



# YGGDRASIL

## URBAN WILDLIFE RESCUE

nonprofit I.D. # 27-0085492  
[www.yuwr.org](http://www.yuwr.org) \*510-421-9897

12/14/2020

Dear Alameda County Fish & Game Commission,

I am writing to you today to thank you for your grant of \$5,000 towards our wildlife rehabilitation program for the 2020 year. Thanks to your generous support, Yggdrasil Urban Wildlife Rescue was better prepared to do our mission-critical animal rehabilitation work.

2020 has been a different kind of year, for everyone. Our all-volunteer and donation-dependent wildlife rehabilitation center was not immune to 2020's surprises. When the pandemic hit in March, we found ourselves in the catch-22 position of suddenly having to shut down our entire volunteer program, while at the same time, facing a quadrupling of the number of wildlife intakes due to the closure of other wildlife centers, like Sulphur Creek, in combination with the shelter-in-place resulting in people who would normally be working, suddenly being home and going on nature walks, finding more animals in distress than normally would be found. At the same time, donation programs that we completely depended on had to shut down their programs. This left us in a very precarious position - understaffed, underfunded and over patient capacity.

Difficult times require flexible thinking - thinking outside the box to adjust one's footing to fit the incoming waves. In response to the crisis, our wildlife center set up a leadership team and together we completely redesigned our volunteer program to fit Covid-19 safety guidelines. We launched fundraising campaigns and volunteer recruitment efforts. By June of 2020 we had found our new footing and were actively on the front lines, taking in hundreds of injured and orphaned wildlife animals. In 2020 we took in over 550 animals!

Some of the rescue tales this year were pretty amazing. There was the adult female opossum who was hit by a car and ended up giving birth in my lap. Another mama opossums who arrived with a pouch full of 11 babies who stayed on to raise 47 additional orphaned babies for us after her own were weaned. Animal Control brought me a juvenile opossum who was found on the 8<sup>th</sup> floor of a building under construction. How ever did he get all the way up there? He had collapsed due to a systemic septic infection and spent a month receiving antibiotics and good nutritious food before being released back into the wild, healthy enough for a real second chance.



