MEET HUMANE INDIANA WILDLIFE

The Wildlife Rehabilitation and Education Center began when Jean Prebis and Judith Cieslak moved to a remote piece of property in Valparaiso, Indiana to nurture their love of animals and nature. With Humane Indiana’s acquisition of their beautiful property in 2014, what began as an idea in the hearts of two women and local wildlife enthusiasts has grown to an exceptional place with extraordinary outcomes.

Today, the Wildlife Rehabilitation and Education Center preserves and protects native wildlife from 24 INDIANA COUNTIES and counting! Our mission has and always will be to provide exceptional animal care, educational programs, and unsurpassed community outreach. This work is only possible with your support.

WILL YOU HELP US TO CONTINUE OUR MISSION BY MAKING A DONATION TO HELP WILDLIFE?

HUMANE INDIANA WILDLIFE PATIENT STORY:
NORTHERN SAW-WHET OWL

Every October and November, members of Indiana Audubon Society, the Indiana Dunes State Park, and Shirley Heinze Land Trust work to band northern saw-whet owls migrating through Northwest Indiana. On October 25, 2020, Humane Indiana Wildlife staff were contacted by our partners regarding a saw-whet owl with significant damage to the feathers on its left wing that had been contained in one of the mist-nets.

Upon admission, it was clear that four of the primary feathers on the bird’s left wing had been bent in awkward angles, most likely from a large predator trying to catch an easy meal. Species such as great horned owls, who feed on saw-whets, have a grip strength of roughly 500 pounds of pressure—certainly enough power to bend the shaft of a feather beyond repair.

While otherwise healthy, this hatch-year female saw-whet owl was unable to fly because of the feather damage. Feather damage of that nature cannot be repaired with the exception of either replacing the whole feather through a process called “imping” or by allowing the feathers to naturally fall out and regrow through the molt process. Because saw-whet owl feathers are difficult to come by, birds that require new feathers must wait until old feathers molt and are replaced with new feathers before they can be released. Depending on the molt pattern of a particular bird, it may take between 6 months to a year for feathers to be replaced.

Meet JoAnne Baranowski, winner of the Name the Newsletter Contest! We had so many great entries, but we absolutely loved JoAnne’s winning entry, “Wild Side.” Join Humane Indiana on the journey of wildlife rehabilitation and education in each coming issue!

2,985 animals cared for in 2020

32% increase in admissions over 2019
MEET NICOLE HARMON, HUMANE INDIANA WILDLIFE DIRECTOR

Nicole is a familiar face you may know if you have ever brought an injured or orphaned wildlife animal to our Wildlife Rehabilitation and Education Center. Nicole has been with Humane Indiana since February 2016, initially joining the team as an animal care technician/educator and in 2020, was appointed as director of Humane Indiana Wildlife.

Nicole holds nine permits through Indiana DNR and US Fish and Wildlife Service to rehabilitate injured and orphaned wildlife in Indiana and care for non-releasable animals that just may become our next education ambassadors.

Nicole has a bachelor’s degree in wildlife ecology from Saint Joseph’s College and a Masters in biology from Miami University of Ohio.

Meet Nicole and our Humane Indiana animal ambassadors at one of our upcoming all-ages animal meet-and-greet educational events. For a complete list of events, visit HumaneIndiana.org/events

2021 SAVE THE DATES

SUNDAY, JUNE 13, 2021, 9 A.M. TO 2 P.M.
COMMUNITY PARK IN MUNSTER, IN

Join us for a one-mile, pet-friendly walk to help support local pets. This year, there are two great ways to participate. Choose to join us in-person or participate in a virtual walk. Sign up today at HumaneIndiana.org/PawsInThePark

4TH ANNUAL FESTIVAL OF OWLS
Saturday, October 23, 2021 | 9am-5pm
Porter County Fairgrounds, 4-H Building, 215 E. Division Rd., Valparaiso, IN

Join Humane Indiana Wildlife for a family-friendly day of wide-eyed, owl-themed fun at our 4th Annual Festival of Owls. Meet several owls, including our own ambassadors and join our line-up of owl expert guest speakers as they discuss owls native to Indiana.

Tickets go on sale September 1 at HumaneIndiana.org

GALA 2021 - 80TH ANNIVERSARY
Saturday, November 6, 2021 | 5pm-9pm
Avalon Manor, 3550 E. Lincoln Hwy., Merrillville, IN

Mark your calendar and don’t miss Humane Indiana’s 80th Anniversary celebration Gala. Help us celebrate 80 YEARS OF SERVICE to help homeless pets and orphaned and injured wildlife. Join us for an evening of animals and honoring the GOOD THAT WE DO TOGETHER.