



Lake Erie Nature & Science Center



WREN.

Winter 2008-09

A newsletter for

wildlife rehabilitation, education and news

Meet Dr. Frank Krupka

Lake Erie Nature & Science Center's Wildlife Education & Rehabilitation Program is fortunate to have two dedicated volunteer veterinarians to assist us. One of them, Dr. Frank Krupka from Avon Lake Animal Clinic, has been donating his time to help with the medical needs of our rehabilitation patients and our permanent educational animals for almost a decade.

Dr. Krupka grew up in Ohio in South Euclid where his passion for animals began at an early age. He had many different pets growing up and, as a teenager, became involved with Rolling Pigeons. These are captive bred and raised pigeons and Dr. Krupka had 15 breeding pairs. These pigeons provided him with some of his first medical experiences (like administering vaccines) and also gave him a real life lesson in genetics.

While attending Ohio State University's Veterinary College, Dr. Krupka completed his externship at Midwest Bird and Exotic Animal Clinic in Chicago where he practiced medicine on non-traditional species such as



birds and reptiles. After graduating in 1999, he began his career at Avon Lake Animal Clinic. Wishing to expand his experience with non-traditional species, he approached Lake Erie Nature & Science Center to offer his services. His offer was gratefully accepted and he has been helping us with the medical needs of our animals ever since.

Outside of his veterinary work, Dr. Krupka and his wife Donna are busy raising their three sons, Frankie, Christopher and Andrew. The whole family is active at the Center,

attending programs and classes. At home, they tend to a small farm including a large garden, a dog, 2 cats, a snake, a duck and a flock of chickens. Dr. Krupka is also a Cub Scout leader for his eldest son's troop. With the scouts and at home, he is always looking for an opportunity to educate his children and others about nature and conservation.

Dr. Krupka has consulted with other nature centers such as Sanctuary Marsh Nature Center in North Chagrin Reservation of Cleveland Metroparks and the French Creek and Carlisle Reservations of Lorain County Metroparks. He was recently a featured speaker at the Ohio Wildlife Rehabilitation Association's annual conference sharing his knowledge about reptile behavior and diseases.

He and his colleagues at Avon Lake Animal Clinic, along with our other volunteer vets at Animal Clinic Northview in North Ridgeville, have been a wonderful asset to our wildlife rehabilitation efforts. We thank them deeply for their time, knowledge and commitment to wildlife.

MISSION STATEMENT

The non-profit Lake Erie Nature & Science Center educates and inspires each of us to understand, appreciate and take responsibility for our natural universe.



Lake Erie Nature & Science Center

Southern Flying Squirrel

One of our newest exhibit animals is our Southern Flying Squirrel. We received this Flying Squirrel through our Wildlife Education and Rehabilitation program on July 21, 2008. Based on his behavior, we suspected he had suffered some sort of head trauma. Injuries like this can occur if a Flying Squirrel glides into something like a tree or collides with a vehicle or owl. Although the symptoms improved through the rehabilitation process, there was still permanent neurological damage that meant this squirrel would not be able to survive in the wild. Fortunately, he has adapted well to captivity and can now serve an educational role at Lake Erie Nature & Science Center.

The Southern Flying Squirrel is the most common squirrel in Ohio

and lives here year round. They often go undetected due to their small size and nocturnal habits. Their large eyes serve as a clue to their nocturnal nature. Flying Squirrels live in old woodpecker cavities, other tree crevices and even birdhouses. They also have adapted to urban environments, living in crevices of homes and garages. A Flying Squirrel's diet is similar to that of most squirrels consisting of nuts, seeds, fungi and berries but also includes insects and, on occasion, other small animals.

Flying Squirrels cannot truly fly. They earn their name through their ability to glide long distances of up to 50 feet. If traveling downhill, with the wind behind them, they can go up to 300 feet! Flying Squirrels have two adaptations that make them



Ohio's most common squirrel

great gliders. First, they have a flap of furred skin between each of their front and back legs called a patagium that acts as a parachute. Second, they have a long flat tail that helps with balance in the air.

You can see our Flying Squirrel sleeping in a tree cavity in the exhibit hall at Lake Erie Nature & Science Center.

What is the Average Cost to Rehabilitate an Animal?

- Each animal we receive in our rehabilitation program requires its own specialized care. Therefore, the average cost is a general estimate of what we do on a daily basis.
- We receive more than 1,000 animals a year.
- In the spring, summer and fall we may have more than 30 animals in rehabilitation at a time.

AVERAGE COST

Medicine	\$1.00 per day
Caging	\$1.00 per day
Medical Supplies	\$2.00 per day
Food	\$3.00 per day
Time	\$8.00 per day

TOTAL \$15.00 PER DAY

Please send your donation today!

