Dear WHL supporters,

It is hard to believe, but 2007 is almost over. It has been a very good year for the WHL, and we are grateful to all those who have contributed to our success. A major landmark for the WHL occurred in October when LSU gave us official approval to begin the fundraising efforts for the new WHL facilities. This approval recognizes the WHL as a university project and allows us to step up our fundraising efforts in 2008.

I would like to recognize the LSU SVM administration, in particular Pat Edwards, Gretchen Morgan, and our dean, Dr. Peter Haynes for all their hard work and support in getting us to this point. A key player in this effort has also been the architecture firm Washer, Hill, Lipscom. Rick Lipscom has put together a great team that gathered our vision and is working towards making it a reality. Finally I would like to acknowledge the Advisory Council to the WHL for their commitment and dedication. We are all very excited and will begin 2008 with renewed energy and goals that will get us closer to having a new Wildlife Hospital of Louisiana.

Our mission of conservation, research, and education continues to be our focus on a daily basis as we improve our ability to take care of Louisiana’s wildlife, find new ways to protect our native species, train veterinary students, and educate the public about wildlife and the environment. We challenge each one of you to do the same. Spread the word about the WHL and what we do for the state of Louisiana. Educate the younger generations on the importance of caring for our wildlife and the environment. Together we can contribute to making our state a better place for us and for future generations.

We hope you have a prosperous holiday season and wish you the best for 2008!

Sincerely,

Javier Nevarez, DVM, PhD
Director
Wildlife Hospital of Louisiana

Dr. Javier Nevarez
Director, Wildlife Hospital of Louisiana

Marlana Roundtree
Rehabilitator Coordinator,
Wildlife Hospital of Louisiana

Dr. Peter F. Haynes
Dean, LSU School of Veterinary Medicine

Ginger Guttner
Editor

Published by the Wildlife Hospital of Louisiana. Correspondence should be addressed to: Ginger Guttner, Wildlife Hospital of Louisiana, School of Veterinary Medicine, Louisiana State University, Baton Rouge, Louisiana 70803.

Telephone: (225) 578-9525
www.vetmed.lsu.edu/wildlife_hospital_of_la.htm

Show your support for the Wildlife Hospital of Louisiana by purchasing one of our shirts! All sizes are available. The cost is $22 per shirt. Please contact Dr. Javier Nevarez or Marlana Roundtree at 225-578-9525 to order your shirt today!

Would you like the WHL to provide a raptor education seminar for your school, church or civic group?

The WHL believes that the first step to ensuring our success in preserving and conserving our native wildlife is to educate our young Louisiana citizens. Our program is delivered by the Director or Assistant Director and our veterinary students. The WHL will bring one to four of our education raptors and provide a fun and educational presentation detailing the natural history of the birds and the importance of conservation. Of course, this program is not limited to the youngest Louisiana citizens, as the WHL is also happy to provide the same presentation to adult church and civic groups! Best of all, these educational seminars are free; however, donations to the WHL are always welcome.
Meet the Raptor Wildlife Rehabilitation Unit Co-Chairs!
These veterinary students volunteer their time to take care of the School of Veterinary Medicine’s resident raptors.

Front row (from left to right) Janel Doud (Class of 2011), Leia Feinberg (Class of 2010), Brendan Brophy (Class of 2010), Melissa Smith (Class of 2011), Jennifer Cockburn (Class of 2010), Kelly Franklin (Class of 2010), and Erin Dehnam (Class of 2010). Back row (from left to right) Daniel Dorbrandt (Class of 2011), Devon Owens (Class of 2009), Brandy Stone (Class of 2009), and Leslie Pence (Class of 2009).
Finally we must acknowledge Carrie Salyers, urban biologist with the Louisiana Department of Wildlife and Fisheries, for also speaking at the meeting. Carrie is in charge of the permits for wildlife rehabilitation and has shown great interest in working with rehabilitators to improve the program in the future. Our goal is to provide two courses per year with an advanced skills course being added as the number of wildlife rehabilitators increases.