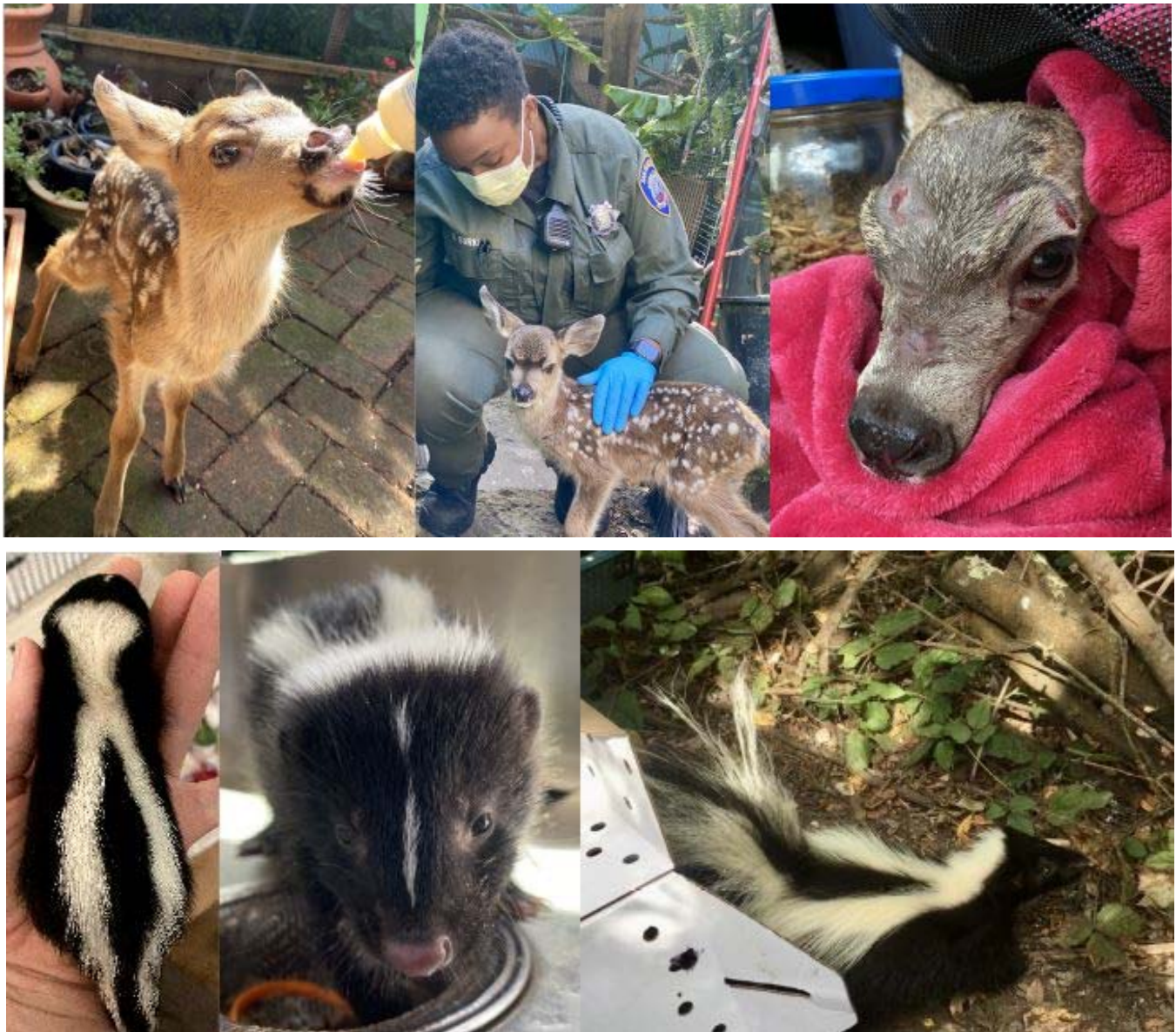
It was also a banner year for hummingbirds at our facility. From heavy windstorms knocking nests out of trees, to prolonged exposure to bad air quality causing confusion and injury, our hummingbird aviary was full all season. So many sheltering-in-place concerned citizens found hummingbirds this year – more than any year previously over the last 25 years Yggdrasil has been rescuing wildlife!



Of course we also helped hundreds of orphaned baby squirrels this year too. Babies who had fallen from trees and were attacked by dogs; Babies who's mothers were confused by prolonged exposure to bad air quality and miscalculated while running across a street; Even babies who were found then kept as "pandemic pets" until they became too much trouble, by finders who thought they were cute but didn't realize the amount of responsibility they require, let alone that it is illegal to keep them, and harmful to the squirrel if you raise them improperly.



2020 also brought us our share of fawns in distress. We developed one-page education graphic to help people understand the difference between a fawn waiting for it's mother to return, and a fawn who is in serious distress and needs our help. Skunklet orphans also increased in numbers this year with the Covid-closure of other surrounding wildlife centers who could not take them. Yggdrasil did our best to pull up the slack and cover areas usually covered by these closed centers.



All-in-all, 2020 was a year of rebirth and development. Like a phoenix, the Legendary bird from Greek mythology, we were set afire in March. But rather than crashing and burning by these challenges, by June Yggdrasil had been reborn, and is continuing to fine tune our operations as we move into 2021, a year that marks our 20<sup>th</sup> anniversary as an organized non-profit. We look forward to meeting whatever challenges are coming in the year ahead.

Thank you for your support. It is vitally needed every year, but especially this year.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in dark ink, appearing to read 'Lila Travis', with a long horizontal flourish extending to the right.

Lila Travis  
Director

