



Holidays Happy



from



Second Chance Wildlife Rehabilitation



**2730 Colfax Ave.
Pueblo, CO 81003**

2014 was another busy year at Second Chance with 575 animals admitted encompassing 60 different species. We appreciate every person who took the time and made the effort to get help for the injured and orphaned wild creatures that were brought to Second Chance. As we do not have paid staff, it is impossible for us to be able to pick up every animal that needs our help and we often rely on the people who find the animals for this. You are truly heroes! It is unfortunate that too often people decided to attempt to help an animal by themselves. Without the training and expertise required to properly care for these wild animals they are subjected to increased suffering from untreated injuries or illnesses and improper nutrition. Besides the fact that this is illegal, this activity also exposes these well-meaning people, their families and pets to serious diseases and parasites. We want to stress the importance of contacting a professional, licensed wildlife rehabilitator before attempting to help wildlife that you feel is injured or orphaned yourself.



This year brought many interesting cases to Second Chance! This summer we had a few days that reached triple digit temperatures. As baby cliff swallows began to leave their nests at Pueblo County High School they



landed on the pavement surrounding the tennis courts and track and immediately began dying. Someone also saw teenagers throwing rocks at the nests, knocking some of them to the ground where the tiny nestlings died from the impact and the heat. Several people were kind enough to gather the living birds up over the next several days and bring them to Second Chance. It takes longer to raise a swallow to release stage than most other birds as they need to



become skilled at catching insects on the wing before they can be safely released. Because they are in our care longer than many birds, it costs more to care for them and is more time consuming as we must take the extra time to teach them to catch food while in flight. In all we admitted 23, successfully releasing 20 once they were flying and eating on their own.



In July a nestling Great Blue Heron was found nearly dead on a roadway in Salida. The rescuer took the baby to a local veterinarian who administered lifesaving fluids before the heron chick was transferred to Second Chance. In September Pueblo Raptor Center allowed us the use of their very large flight cages where GBH can strengthen flight muscles. GBH will probably be held over for the winter to allow molting to adult flight feathers prior to release in the spring.



A juvenile rock squirrel was found leaning against a feed bin inside a barn just outside of a horse stall. The squirrel could not stand and barely moved. The barn owner does not use any chemicals. There were no wounds. The young squirrel tried very hard to keep her head still. When she tried to move she fell over. She was unable to hold food to feed herself something she missed. We and was seeing double and stall with the horse and the horse was walking hand fed infant squirrel was able to see and feed she began to hold herself upright and walk around her enclosure. After four weeks she began to climb and burrow and was released a few days later into her birth territory.



and when she reached for surmised she had a headache believed she had been in the was inadvertently kicked when around inside the stall. She was milk replacer formula until she herself an adult diet. Gradually



In early October someone anonymously left a nearly dead crow on our porch. The bird had evidence of someone trying to "nurse it back to health" themselves with baby parrot hand feeding formula dried all over its beak. This bird was so emaciated it was unable hold its head up and unable to stand. Its feathers were covered in its own excrement. We did not think it would survive. After a point, the damage to



internal organs caused by emaciation – starvation - cannot be reversed and the organs fail and the animal dies. But, crow did survive. Unable to hold its head up or feed itself it had to be fed tiny pieces of mouse and other delectable bits by hand. Eventually crow was able to stand and eat on its own. Massage therapy was started for



a spasm in its neck that kept the neck from straightening out and the head from being held up normally. After a month of intensive therapy and proper nutrition, crow was able to walk and perch and climb up a ladder then fly down without crash landing. As of this letter, crow is beginning to fly up! We don't know an exact release date yet, but we are hopeful that it will happen.



Thank you to everyone who contributed in even a small way to Second Chance in 2014.

Second Chance receives no funding from Colorado Parks and Wildlife, US Fish and Wildlife or any other government agency. We rely entirely on donations to pay for food, medical treatment and all aspects of animal care. Your past generosity made possible the successful release of healthy animals like the ones in these stories. Besides the very generous and much needed monetary donations, other people donated wonderful knitted bird nests, handmade flannel baby blankets, fleece, fresh produce, bird seed, cleaning supplies and their time and gasoline to transport animals, as well as labor and expertise finishing the inside of our ICU building. Thank you also to the veterinarians who helped us throughout the year.

This holiday season give a gift from the heart. In lieu of a store bought gift for that hard to shop for person or animal lover on your list consider a donation to Second Chance in their name. We will send them a commemorative certificate and a card with a photo of one of the animals we have cared for at Second Chance or send it to you so you can give it to them. You can also make a donation in memory of a lost loved one. Their name will be placed on the memorials page of our website at www.secondchancewildlife.net. And when you donate, you may be able to double your gift. Many employers offer a matching employee gift program. Ask at your place of employment. Donations may be made on line at the website above or mailed directly to Second Chance Wildlife Rehab at 2730 Colfax Ave., Pueblo, CO 81003. Second Chance Wildlife Rehab Center is a 501c3 nonprofit organization with no high paid staff so your gift goes directly to animal care and your donation is tax deductible.

Please remember that none of this would be possible without YOU! Thank you again to everyone who brought an animal in need to us and to all of our donors and volunteers. We at Second Chance Wildlife Rehabilitation wish you and your family a wonderful holiday season.

