



Nature's Way Newsletter

June 2009 ♦ Issue 3

Web Site Update!

We want to thank Aubrey Burkhart once again for the great job she is doing with our new website and invite EVERYONE to continue to visit the site. We are growing in the services that our website provides. We now have a PayPal account where donations can be made to Nature's Way over the internet. In the VERY near future we will also start our on-line store with t-shirts, sweatshirts and jewelry related to technical animal rescue. These items will be available to you, the public, to purchase and show your support of our organization and help support the animals. Our event calendar continues to show when and where the public events are held that we will be at. This includes when we are at PawMart and when we are holding trainings for people interested in getting involved. Aubrey is also working on making it possible to post our newsletters on-line for your convenience as well. So, check it out at www.nwart.org and stay up to date!!

Springing Into Squirrels

In early May, Nature's Way received a call about a baby black squirrel that had been blown from its nest during one of our incredibly windy spring days. She was found, eyes still closed, lying in a water puddle so she was very cold, scared and hungry. We examined her for any injuries and immediately began to warm her up. Once she got a little warmer, food became on the top on her want list! She ate very well and actually a bit too fast because she would blow milk bubbles out her nose. One of our team members agreed to take her home and raise her. She thrived with tender loving care and FOOD.

Then, a couple days later we received another call about a baby squirrel found in a backyard and he too, was brought to us. He was also black and about the size of the other squirrel that was already being hand raised. We decided to raise them together.



During the last weekend of May, the squirrels were released together in a nearby wooded area. The team member that was rehabilitating them, continues to see them daily. They even had a nest built within the first 24 hours of being on their own! They currently have three nests and no problem foraging for food. Here are some photos of the release and their new home.



Getting ready to be released.



← One of their three nests.



Enjoying the great outdoors!





Emergency Response



Nature's Way was proud to attend the Hoosier Horse Fair held at the Indiana State Fair grounds on April 3-5th, 2009. Every year, our team sets up a 10'x20' booth at the fair which contains pictures and literature on the purpose and need for animal emergency response teams. This year we also brought our equine mannequin and some equipment to demonstrate with. In addition, Nature's Way also mediates an all day meeting on the first day of the Hoosier Horse Fair for the entire state, on animal emergency response issues. We had around 75 attendees this year for the meeting and had a wonderful guest speaker that did a presentation on a cattle trailer that overturned on I-69 in Auburn, IN. He openly discussed all of the issues that arose in this response and how trained animal response teams are desperately needed! We discussed in the previous newsletter that we are working in conjunction with the Indiana Horse Council and the Indiana State Board of Animal Health to formulate a state wide plan for the development of animal emergency response teams throughout the state of Indiana. We will continue to teach these classes this year and more advanced classes will be added in 2010. The schedule of classes being taught are posted on the calendar on our website. Below are photos of our booth at the fair and the state meeting.



On May 26th 2009, one of our team members, Lori Birky (an employee of Mor/Ryde in Elkhart) received a call that a deer had ran into their other factory (Mor/Ryde on Grant/Bristol St.) and was taking up residence in their bathroom. Lori initiated a call down and four team members were able to respond immediately. The Elkhart City Police Department assisted in securing the building and remained on scene to possibly shut down Bristol St. The ECPD Animal Control Officer assisted the Nature's Way team in tranquilizing the deer and relocating it to County Road 4 in a much safer location. All rescuers were very pleased to see the young buck run off into the field. A special thanks go to ALL employers that allowed Nature's Way team members to be away from work to attend to this very delicate situation. Deer are amazing animals to watch in their element but when they mix with populated areas the outcome can quickly become very dangerous for rescuers and the animal. Patience, proper equipment and education are an absolute must in everyone remaining safe. Sacrifices are also made at the places of employment where team members work because they are attending these emergencies and not at their regular job. A huge thank you goes to all co-workers for understanding that this is kept to a minimum as much as possible!



Here are two Nature's Way team members, Chazz and Dawn, getting ready to transport the deer.



The buck running into the field during the release.



PawMart



The PawMart in Martin's on E. Jackson St. in Elkhart is incredibly supportive of Nature's Way! This store cares for and provides cages to all our cats in need of finding loving new families to adopt them. They ask for nothing in return and they see that all of the animals get a great deal of attention. Nature's Way wants to thank everyone at PawMart for ALL they do for the animals! Thanks to their generous effort, our adoption numbers are up compared to this time last year. We have been invited to do nail trimming for a donation every other Monday night from 6:30 to 7:30pm. The dates that we will be at PawMart can be found on our website.

Nature's Way has adopted out; 1 rabbit, 2 birds, 3 dogs and 19 cats since the first of the year! Our numbers continue to grow and we are very happy that we have been able to help these wonderful animals find permanent loving homes.





Wildlife



On January 22nd, 2009, county dispatch called and reported that a resident from Middlebury had found an adult swan lying by a fence, not moving. The swan was wrapped in a sheet and transported to Animal Care Clinic North where it spent the night warming up in a safe environment. The next morning he was examined and transported to a water fowl rehabilitator that Nature's Way works very closely with. The swan was injured but healed very nicely and was later released.



On May 18th, 2009, the Elkhart County Humane Society called Nature's Way with a stray sheep running in downtown Elkhart. They requested that we catch it, house and care for it, and then adopt it out for them. Of course we were happy to help! The sheep was brought to a barn where she was stalled, fed and cared for. We do not have a lot of experience with sheep but we did find out that she was an American Blackbellied Sheep and was placed a great home with other sheep!

On the evening on May 27th, 2009, Nature's Way was contacted about a baby swan found by a family while on a bike ride. She ate very well and loved to be held, but her right leg did not work properly. This swan went to the water fowl rehabilitator for hand raising and physical therapy. The rehabilitator has two other baby swans that this one will be raised with. A baby mallard came in that same day and was also taken to the rehabilitator's facility.



PetSafe

Nature's Way was contacted on May 22nd, 2009, by a private citizen. This person owned a rental property which was abandoned and the occupants left two cockatiels behind, uncared for! We took them into our PetSafe program. These birds were very dirty, hungry and upset. We thoroughly cleaned their cage and brought them to a quiet location. They were placed in a loving home that had experience with birds. They have turned out to be wonderful pets!



Donations

During these tough economic times it is not surprising that donations are down and expenses are up. Your financial support is needed now more than ever to continue providing this vital service to animals in need. Any monetary donation is GREATLY APPRECIATED and tax deductible. Contributions can be made by mailing a check to our P.O.Box or through PayPal via our website. Please find it in your heart to donate now. We have several kittens (some are pictured below) and adult cats that need medical care (vaccinations, blood tests and spaying/neutering) which can happen with your help!



Your financial support is also needed to continue to train team members in technical animal rescue and become a larger presence in the emergency response world. Providing trained personnel and proper equipment to an animal in need is the best gift you can give! The animals as well as our entire team thank you for all of your kindness and support.

Contact Us



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More Happy Endings

In the last issue, we brought you the story of Nicholas, a Persian that was abandoned and neglected. Here he is, now joined by his new housemate, Andrea. Andrea was found as a stray in a local factory. She was live trapped, spayed, vaccinated and placed in this loving home with Nicholas. They are as happy as can be!

To view other animals we have for adoption you can visit our website and click on the -Adoptable Pets- link or visit:

www.petfinder.org/shelters/IN373.html



Nature's Way Animal Rescue and Rehabilitation, Inc.

Looking out for the well being of our furred and feathered friends!