We are grateful to the Alexandria Zoological Park in Alexandria, La., for hosting the course and providing us with excellent educational facilities. We would also like to thank Laura Yerby for her initiative in organizing this course and coordinating the event between the WHL, LAWRA, and the Alexandria Zoo. Her leadership and enthusiasm are just what we need in the state to make sure that wildlife rehabilitation gains new momentum.

Finally we must acknowledge Carrie Salyers, urban biologist with the Louisiana Department of Wildlife and Fisheries, for also speaking at the meeting. Carrie is in charge of the permits for wildlife rehabilitation and has shown great interest in working with rehabilitators to improve the program in the future. Our goal is to provide two courses per year with an advanced skills course being added as the number of wildlife rehabilitators increases.

Dr. Javier Nevarez and Marlana Roundtree help some of the course participants during the laboratory at the basic skills course.
Wildlife Case of the Month

We close 2007 with what I hope will be a permanent addition to our newsletter, the wildlife case of the month. This section will share information from an interesting case seen at the WHL so that you can feel an even closer part of what we do.

On October 2007, we received an adult female Gopher tortoise (Gopherus polyphemus) from the Louisiana Department of Wildlife and Fisheries. The tortoise was found by the side of a road and brought to us for examination. Physical exam revealed what we believe was a 20+ year-old female tortoise with various carapace (top part of the shell) and plastron (bottom part of the shell) lesions. These types of lesions are common in older tortoises and show their age as well as the challenges and difficulties of living in a wild environment.

Radiographs revealed the presence of four intact eggs and one collapsed egg in the tortoise. This tortoise should have already deposited her eggs so we knew that she was having reproductive problems. We attempted to determine the positioning and location of the ruptured egg within the reproductive tract but were unable to do so.

The tortoise was placed on supportive therapy including fluids and calcium supplementation. She also received injections of a hormone (Oxytocin) with the hopes that we could stimulate her to lay the eggs, but she did not respond to that therapy. Afterwards, she was taken to a location outside of the WHL where she had grass and soil, providing a more natural environment which may stimulate egg laying. As of the writing of this summary, she has not laid the eggs. She is currently scheduled for surgery aimed at removing the eggs while keeping her reproductive tract intact so that she can reproduce in the future.

Gopher tortoises are a threatened species in Louisiana with a range limited to Washington, Tangipahoa, and St. Tammany parishes. They face various challenges, including habitat destruction, illegal taking for food or pets, egg destruction by fire ants, and diseases. An adult female tortoise represents the potential for species reproduction and working with one that is gravid (carrying eggs) is a rare occurrence at the WHL. While we hoped to get her to deposit her eggs and possibly incubate them, it appears that at this time the eggs are most likely not viable, and we will work towards saving her so that she can reproduce in the future. There are certain inherent risks that go with this type of surgery, but we will do our very best to help her through her illness. We will update you with the outcome of her surgery in our next newsletter.

Radiographs (x-ray) of the tortoise showing four intact eggs (round) and one collapsed (broken) egg.
Education Update

The WHL is looking to make its presence known around the state. This year we accomplished that by participating in La Fete d’Ecologie in Thibodaux, La., on September 29 and the Black Bayou Lake National Wildlife Refuge celebration in Monroe, La., on October 13. At each event we had the opportunity to interact with the public, both adults and children alike. These events are the first of what we hope are many visits to other parts of the state to let everyone know about the role of the WHL and our mission in the state. The Wildlife Hospital of Louisiana belongs to the state and its residents, and we want to make sure that people all around Louisiana know about the WHL. A big thank you to the students who worked on these events: Brendon Brophy, Jennifer Cockburn, Leia Feiberg, Kelly Franklin, Leslie Pence, and Brandy Stone. Some even took time off from their vacation to support the WHL. This group of students has continually led by example, and we are very proud of them.

An educational booth was set up at the Black Bayou National Wildlife refuge. LSU veterinary student Jennifer Cockburn (facing the camera) speaks to the public about the importance of raptors in the environment.

