Great story in the Sunshine Valley Gazette, Melanie!

"Not all members of the organisation are active carers of wildlife, but all contribute their various skills in constructive ways necessary to maintain the future of our environment and our Australian native wildlife.

"Some members are rehabilitators, some provide transport, some help with community awareness stalls, while others may volunteer on the 24-hour 5441 6200 wildlife help hotline.

"The technological age means that contact details of organisations are easily accessed, so emails and phone calls may come from all around Australia, even from overseas, asking for wildlife advice."

Donna said the commitment of these people was to be commended.

"They come from all walks of life - junior members, members of the workforce, university students, families and retirees," she said.

"In this day and age, it is not easy to find this extra time to volunteer, but all do what they can in the time they have available."

Members from further afield join the wildlife group as a means of maintaining up-to-date education on the care of native animals.

The quality wildlife workshops provided by WILVOS draw attendees from all over the state.

Highly qualified wildlife veterinarians and scientists are invited to present workshops to impart their knowledge on rehabilitation of injured and orphaned wildlife.

"Our native animals are so different to our domesticated species and the rehabilitation techniques need to reflect this," Donna said.

WILVOS work with injured and orphaned wildlife from the Australian Wildlife Hospital, RSPCA Wildlife, and other wildlife organisations.

"Together, everyone can make a difference, providing rehabilitation for our native animals, which are so sadly effected by development in our lovely corner of the world - the Sunshine Coast and hinterland," Donna said.

Contact WILVOS for any query on injured or orphaned animals on 5441 6200 or visit www.wilvos.org.au



Wildlife Volunteers Association Inc. (WILVOS) Co-ordinating Team for 2016/17

Please direct your calls to the relevant people when making enquiries

***** Management Committee** *ie Membership enquiries to Sylvia (Or advice, complaints, praise!)*

FUNCTION	E-MAIL	OFFICER	PHONE
***WILVOS Chair	chair@wilvos.org.au	Sylvia Whiting	5446 7760 0400 125 807
WILVOS Minute Secretary ***WILVOS Vice Chairs (2)		Joyce Thompson Donna Brennan	5441 7658 0413 861 757
WILVOS Community Awareness	awareness@wilvos.org.au	Roslyn Ann Leslie	5485 0056
WILVOS Enquiries	enquiries@wilvos.org.au	Donna Brennan	0413 861 757
WILVOS Environment	environment@wilvos.org.au	Lyndall Pettett	
WILVOS Fundraising		Rosemary Dax	(In advisory capacity)
WILVOS Grants Officer	grants@wilvos.org.au	Keith Campbell	0408 457 601
WILVOS Info	info@wilvos.org.au	Donna Brennan	0413 861 757
WILVOS Membership	membership@wilvos.org.au	Sylvia Whiting	5446 7760 0400 125 807
WILVOS News Editor/Media/PR	newsletter@wilvos.org.au	Donna Brennan	0413 861 757
WILVOS Releases	releases@wilvos.org.au	Paul Smith	5443 8315
WILVOS Data Returns	returns@wilvos.org.au	Cathrin Thodock	0499 739 990
***WILVOS Secretary	secretary@wilvos.org.au	Leslie Ayling	5441 7421 0437 637 404
***WILVOS Treasurer	treasurer@wilvos.org.au	Annette Buchanan	0418 194 695
WILVOS Website Co-ordinator	webadmin@wilvos.org.au	Cathrin Thodock	0499 739 990
WILVOS Workshop Bookings	workshops@wilvos.org.au	Julie Watson	0409 897 309

Co-Ordinators

WILVOS Bats	bats@wilvos.org.au	Terrie Ridgway	0487 930 903
WILVOS Birds	birds@wilvos.org.au	Marie Walton	0419 753 736
WILVOS Hotline	hotline@wilvos.org.au	Lyn Lovell	0421 853 007
WILVOS Macropods	macropods@wilvos.org.au	Sylvia Whiting	5446 7760 0400 125 807
WILVOS Marsupials	marsupials@wilvos.org.au	Mae Connor	
WILVOS Raptors		Jackie Fraser	5499 9057
WILVOS Reptiles	reptiles@wilvos.org.au	Lewis Rohun	0412 128 608

EACH SUNDAY please email Marie birds@wilvos.org.au and Mae marsupials@wilvos.org.au with wildlife in your care on the day. Each marsupial: Species/Sex/Weight. Each bird: Species/Adult, fledgling, chick
MARIE IS HAPPY FOR YOU TO TEXT YOUR WEEKLY BIRD UPDATE TO 0419 7537 36 if this is easier for you than emailing. These ladies do a great job so please report your wildlife in care weekly.
If you are not on these lists then email the relevant Co-ordinator, Marie or Mae. Thanks girls!
 Each Monday you will then receive an updated list of carers with a list of their wildlife in care.

THESE LISTS ARE FOR WILVOS ONLY & NOT TO BE FORWARDED ON OUTSIDE OUR GROUP.

DON'T FORGET TO EMAIL THROUGH YOUR FAUNA AND PHONE RETURNS MONTHLY

Is anyone using the RSPCA's Wildlife Recording Database???

I'm sure after the injection of funds from the State Government it would be good to see this newly developed data system utilized so there is a record of wildlife injuries from all around the State. If it was 'user friendly' I'm sure carers wouldn't mind copying over from their own fauna returns, until it is fully operational. If anyone is using this wildlife recording database I'd love to get some feedback.....Donna

Possum carers: Rake out the bottom of your aviaries regularly. A build up of old wet foliage means mould and bacteria. This can be fatal for possums and carers should wear a mask for their own health when raking out the aviary floor. The aviary should be so full of foliage that a possum should not need to go to ground to forage.



Thanks Roslyn & Carmel for the display at the Maleny Library for a month. Eyecatching and educational!

If undelivered please return to:
Wildlife Volunteers Assoc. Inc
PO Box 2555
Nambour West Q 4560

Print Post approved
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WILVOS WILDLIFE WHISPERINGS
May 2017



**SURFACE
MAIL**

**POSTAGE
PAID**

To become a wildlife carer you must hold a rehabilitation permit and meet standards described in the **Code of Practice—Care of Sick, Injured or Orphaned Protected Animals in Queensland**
www.ehp.qld.gov.au/wildlife/caring-for-wildlife

AUSTRALIAN WILDLIFE HOSPITAL DETAILS:

When receiving wildlife from AWH please follow up by advising them when an animal dies, is released, or is passed to another carer. Quote Accession no. from pink slip and, if applicable, details of next carer.

hospital@wildlifewarriors.org.au or phone 5436 2340

Possums need fresh foliage to eat every day. Old leaves lose moisture, any toxins can intensify, and possums won't eat the foliage.

<http://wildlifehealthaustralia.com.au/Resources.aspx>

admin@wildlifehealthaustralia.com.au

Visit & subscribe to this website for the latest in wildlife information and resources. All wildlife carers would benefit from subscribing. WHA has the most up-to-date information available on wildlife health.

