



SECOND CHANCE WILDLIFE REHABILITATION CENTER

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Baby Season is already here! What will happen to the hundreds of babies if Second Chance closes?

Second Chance Wildlife Rehabilitation located in Pueblo has provided wildlife rescue, rehabilitation and humane solutions to human-wildlife conflict statewide for 25 years. Every year we rehabilitate more than 600 sick, injured and orphaned wild animals like migratory songbirds, water birds, turtles, and small mammals including species of concern. Second Chance Wildlife Rehab participates in research studies of wildlife diseases. We provide information regarding current wildlife/human issues. We provide public educational programs to schools, nature centers, events.

Second Chance Wildlife Rehab provides a critical service for Colorado residents and visitors. We spend a lot of time on the phone answering questions and resolving wildlife issues, taking extra time to educate callers about an animal's natural history and behaviors, providing education on state and federal laws regarding wildlife possession, control and disease including zoonotic diseases (wildlife diseases communicable to humans). When a person brings an animal to our facility we treat each person with respect and attempt to ease their anxiety and distress regarding that animal as well as educating them about that animal, the laws governing wildlife and the treatment the animal may receive while in our care. We accept wildlife from wildlife officers, parks employees, animal control officers, veterinarians, police, sheriff, state patrol, humane societies and other agencies as well as the public. We also accept the overflow from other wildlife facilities receiving a significant number of referrals from facilities around the state. Second Chance Wildlife Rehabilitation is a valuable asset to the community helping people and animals. **Without the services we provide, thousands of wild animals would be euthanized by other agencies who are not skilled or equipped to care for them or would die in the care of well-meaning but untrained, misinformed people who find them.**

Second Chance Wildlife Rehab provides these services free of charge, yet we receive **no government funding** relying on donations to operate. Though we are licensed by both the state and federal government, we are not government employees. The veterinary care and feed for the hundreds of animals we provide care for each year is not paid for by the government.

For 24 years we operated as a mainly volunteer organization including our administrative staff. From 2012-2015 we were able to pay our licensed rehabilitator a small wage (less than minimum wage). In 2016 we did not get enough funding to pay the rehabilitator, who is a licensed professional. This is no longer sustainable. While we will still utilize volunteers, in 2017 we must hire professional staff that are State and federally licensed to work with wildlife. We need staff every single day of the year as we have wildlife on the premises every day of the year. Our admissions are several times that of Pueblo Raptor Center (whose average is 250 per year) and we do this on a tiny fraction of the financial and personnel resources that they and other comparable facilities enjoy. We have not been able to employ full time rehabilitators, veterinary staff or reception staff as many other rehabilitation facilities in Colorado do. Again, this is not sustainable.

For Second Chance Wildlife Rehab to continue operating through 2017 we need to raise \$30,000 to hire licensed wildlife rehabilitation staff. This funding is in addition to what we need for animal feed, veterinary care and general operations. If we are unable to reach this funding goal, we will have to cease operation. **Second Chance Wildlife Rehabilitation is the only wildlife rehabilitation facility south of El Paso County, east of Pueblo to the Kansas state line, south of Pueblo to the New Mexico state line and west of Pueblo to Archuleta or Rio Grande counties that is licensed to care for migratory songbirds, waterfowl, and bats. If we are no longer in operation hundreds of wild animals will die. Healthy animals, most of them babies, will be euthanized at facilities that are unable to handle the increase in admissions or are not licensed to care for that species and at Colorado Parks and Wildlife offices because CPW does not provide care for animals. Hundreds of animals will die at the hands of the untrained public trying to take care of them. Untrained people caring for wildlife also pose a health threat to humans and domestic animals due to exposure to zoonotic diseases like rabies, distemper, tularemia, internal roundworms and other diseases and parasites.** With the potential closure of the only operational facility in the Pikes Peak region in the spring of 2017, we expect our volume to increase exponentially as we will be the only operational facility between Boulder and the southern border of the state. This is compounded by the fact that the Boulder facility reaches capacity in early May (at the peak of baby season) and no longer accepts animals into their facility at that point.

Please consider partnering with Second Chance Wildlife Rehabilitation so we can continue to offer our services to wildlife and to the people of Colorado. If you can help, please contact us or visit our website. Thank You.

Nancy J Kelly, Executive Director, Second Chance Wildlife Rehabilitation