Dear WRR Member,

I have often written to you about the tragedies faced by the animals we rescue. I have told their stories to the best of my abilities and tried not to create a written world dominated by my opinions or any biases I may have. In short, I have striven to tell the stories of animals as they might want them to be told if they cared about such human endeavors. With that in mind I am writing today to tell you of yet another animal, another story, a history, and a time in his life that I did not witness but that I hope we can visualize.

What I know of life for animals in labs comes from my observations during visits to these places and what I am told by the people who work or have worked in that setting. The animals are usually kept in stainless steel cages, the size of a large box. These occupied cages often line the walls of large rooms. The animals confined there can, if there are two or more rows of cages, look across and see their fellow captives. For primates this offers a modicum of comfort, since they are sociable animals and being able to see and hear each other must give some satisfaction when your living conditions are otherwise stark and utterly unnatural.

The call for our help came as so many do, via email. The request was a simple one: Can WRR take an aged, 26-year-old male rhesus macaque who had been in countless labs throughout his long life. The answer was just as simple: Yes, we would take him. It is a difficult reality to swallow but Wildlife Rescue lacks the space to take every permanent resident animal we are asked to take, which makes sense but every time we cannot it feels like a failure. When asked to take someone...
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Lynn’s Letter

who is particularly aged, though, we usually say yes because we know their options are extremely limited. This monkey’s future was now in our hands, and it would look very different from his past.

The day he arrived, after a long flight, he was tired and frightened and had reopened a wound on the very top of his head. It was a bloody mess and needed immediate attention; the plans to get him outside and into the fresh air would have to be delayed. He was a good patient, not a new role for him to play even if for reasons very different than before, and his treatment went well. Perhaps his time in our hospital gave him a slight view into the new world he had just entered—a world of ever-present kindness.

When his day in the sun finally arrived, there were more delays. But these at least were of his choosing. He was placed in the warmhouse of our macaque topped over enclosure and we wanted to give him time to explore on his own terms the outside, but he was in no hurry. Life had not been kind to him and caution had become his constant companion.

After a few days, curiosity, no doubt mixed with a longing to finally experience fresh air, won the day and he timidly ventured outside. What he found there was not exactly freedom but at least within these confines there was birdsong, green grass, weeds inhabited by myriad insects, and the scent and sense of Nature herself. He also found an endless canopy of the softest blue scattered over with fluffs of white. All new and comforting sights for his weary eyes. The live oak tangled throughout with fragrant cedar was yet more confirmation that Nature dominated his new world.

One of the greatest satisfactions of this work is watching animals who have spent years indoors in close confinement enjoy their first moments of life in sanctuary. Each animal responds differently and for this macaque the following weeks were filled with exploration, no doubt tinged with some trepidation, of the setting he
this enclosure before being moved to a larger area. These beautiful birds, calm and very much at home, were proof that he had entered a quite different environment than any he knew before. Over the next few weeks, a change came over him. His facial expressions and his eyes softened as he slowly relaxed. His demeanor calmed as he walked, without hesitation, taking in every inch of the enclosure, learning and clearly liking his new surroundings.

At the time of this writing the twenty-six-year-old rhesus, his bleak past now safely behind him, wakes each morning not only to a new day but one of promise and hope. No longer do his aged eyes emerge from sleep to once again feel stainless steel under his frail frame; no longer is his view one of only walls and bars. Now, every morning of his new life begins with the view of a sun rising, the day coming alive with breezes and birds calling, donkeys and sheep wandering past, and his wrinkled feet connecting with the grass and soil beneath him. He does not have his freedom, he was robbed of that long ago, but he has found peace here and can trust those who provide his care to be always kind. We cannot know his mind; we cannot know his heart or the turmoil that we hope no longer lives there, but we can do all in our power to assure that he need never again be afraid.

now found himself in. Being highly intelligent he wanted to learn everything he could about his new surroundings. He spent days in one section of the enclosure, sitting in the tall grass and taking most of his meals there. Fresh fruits and vegetables were placed in the grass making it necessary for him to forage as he would in the wild. His eyes told the story of a life formerly void of Nature and peace—Was it possible for him to find that solace here at Wildlife Rescue? That is our hope and what we strive for on behalf of every animal we rescue who will live the rest of their life in the WRR sanctuary. For someone so old, someone who has not had an opportunity to enjoy the simple joy and pleasure of being alive, it was especially important.

He remained cautious about moving too far into his new confines but as he did so every moment was one of newfound interest. Something else that was new to this elder primate were two companions. Living in this same enclosure were one rooster and his friend, a non-native pheasant; these two had been the companions of the capuchins who had occupied...
Community Support

Girl Scout Troop 197
In December 2022, troop leader Marie-Celine of Girl Scout Troop 197 contacted WRR letting us know they had raised funds to purchase items for animals in our care. This was completely unexpected, but of course greatly appreciated! While this troop normally raises money for the Humane Society, the girls chose WRR as their community service goal for their fall product sales. Marie-Celine wanted to change their charity of choice to help the girls understand the importance of helping all animals.

The girls were able to purchase enrichment items, nutritional supplements, and cleaning supplies—all vital to the care of wildlife at WRR. We know they worked hard and appreciate their thoughtfulness in choosing WRR.

Should you be interested in donating using our Amazon Wish List please scan our QR code:

Or copy this case-specific link into your web browser: a.co/9pVmG5k

First Baptist Academy
In early September of 2022, 4th-grade teacher Jennifer Walker contacted Wildlife Rescue on behalf of her First Baptist Academy students. Wanting to go beyond simply learning about coyotes during her lesson on native wildlife, she asked if her students could sponsor coyotes in our care. They and we were thrilled.