Or donate online at www.lensc.org/donate now!

Your will can make a difference

While Lake Erie Nature & Science Center very much needs your support today, we ask you to **consider including the Center in your will.**

Through your will and other means of planned giving, you can extend your support beyond your lifetime and help ensure financial support for the Center's work for generations to come. You can create a lasting legacy.

If you would like to learn more about opportunities to provide for the Center in your will, please contact

Renee Burslem
Director of Development & Community Relations
at (440) 871-2900 ext. 206.

Visit www.lensc.org
 (support us/planned giving) for details.

We are seeking a sponsor for this publication

Single issue sponsorship \$1,500
One year sponsorship \$3,000 (two issues)

Have your name printed on every page of this newsletter!

Contact Dave Wolf at (440) 871-2900

Bats: True or False

All bats have rabies.

FALSE. Only a very small percentage of bats tested are found to be rabid. When bats contract the rabies virus, they often show symptoms quickly. There is no reason to believe that a healthy appearing bat has rabies. Since rabies can be a fatal disease for humans, it is important to understand the disease. The only way to get rabies is from direct contact with the saliva or brain tissue of an infected animal. You cannot get rabies just by seeing a bat in your attic or yard. Unfortunately, the only sure way to tell if a bat is positive for rabies is to submit the dead bat to a laboratory for testing. If a bat bites you, attempt to safely capture it and contact your local health department and family physician right away.



Silver-haired Bat

Bats drink blood.

FALSE. Only vampire bats drink blood. There are just three species of vampire bats in the world, and they are found in Mexico, Central America and South America. They feed on animal blood by biting the animal and licking (not sucking) the blood as it drips down the animal's body. All 11

species of Ohio's bats are insectivores and consume fifty percent or more of their body weight in insects each night. In other parts of the world, there are species of bats that eat fruit, nectar and pollen.

Bats are blind.

FALSE. Bats can see. However, all species of bats found in Ohio have very small eyes. Most bats rely more on echolocation than their vision to locate food and avoid obstacles during flight. Bats emit high frequency sounds (inaudible to the human ear) and listen for those sounds bouncing back off objects. Through this echolocation, bats can find an object as small as a piece of human hair.

A bat found inside during winter should be moved outside.

FALSE. If a bat is found inside in an attic, chimney or barn, it is likely in hibernation and can be left alone. If a bat is found active in the house or accidentally awakened, then it should not be placed outside or allowed to go back into hibernation. When a bat wakes from hibernation it uses

much of its stored energy. If allowed to re-enter hibernation, it will not have enough energy left to stay in hibernation very long. If it wakes up before insects are available, it will starve to death. Bats found active inside during the winter should be safely captured and brought to Lake Erie Nature & Science Center to be examined and artificially hibernated.

To hibernate them, we first re-hydrate them, feed them for a few days and then place them in our "bat refrigerator." Because this is "artificial" hibernation, we wake the bats every few weeks to monitor their condition. We feed them for a few days, place them back in the "bat fridge" and repeat this process until spring. In Ohio, bats typically hibernate from late October until early April.

Bats are beneficial.

TRUE. Bats are extremely helpful creatures. In the US, bats eat millions of pounds of insects each night. Farmers actually attempt to attract bats in order to protect their crops from insect damage instead of using toxic insecticides. Fewer insects may decrease transmission of zoonotic diseases such as West Nile Virus.

Elsewhere in the world, fruit bats disperse seeds and pollinate many of our food plants. Fruit bats specifically are responsible for pollinating much of the rainforest. A healthy bat population reflects a healthy environment.

What's in a name? Education!

We recently made a small change to the name of Lake Erie Nature & Science Center's rehab program. It is now officially called the "**Wildlife Education & Rehabilitation Program.**" This is to emphasize to everyone that wildlife rehabilitation is much more than just trying to heal injured animals. A greater good can also be accomplished by investing time and effort into educating people about wildlife, natural history and nature in general.

One example of our education in action occurs when a caring, concerned individual finds a healthy baby animal and brings it to us to provide care and feeding. We almost always instruct these people to return the baby to where it was found so the mother can continue caring for it. Convincing people to do this is a win-win situation. It's best for the animal to be raised by its own mother and it's best for the person to better understand and respect nature.

Moving On

Megan Tadiello, our Wildlife Rehab Coordinator, left Lake Erie Nature & Science Center in August. Among other things, she was responsible for putting much of our WREN newsletters together. We thank her for all her work while with us and we wish her the best in her future endeavors.

