



10 Smith Lane, Eastham, MA 02642-2671 • 508-240-2255  
info@wildcarecapecod.org • wildcarecapecod.org

April 21, 2020

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

Stephanie Ells, Executive Director, WILD CARE Inc. /cell,  
(650) 319-5491

ANIMAL ADMISSIONS STEADY  
DESPITE COVID QUARANTINE

###

Eastham, MA. Wild Care, Inc., is a wildlife rescue and rehabilitation center located in Eastham. Wild Care is dedicated to wildlife rehabilitation, public education & outreach to prevent wildlife casualties.

"Wild Care provides an essential service to the Cape Cod community and our wildlife. Despite less foot and vehicular traffic due to quarantine, animals are still being impacted in their environment. Our doors remain open during this pandemic, and animals are arriving every single day." states Stephanie Ellis, Wild Care Executive Director. "In the past week, Wild Care Staff rescued an injured **Osprey** from Dennis, received a **Red Phalarope** from Orleans - an oceanic species, rarely seen from shore, and received an adult **Virginia Opossum** that was hit-by-a-car." The opossum was deceased but had two live babies in her pouch. The majority of the animals Wild Care is receiving are orphaned squirrels and rabbits.

"The wildlife baby season is upon us," states Ellis. People are well intentioned, but frequently kidnap young animals that they believe may be orphaned. We have tips on our website and Facebook page ([wildcarecapecod.org](http://wildcarecapecod.org), @Wild Care Cape Cod) to help you determine when a baby animal truly needs assistance. For the safety of our staff, our hours on-site are limited & the influx of "healthy" babies is challenging for us to accommodate. To manage the influx, our licensed

*They will thank us simply by their presence*



We use recycled paper.



wildlife rehabilitation staff and licensed volunteers are taking orphans home to provide care. With this in mind, our goal is to provide people with helpful guidelines to avoid displacing wildlife *unnecessarily* during this critical time when resources are low."

"I anticipated we would see a significant reduction in the numbers of animals being impacted during COVID, a time of reprieve for wildlife in a sense. But this has not been the case," states Ellis. "Wild Care received 77 patients in the month of April as of the 19<sup>th</sup>, compared with 77 animals on April 19, 2019. Our Wildlife Helpline has been ringing off the hook with over 457 calls so far this month. There has also been a surprising increase in animal vehicle strikes compared with April 2019, despite Governor Baker's "Stay at Home" advisory in Massachusetts."





"If ever there was a positive side to this pandemic, it is that COVID-19 is inspiring people to get outdoors and experience the beauty of nature and our interconnectedness with wildlife," states Ellis. "People are seeking nature as grounding place during this time of confinement and social distancing. My hope is that after this pandemic, this newfound love for the environment will foster a lifelong commitment in people to preserve wildlife and their habitats."

"We realize that many people are experiencing financial hardship, and precedence should be taken to contribute to those in most desperate need. If you are able, donations are needed while we continue our mission and operations during COVID-19. Please visit our website at [www.wildcarecapecod.org](http://www.wildcarecapecod.org) to donate, or to view our Wish List. Donations can also be mailed to Wild Care, Inc. 10 Smith Ln. Eastham, MA 02642. Please check our Facebook page daily, @Wild Care Cape Cod to find more tips on how you can help to reduce impacts on wildlife."

If you have an animal in distress, please call ahead. Wild Care is responding to their Wildlife Helpline remotely and on-site between the hours of 9AM and 5PM. (After 5PM, please call the Friends of Cape Wildlife Hotline, 508-375-3700.)"

###

#### ABOUT WILD CARE:

Wild Care's mission is to treat injured, ill and orphaned native wildlife for release, to prevent wildlife casualties through public education and live counseling, and to engage the community in conservation, through volunteerism. Since our founding, Wild Care has accepted over 27,000 wild creatures, representing 275 species of native birds, mammals, and reptiles. On average, Wild Care receives over 1,800 wild animals per year for treatment. If you encounter injured, orphaned or ill wildlife please call Wild Care's "Wildlife Helpline" at 508-240- 2255. For more information about Wild Care's programs, events or to make a donation please visit our website: [www.wildcarecapecod.org](http://www.wildcarecapecod.org).

*They will thank us simply by their presence*





10 Smith Lane, Eastham, Ma 02642-2671 • 508-240-2255  
wild.care@verizon.net • wildcarecapecod.org

*They will thank us simply by their presence*

