



School of  
**Veterinary Medicine**

Louisiana State University  
Baton Rouge, Louisiana 70803

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# NEWSLETTER

**LSU**  
School of  
**Veterinary Medicine**

**Wildlife Hospital  
of Louisiana**

Spring 2015

The LSU School of Veterinary Medicine's Wildlife Hospital currently accepts more than 1,700 wild mammals, birds, and reptiles annually, with a 15 percent increase in caseload anticipated each year. We do not charge a fee to the Good Samaritans who bring in these sick and injured animals. Your gift to the Wildlife Hospital of Louisiana makes it possible for our board-certified veterinarians to continue treating wildlife.

## PLEASE UPDATE YOUR CONTACT INFORMATION

<b>First name</b>	<b>Last Name</b>	<b>Suffix</b>	<b>Company</b>	
<b>Address</b>		<b>City</b>	<b>State</b>	<b>Zip</b>
<b>Office Phone</b>	<b>Cell Phone</b>	<b>Email</b>		

I want to help the Wildlife Hospital of Louisiana continue its good work in treating and caring for injured and sick wildlife.

- My check, made payable to *LSU Foundation* (notation: *Wildlife Hospital of Louisiana*), is enclosed.
- I prefer to pay with my:  Mastercard  VISA  AMEX  Discover
- \$1,000  \$500  \$250  \$100  \$50  Other \$ \_\_\_\_\_
- My company has a matching gifts program.

### PLEDGE OPTION

- Charge my credit card \$ \_\_\_\_\_ per month for the next \_\_\_\_\_ (12 or less) months.

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Card Number \_\_\_\_\_ Expiration Date \_\_\_\_\_

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Signature \_\_\_\_\_

**MAIL TO: LSU School of Veterinary Medicine, Office of the Dean, Skip Bertman Drive, Baton Rouge, LA 70803**

*Questions? Contact Tracy Evans,  
LSU SVM, at 225-578-9870  
or [tracy@lsu.edu](mailto:tracy@lsu.edu).*

**Thank you for your support!**  
The LSU School of Veterinary  
Medicine adheres to the policies of  
the LSU Foundation, a 501(c)(3)  
organization.

## Wildlife Hospital of Louisiana

LSU School of Veterinary  
Medicine  
Skip Bertman Drive at  
River Road  
Baton Rouge, LA 70803



225-578-9600



[www.vetmed.lsu.edu/vth](http://www.vetmed.lsu.edu/vth)



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LOVE PURPLE  
LIVE GOLD

## Dear WHL Supporters

As we welcome the spring season, we are getting ready for the influx of orphaned animals, including squirrels, raptors and songbirds. We also continue to admit bald eagles through the later part of the spring. We would like to thank everyone who donated to the WHL after our last newsletter. We have received over \$4,000.00 since that time. These funds have been used to purchase food for our patients and a new freezer to store some of the food. The WHL purchases 1,000 pounds of fish every year to feed bald eagles, pelicans, and other fish-eating birds admitted to the hospital. Your contributions are critical to the continuation of our mission in the great state of Louisiana. We hope you have a productive 2015 and please continue to keep the WHL in mind when making charitable donations.

Sincerely,

Javier Nevarez, DVM (LSU SVM 2001), PhD (LSU SVM 2007), DACZM, DECZM  
(Herpetology)  
Associate Professor of Zoological Medicine  
Director of Wildlife Hospital of Louisiana

## Meet Our New Resident Birds

The WHL has two new resident birds: Indy, a male American kestrel, and Cricket, a female broad-winged hawk. Their names were selected during the LSU School of Veterinary Medicine Annual Open House in February. Indy has an injury to his left carpus (the wrist) that prevents him from fully extending his wing, so he cannot fly. Cricket had two fractures of her right wing that fused together during the healing process, restricting her

wing movement. They are currently being trained by the WHL co-chairs and have already participated in some educational presentations. Our resident birds help us to carry out our educational mission by allowing the public to come face to face with these magnificent animals so they can better understand the importance of preserving our wildlife.



Cricket



Indy

## The WHL Needs a Utility Golf Cart

Recently, we had to relocate our feed room to an alternative building. The feed room is truly a multipurpose area where we store and prepare all the food for the patients being rehabilitated, keep our medical records and store supplies; it now also serves as a winter housing facility for our resident birds.

This new room is more spacious and provides a better working environment, but it also happens to be farther away from our flight cages. We are in desperate need of a motorized utility cart (electric or gas) that

we can use to transport food and supplies between the feed room and the flight cages. With an average cost of \$4,000.00 for a used/refurbished cart, this is an item we are not able to purchase because it would represent such a large portion of our budget. We would greatly appreciate a donation of this type of vehicle from private donors or a business. If anyone is able to help with this need, please contact Dr. Javier Nevarez at [jnevare@lsu.edu](mailto:jnevare@lsu.edu). We would greatly appreciate it.

**One world, one health, one medicine**

### WHL Team



**Dr. Javier Nevarez**  
Associate Professor



**Dr. Thomas Tully**  
Professor



**Dr. Christine Higbie**  
Resident



**Dr. Anna McRee**  
Intern

## The WHL Goes Digital

In 2015, we switched our medical records to a digital format thanks to Wildlife Rehabilitation MD, a "free on-line medical database specifically designed for wildlife rehabilitators" ([wrmd.org](http://wrmd.org)). This program allows us to look at end-of-the-year statistics to better understand our admissions, release rates and type of presentations. We would like to thank Wildlife Rehabilitation MD for their hard work and dedication in making this program available free of cost to wildlife rehabilitators.

## Wildlife Case of the Month

At the end of January, we had a juvenile bald eagle brought to the WHL after being found with a trap on one of its digits. The trap was removed, and radiographs revealed there was no fracture of the digit. The injury appeared to be recent, and the bird was very strong and in good body condition so it was transferred out to a flight cage. A week later, the eagle was released back near Maurepas Lake where it was originally found. This was our first eagle release of 2015.

## Meet the WHL Co-Chairs

The WHL relies on veterinary students for most of our daily operations. One critical aspect of this is our co-chairs. These are 1st through 3rd year veterinary students who oversee the care and rehabilitation of wildlife patients once they are transferred to our flight cages. They also care for our resident birds that are used for educational presentations through out the year. We have animals to care for every day of the year, and these students work during the regular semester and school breaks, rain or

shine. They are a dedicated group of individuals with a passion for veterinary medicine and being active in their communities. We would like to thank them for their service to the WHL.

Top (left to right): Cheryl Choolijian, Carl Curtis, Sarah Wray, Aimee L. Trujillo

Bottom (left to right) : Kristen Ballard, Hannah Ghindea, Samuel Sotrop, Rachel E. Sassone