The Whimbrel



Whimbrels may be seen in Ohio mostly from July-September

On September 2, we received an unusual bird, a Whimbrel, found in Brook Park, Ohio. Whimbrels are one of the world's most wide-ranging shorebirds. They nest in the Arctic and migrate thousands of miles to South America, Africa, and Australia. The Whimbrel's diet consists of crabs and other crustaceans, earthworms, insects and berries.

Our Whimbrel patient, in its juvenile plumage, was found unable to fly or even stand. It was emaciated and had little energy, most likely caused by its first long flight from the Arctic. During our physical exam, we also discovered damage to both of its eyes, perhaps from some sort of collision. In terms of releasing this bird, we knew we had a deadline to meet because the Whimbrel's migration through Ohio ends around the last week of September.

We began the process of stabilizing the bird with multiple rounds of fluid

therapy. After a couple of days, the Whimbrel was standing and we began a course of steroids to treat the damaged eyes. We also made an appointment with our veterinary ophthalmologist, Dr. Nancy Grzenda at Animal Clinic Northview in North Ridgeville. Dr. Grzenda

confirmed the trauma to both eyes and instructed us to continue our steroid treatment. A follow-up exam showed that one eye had regained vision, but the other had permanent vision loss.

Next, it was time to test the Whimbrel's abilities in a flight cage. We needed to know if it would be able to forage for food and escape from predators with its handicap. In a flight cage, the Whimbrel successfully found hundreds of worms each day and its weight began to increase to a very healthy level. It quickly became difficult to capture the fast shorebird, which made us confident that it could escape predators.

Our job was done and we had succeeded in our battle against time as well! The Whimbrel was released on September 26 to finish its long journey to South America. Thank you to Dr. Grzenda for her help in rehabilitating this unusual shorebird.

**Help us
rehabilitate
wildlife!**

Partners in Wildlife Rehabilitation

For \$500 per year, you or your business can be part of this elite group that partners with us to operate our wildlife rehabilitation program. We receive much needed funds to offset the cost of medical services, medical supplies, animal food, and animal care supplies. You receive a year's worth of advertising exposure to our over 100,000 visitors and to more than 1,000 readers of our publications. You also gain the good feeling that comes when you make a difference in our community!

***We are grateful to
our current Partners in
Wildlife Rehabilitation***

**Dr. David Francati &
Dr. Sherry Waters, DDS**

Hofmann Plumbing

KeyBank

Cynthia Monjot

Center Website, Chirp & Chatter Blog - Your Source For the Latest Wildlife News

Want ongoing, behind the scenes information about rehab and other animals at Lake Erie Nature & Science Center? Between issues of WREN, stayed connected at www.lensc.org. We tell some of our notable animal stories on our Chirp & Chatter blog. You can find Chirp & Chatter from the Lake Erie Nature & Science Center homepage. Once you're on the blog, scroll down to the "Labels" list in the right column, and click on "Rehabilitation" to pull up entries about rehab patients or select "Wildlife" to see all of our animal news. Feel free to leave a comment or give us feedback about our blog, our website or anything at Info@Lensc.org.

*If you know of any person
or business which may
be interested in joining this
program, please contact
Director of Wildlife Programs,
Dave Wolf, at
(440) 871-2900 ext. 203
or Davew@Lensc.org.*

Wildlife “Matters”

Q: *HELP! I found a baby bird in the yard that doesn't seem to be able to fly. It doesn't appear injured and it chirps and hops well. I don't want the local cats to get it. Can I bring it in to you to take care of?*

A: Actually, this bird does not need human help. It is a “fledgling,” a bird that has left the nest but is not yet able to fly. Almost every bird leaves the nest this way and must spend a few days living on the ground. During this time, the young bird is still being cared for by its parents but only on a “part-time” basis.

This bird must remain outside in your yard because these few days are the most important of the young bird's life. In this short time, a fledgling will learn all of the most important life lessons: what to eat, how to fly, and most importantly, how to recognize and respond to danger. Without completing this fledgling phase, the bird has almost no chance of surviving long term in nature.

It may seem to our human way of thinking that a fledgling bird has no chance of surviving and will certainly

be eaten by cats. That is simply not true. Every neighborhood has stray cats along with dogs, raccoons, children, hawks and cars. All of these dangers are part of the bird's environment and provide invaluable learning opportunities. Every bird we see flying around did indeed survive these dangers.

Of course, we cannot guarantee this baby bird will survive, but there are no guarantees in the natural world. Removing a healthy baby animal from the wild to try to protect it is not helping but is actually kidnapping the young one from its parents and interfering with nature. While it's difficult to ignore our “humane” instincts in these situations, that's exactly what we must do in order to truly respect nature.