Ms. Walker’s class was soon joined by the remainder of the 4th-grade students at First Baptist. Together they raised $175 for the care of coyotes at WRR and sent more...
than just a check—each student wrote a letter explaining what they learned about coyotes and why they were excited to sponsor this misunderstood wild animal. In appreciation, we sent our sponsorship packet and educational materials. Ms. Walker was kind enough to share these photos with us and said: “Today was awesome! We had our ‘Coyote Presentation,’ and I unboxed all the cool goodies that you sent the students. They were so excited to see the sponsorship certificate and the photo! ...They are so sweet and have already told me that they think other kids will notice them wearing their stickers and maybe they will want to help animals, too! ...This meant so much for them, because, as kids, they often wonder if anything they do will make a change in this world. This project has shown them that they can.”

We are very grateful to have been part of this project, able to educate future generations on wildlife, and share why we should all work towards protecting them.

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It was Friday January 6th and most people were finishing up the first week of the New Year. San Antonio Animal Care Services was, as usual, busy. That morning they received a call about an “unusual” animal clinging to the pillar of a resident’s porch. ACS arrived on the scene to investigate and found a coatimundi, more familiarly coati, who they were able to capture after the frightened animal fled. (Private ownership of these animals is prohibited in the City.) Wildlife Rescue & Rehabilitation received this female juvenile coati and she went through a standard veterinary check-up, after which she was left undisturbed so she could settle in and avoid becoming overly stressed.

In other parts of the world, this animal would not seem unusual or out of place as she was here in San Antonio. Coatis are closely related to raccoons and are native to Central and South America and parts of Mexico; they can also occasionally be seen in parts of Arizona, New Mexico, and West Texas. Far too often, these and millions of other wild animals are bred, bought, and sold for private possession as “pets.” Animals raised as pets cycle through a variety of miserable situations and are deprived of social and nurturing bonds with their mothers, siblings, and other family members. This coati was denied her right to be born free as a wild animal, which can never be replaced. But in lieu of that, we offer her sanctuary. We are proud to be able to do this—made possible by support from members of WRR—but it saddens us that our services are so often needed because of situations like this one.

We have 13 other coatis as residents at our Sanctuary in Kendalia. Some arrived from zoos and others as ex-“pets.” Every day, we provide them with a safe, natural habitat and a diverse diet, including fresh fruit. Once we are sure she is well, this juvenile will be slowly integrated into one of the outdoor enclosures while she learns to safely cohabitate with other coatis. We all hope and expect that she will become part of a troop and experience the social bonds she would if she had been born in the wild.

Produce Party

When one of our donor’s 70th birthday was approaching she wanted to make her gifts more meaningful than usual. So she asked for produce donations in lieu of gifts. This Member purchased over $150 in produce to use as centerpieces for her tables and used WRR images as her table markers. She believed people would bring, if anything, an apple or a banana—oh, was she surprised! Her friends, family, and neighbors brought boxes (even a wheelbarrow!) full of vegetables. In total, more than 12 boxes of produce, over 250 pounds, were donated.

WRR is fortunate to have such generous and thoughtful Members. Even during a birthday—a day ordinarily focused on oneself—our community thinks of others in need. This selfless act for wildlife not only reflects the giving nature of the person whose birthday it was, but that of her friends as well.
Become a Wildlife Sustainer

Wildlife Rescue & Rehabilitation Sustainers are a special group of WRR supporters who make a monthly contribution to underwrite our life-saving work. Imagine the benefits that add up over the course of a year when many of you come together in this way. Every month your credit card will be automatically charged for your designated gift. But you remain in control, meaning you can change or cancel your monthly commitment anytime you choose.

The advantage to this way of helping is that a monthly gift can be made with little or no effort on your part. Over months your gifts will add up to more than you usually give in one or a few larger gifts throughout a year.

Your monthly contribution will help:
• Feed hungry orphaned babies
• Rehabilitate injured wildlife
• Provide sanctuary for native and non-native wildlife and farmed animals

As a Wildlife Rescue Sustainer:
• Your membership will continue year after year unless you request that it be discontinued
• You will have the satisfaction of knowing your monthly gift is helping save thousands of lives every year

For more information on how to become a Wildlife Sustainer, contact:
Mackenzie Perez
Communications Manager
(210) 538-9761
mperez@wildlife-rescue.org

MARK YOUR 2023 Calendar!

WRR Formula Drive
(Online)
Monday, February 20 to Monday, February 27
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Amplify Austin
(Online Campaign)
Wednesday, March 1 to Thursday, March 2
~
WRR Baby Shower for Wildlife
(In-Person Event)
Saturday, March 25, 1-4 pm
~
WRR Enrichment Drive
(Online)
Friday, June 23 to Friday, June 30
~
WRR Food Drive
(Online)
Monday, August 21 to Monday, August 28
~
Big Give
(Online Campaign)
Wednesday, September 20 to Thursday, September 21
~
Giving Tuesday
(Online Campaign)
Tuesday, November 28
~
WRR Artistic Animals
(In-Person Event)
December TBD
JOIN WRR FOR A

BABY SHOWER
for Wildlife

Save the Date

Saturday, March 25, 2023
1:00-4:00 PM
The Rosemont
7735 Mockingbird Ln. San Antonio, TX

RSVP to follow