



# YGGDRASIL

## URBAN WILDLIFE RESCUE

Non-profit I.D. # 27-0085492  
7036 Balsam Way, Oakland, CA 94611  
(510) 421-9897 • (510) 547-9897  
[www.yuwr.org](http://www.yuwr.org)

### MISSION STATEMENT

To rehabilitate injured and/or orphaned urban wildlife (endangered and otherwise) with the goal of releasing the animal back into the wild, giving it a second chance at life, and reducing the human impact on the environment through habitat preservation and native plant restoration.

To inspire youth through education programs teaching the importance of protecting the environment for our own sake, as well as the health of our planet. Through classroom and community center visits, we try to spark the imagination of inner-city kids about new possibilities in the environment they share with animals and about how, and why they should protect it.

To provide humane solutions to wildlife issues in our cities: Education and referral of the general public on how to solve conflicts between humans and wildlife in a humane manner. We give step-by-step instruction on how to humanely solve these problems without the involvement of a trapper or pest-control exterminator. We will often make visits to a home in order to humanely solve the problem.

Several years ago, we received a frantic call from a 10 year old girl. She had found a baby jackrabbit that was entangled in razor wire. It was unable to move without the wire digging into its little body. The girl, not daunted by the gory scene before her, scooped up the injured baby jackrabbit and immediately began to search for who to call for help. Luckily, we were here, and with the help of our trained wildlife experts, the jackrabbit was freed from the wire, rehabilitated, and eventually released back into the wild, giving it a second chance. The little girl volunteered with us for years and is now beginning college with intentions of being a doctor, thanks to her life-changing experience at our center.

Please help us continue to be here for the children of Oakland and for orphaned and injured wildlife everywhere, by supporting our grassroots work. We are still 100% volunteer-run and donation-funded.





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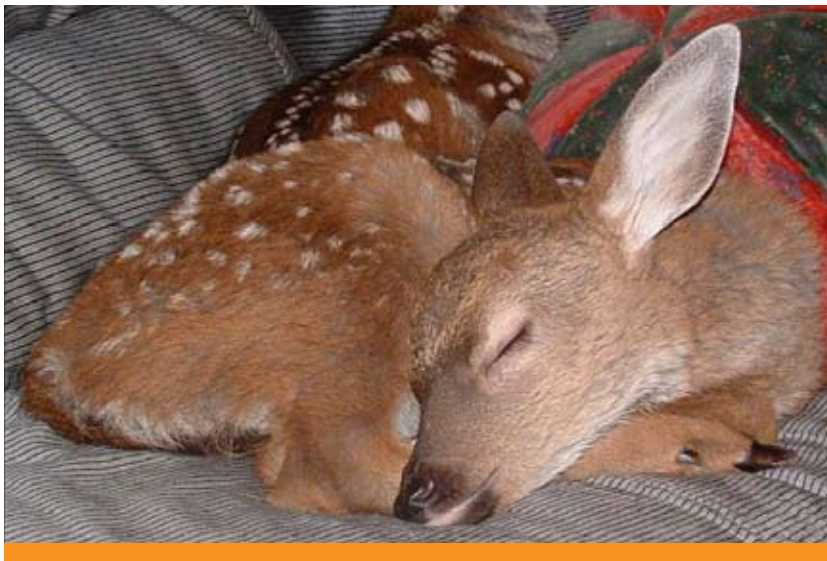
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### OUR HISTORY

My husband Richard Travis and I moved to Oakland in 1996. We were friendly with all the neighborhood children who knew of our love for helping animals. As the years went on, the children would bring us various hurt or orphaned animals, mostly cats, rabbits, etc. In 2001, we were brought a dead mother opossum with 8 babies in her pouch, still alive and crying for help. We knew that wildlife needed special care and expertise, so, we called our local wildlife center for advice. We were surprised to learn that Oakland and Berkeley did not have a wildlife rehabilitation center, and that the nearest center was 20 to 30 miles away. Depending on traffic in the very busy Bay Area, this meant a minimum of 45 minutes of travel time for any critically injured and frightened babies. This sent us on a mission of information. We found out that the majority of wildlife animals brought to the city animal control facilities were euthanized because the city agencies were unable to spare the officers to make that long drive. My husband and I decided that we would work towards opening a wildlife center local to the animals and children of Oakland and Berkeley.