You can take solace in the fact that nothing has gone wrong in this situation and there is no need for human interference.

VOLUNTEERS

Our deepest thanks to the following wildlife rehab volunteers who donated their time and effort to help us out over the last rehab season. We couldn't have done the busy spring and summer without you and we hope you enjoy your winter season.

Trish Binder
Hannah Canepa
Doris Chambers
Laura Davis
Michelle Epps
Amanda Fowler
Lisa Haecker
Katie Hertzell
Mike Durma
Tim Jasinski
Sara Perozek
Christa Sandy
Natanya Schessel
Mallory Skapes
Billy Smith
Ashley Stradtman
Hillary Stradtman
Barb VonBenken
Sean Waitkus
Natalie Wesley

Adopt-an-Animal

ANIMAL ADOPTIONS FROM MAY 6, 2008 THRU OCTOBER 15, 2008

NAME OF DONOR

Maureen M. Atzberger
Allie Basista
Harley Beall
Michael Boyle
Mia Centuori
Sheila E. Clogg
Suzanne Conroy
In Memory of Papa Cooper
Dante DiBenedetto
Tom A. Fitzsimmons
Julia Geschke
Kristen Gould
Scot A. Johnson
Jack Joseph
Margaret Kilbane
Julia Klaben
Max Lehmann

ANIMAL ADOPTED

Woodchuck/Groundhog
Turtles and Tortoises
Cooper's Hawk
Red-tailed Hawk
Domestic Rabbit
Turkey Vulture
Red Foxes
Eastern Screech Owl
Turtles and Tortoises
Red Foxes
Chipola Kingsnake
Domestic Rabbit
Raccoon
Waterfowl
Leopard Gecko
American Kestrel
Leopard Gecko

NAME OF DONOR

Lindsay Lieber
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Jennifer Maloney
Connor Murray
Nicolina Alice Paternostro
Taylor Pentz
Ava and Garrett Polverine
Roach Family
Elexis and Joseph Romano

Jim Smith
Marilyn Spence
Joe and Kate Young
Molly Z and Friends

ANIMAL ADOPTED

Domestic Rabbit
Red Foxes
Turkey Vulture
Venomous Snakes
Turtles and Tortoises
Leopard Gecko
Turtles and Tortoises
Mink
Domestic Rabbit
Domestic Rabbit
Madagascar Hissing
Cockroaches
Red-tailed Hawk
Domestic Rabbit
Raccoon
Domestic Rabbit



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Donated Items we can really use!

The Kenneth A. Scott Education & Wildlife Rehabilitation Program admits over 1,000 animals annually. This service is provided at no cost to the public. In order to continue to provide these animals with the best possible care, we are asking for your help! The following is a list of items used on a daily basis to feed, house, and provide necessary basic medical care for these animals.

HOUSING SUPPLIES:

- Pine shavings
- Clay cat litter
- Pine bark mulch
- Cypress mulch
- Straw (dry!)
- Corn cob bedding
- Plastic terrariums
- Ceramic heat bulbs

ANIMAL FIRST AID:

- Latex gloves
- Vetwrap
- Rolled cotton
- Gauze squares
- Rolled gauze (1" or 2" wide)
- Non-stick bandages
- Penlights
- Syringes and/or needles
- Infant incubator
- Bag balm
- Desitin
- KY Jelly

MISCELLANEOUS:

- Bleach
- Laundry detergent
- Dawn dish soap
- Paper towels
- Light bulbs
- 55 gal. garbage bags
- Zip-lock bags
- Batteries (all sizes esp. AAA)
- Masking tape & duct tape
- Trouble lamps
(with dome-type reflector)
- Scrub brushes
- Sponges with scrubber side
- Storage bins
- DustBuster
- Portable gas-powered generator

FOOD/NUTRITIONAL SUPPLIES:

- Jars of baby food (mixed veggie)
- Frozen or fresh vegetables
- Frozen or fresh fruit
- Frozen ground turkey
- Unsalted nuts
- Acorns
- Earthworms/Mealworms
- Reptomin

- Fresh or frozen fish
- Live feeder fish
- Live crickets
- Timothy hay
- Birdseed
- Guinea pig pellets
- Rabbit pellets
- Dry dog & cat food
- Lab mice/rats
- Avian hand-rearing formula
- Nutri-Cal
- Laxatone
- Reptile vitamins
- Peanut butter natural

GIFT CERTIFICATES:

- True Value Hardware
- Heinen's
- Pet's General Store (Lakewood)
- Landmark
- Pat Catan's
- Michael's Arts and Crafts
- Sam's Club
- Giant Eagle
- Target
- Wal-Mart
- Wild Birds Unlimited