WHL Adopt-A-Bird Program

The Wildlife Hospital of Louisiana has introduced an Adopt-a-Bird program. The WHL currently has six education raptors that reside at the School of Veterinary Medicine on a permanent basis. The Adopt-a-Bird program provides the public with an opportunity to learn about these birds and contribute to their care.

Morgan, Red Tailed Hawk  
Athena, Barn Owl  
Princess, Red Tailed Hawk  
Squirt, Screech Owl  
Brise, Mississippi Kite  
Sydney, Turkey Vulture
Wildlife Hospital of Louisiana Annual Adopt-a-Bird Form

Print Name: ____________________________________________________________ Date: ___________________
Address: _________________________________________________________________________________________________________
City/State/Zip: _____________________________________________ Phone: ______________________________
E-mail: ____________________________________________________________

Payment must be made payable to the LSU Foundation: □ Check □ Money Order
For credit card contributions: ___ Visa ___ MC ___ AmEx ___ Discover
Card Number _________________________________________________________ Exp. Date ___________
Cardholder’s Signature _______________________________________________________________________________________

There are two ways to support the adoption of a raptor. You can be a gold or silver contributor. A gold contribution covers the expenses for the bird for the entire year, while a silver contribution covers the expenses for a quarter of the year. If you wish to adopt more than one bird, please do!

If you are adopting a bird for someone else, please provide the following information and notification will be sent to that person. This gift is □ in honor of □ in memory of

Name: __________________________________________________________________________________
Address: _____________________________________   City/State/Zip: ____________________________

Bird(s) you wish to adopt:

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th></th>
<th>Silver</th>
<th>Gold</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Sydney</td>
<td>$100</td>
<td>$400</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Morgan</td>
<td>$100</td>
<td>$400</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Princess</td>
<td>$100</td>
<td>$400</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Athena</td>
<td>$50</td>
<td>$200</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Brize</td>
<td>$50</td>
<td>$200</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Squirt</td>
<td>$25</td>
<td>$100</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

Send this form with check, money order, or credit card information to:
Marlana Roundtree, Wildlife Hospital of Louisiana, LSU School of Veterinary Medicine, Baton Rouge, LA 70803

Wildlife Hospital of Louisiana Donation Form

If you would like to make a monetary donation to the Wildlife Hospital of Louisiana, please complete this form and return it with your donation to Marlana Roundtree, Wildlife Hospital of Louisiana, LSU School of Veterinary Medicine, Baton Rouge, LA 70803.

Print Name: ____________________________________________________________ Date: ___________________
Address: _________________________________________________________________________________________________________
City/State/Zip: _____________________________________________ Phone: ______________________________
E-mail: ____________________________________________________________

Payment must be made payable to the LSU Foundation: □ Check □ Money Order
For credit card contributions: ___ Visa ___ MC ___ AmEx ___ Discover Amount $ ________________
Card Number _________________________________________________________ Exp. Date ___________
Cardholder’s Signature _______________________________________________________________________________________

Thank you for your support!
Mission of the Wildlife Hospital of Louisiana

- Serve as the primary medical and surgical wildlife referral center in Louisiana and provide compassionate medical care for injured wildlife with the goal of returning the animals to their natural habitat
- Provide an educational resource for the citizens of Louisiana that focuses on the importance of wildlife conservation and on the relationship between humans and animals.
- Provide a quality educational experience in wildlife medicine, surgery, and rehabilitation for veterinary students.
- Preserve the biodiversity of Louisiana wildlife through scientific investigation and establishment of a conservation medicine research program.

History of the WHL

The WHL was founded in 1981 at the LSU School of Veterinary Medicine. It partners with area rehabilitors, wildlife agencies, marine mammal stranding groups, and zoological parks to provide care for injured and orphaned wild animals. Endangered animals are commonly treated at the hospital.

The WHL has more than 1,700 native and migratory animals presented annually. In addition to providing medical and surgical care for these wildlife patients, the WHL provides educational presentations to school and civic groups. By sponsoring one of our education raptors, you can help contribute to the conservation message we deliver to the citizens of Louisiana.