Living in Oakland, which has one of the toughest inner-cities in America, we believed that having a wildlife center

was important, not only for the orphaned and injured wildlife in need, but for the children of the City. We have found that the same kids who come to us from their rough, urban environment, rife with gangs and violence, open up to a baby animal in need in a way that is heart-warming and one of the sustaining rewards of this job. Our hope is that some small fire of compassion, care, and a belief that their efforts can make a difference, has been kindled in the



hearts and minds of these young people, that will stay with them and guide them throughout their lives, encouraging them to be more compassionate individuals and more dedicated environmentalists. We know that all of the kids who come through here have carried away with them a deeper understanding and

respect for life and the environment we all live in. They have a better understanding that the world would be an empty place if we continue to allow environmental destruction and species extinction. We believe that when we provide these young people with an opportunity to get up close and personal with some of the wonderful creatures that inhabit dwindling wilderness areas in and around cities, they acquire a direct understanding that the solutions to environmental problems are in their very

## OUR HISTORY (CONTINUED)

own hands. We believe that this reinforces textbook and classroom education on these vital subjects in ways that will influence this next generation of potential conservationists throughout their lives.

I have been a wildlife rehabilitator for the last 14 years. I have worked with wildlife rescue organizations in San Francisco as well as San Rafael and Fremont. My college training was in the biological sciences and in anthropology. When I was a child I had the life-changing experience of working in my local zoo with small animals in the Children's zoo and also with the young orangutans. Through-out my life, animals have been a beacon of hope and light to guide me through all of life's pitfalls and I am a stronger person because of the positive examples they have given me. Helping animals gave me the focus I needed to survive being a homeless youth at the age of 12 and inspired me to fight my way through bad circumstances and enroll in college at the age of 15. I wanted to share this hope and motivation with the children of Oakland and Berkeley and inspire others to stand up and help wildlife in need. To this end, my husband and I have dedicated our lives to protecting and helping animals, improving animal welfare and protecting the environment, and passing along these positive outlooks to children. A few of our young visitors from the first year of our wildlife center, have later told us that it was thanks to our program that they decided to go on to college and pursue futures in the environmental sciences and animal protection.

In August of 2002, my husband and I opened this small wildlife rescue and education center out of our home. We had 3 outdoor enclosures, a private backyard in which to work, and 2 rooms inside for raising babies. From August through December of that year, we successfully rehabilitated and released 16 animals. We set up a website and a wildlife telephone hotline so people could call to get their wildlife-related questions answered and report wildlife emergencies. We started habitat preservation programs and encouraged native plant

restoration. In 2003, we were able to help 94 animals and interest the neighborhood children in protecting the animals around them. In 2004 it jumped to over 150 animals and has steadily increased, doubling every year. Up until March of 2004 we were able to run this wildlife center out of our own pockets, supplemented by small donations from grocery stores and local veterinarians, but with so many animals coming in and an increased interest from the local educational community, we needed funding as soon as possible. We applied and were granted State and Federal 501c3 non-profit status. We have mounted fund-raising efforts, which have met with varying degrees of success over the years, but we have always stayed close to our core values of all-volunteer-run grassroots work.



Our wildlife center quickly outgrew our house and we needed more room quick! In May of 2004 we were offered a rental property that seemed ideal. It was 1/3 of an acre with a house and a separate infirmary. We were invited to run the wildlife center there for "as long as we wanted". However, it was located on a steep hill. We were not scared off! We got to work rallying people, receiving donated supplies and recruiting a workforce to terrace the hillside. It was slow going but thanks to the blood, sweat and tears of many dedicated people who believe in our work, and to various organizations, such as Rebuilding Together: Oakland, and OneBrick.Org, by the summer of 2006 we had terraced the backyard and installed 9 large pre-release enclosures for our recovering wildlife patients.

We can proudly state that over the years we have helped thousands of wildlife animals get a second chance at a normal life and inspired thousands of children to respect, love, and protect wildlife and the environment we all share. We hope to be able to continue this work for years to come.

—Lila Travis