



A Critter's Journey

Volume 2, Issue 1
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THANK YOU!!

A Critter's Chance would like to thank Mary McKeon for suggesting the names, "A Critter's Journey" for our newsletter and "Critter Chaos" for our column. We thought "A Critter's Journey" was fitting because animal rescue really is a journey. It has its ups and downs, and we never know what we may encounter.

Critter Fact



The Opossum is the only native marsupial in North America.

The one pictured here was cared for by A Critter's Chance until she was able to be released into a nice, wooded area.

Our Mission: To be a voice for the animals; to educate the public about animal responsibility and ensure that all animals are treated humanely and given a "chance." To make certain that every available resource is used to find adoptive homes for domestic animals and to return wildlife to their natural environment.

2009 Fundraiser

ACC board of directors wishes to thank each and every one of you who helped plan and attend "Passion for Wildlife 3". A special thank you to the Haunted Club for their months of work, even before the event! Thank you to Insygnia Food Service for the wonderful food they served, and to Jose & Sons Ice Sculptors for the generous donation of 2 ice sculptures (see our site for pics, and check out their site!) We would like to say a special thanks to all of our sponsors for their generous donations. I want to say a personal thank you to my board members (please welcome our newly appointed treasurer: Sandy Morrical) and the volunteers, who give daily of their time, money, etc to assist animals in need.

The work ACC does is crucial, as we are dedicated to fighting animal abuse and neglect and to help governmental agencies in shutting down backyard breeders (breeders who are only concerned with profit and not the welfare of the animals), which is a HUGE problem!!! We vow to continue the fight against this horribly growing problem. People who do this think they can handle it and make money, and in the end, it always ends up being a hoarder situation with the animals suffering a terrible fate.

Welcome to our new Treasurer!

A Critter's Chance would like to welcome Sandy Morrical to the board as our new Treasurer! In the past, Sandy has served as the Treasurer for two other groups, and currently works as a teller. Sandy has been working with A Critter's Chance for about a year. In addition to assisting

When ACC finds out, we contact the appropriate authorities and fight for the ones who have no voice. WE ARE THEIR VOICE!!!!

One last special thank you goes to the Blind-Side Band, for the last 3 events they have come out and rocked our supporters and helped promote our org. and what we do. (Check out our supporters page to get to their website and consider booking them for your next event). I could sit here all night and never get enough thank yous in, so please know that I know what each of you do and all of you have my undying gratitude for your dedication!!!!

Michelle Manker, President



Michelle's son, Jason, with the Crocodile Ice Sculpture donated by Jose & Sons Ice Sculptors

with financial tasks, she has also volunteered at several events. We really appreciate all of her hard work! It is our pleasure to welcome her to the board! We will be adding Sandy's full biography to our site, so please check there for more details!

Amy's Conservation Corner

In each newsletter, our Vice President, Amy, shares tips as to how you can help improve the environment. Amy is a Master Gardener, Master Naturalist, and a Backyard Wildlife Habitat Steward with the National Wildlife Federation.

Nature's Garden

Do you enjoy watching the birds and butterflies? How about the crazy antics of the squirrels? Have you ever wished these beautiful creatures would spend more time in your yard? By providing the four elements that wildlife need to survive (food, water, shelter, and places to raise young), you can bring them back into your yard and you would be doing a great thing for wildlife as well.

Habitat loss is one of the biggest problems wildlife must deal with these days. Wetlands and forested areas are quickly becoming subdivisions. Natural wetlands are crucial to the survival of a lot of species. It is so important that we keep these areas. Most landscaping in newly developed areas has little to absolutely no use for wildlife.

Water is essential to all wildlife. Ponds are a great source of water for wildlife, and they also provide shelter and a food source for other creatures. Clean bird baths are another way to provide water. Misters are great for hummingbirds; they love to fly thru them. I see so many people put away their bird baths in the winter. This is a crucial time for wildlife. They need water all year long. There are little heaters that will help keep the water thawed out.

Natural food sources such as nut trees (walnut, beech, maple, etc.) and berry bushes (raspberry, mulberry, and blackberry) are great sources of food for animals.

Supplementing food in bird feeders is okay, especially in the winter. Just remember to keep them clean.

Shelter and places to raise young kind of go hand-in-hand. Evergreen trees are great. Dead trees (snags) are another. They provide lots of places for wildlife to live, plus with all the insects living in there, they provide a food source for other critters. So, please keep the dead trees, if you can, and they do not pose a risk to anyone. Wood piles are great for other critters. Bird houses are also important.

In future issues of the newsletters, I will provide more detailed info for particular species of birds, mammals, and yes, reptiles. I will also provide ways of peacefully co-existing with these beautiful creatures that God put on this Earth. In the meantime, check out the Indiana Wildlife Federation's website for more information.

Critter Chaos

This story was submitted by Michelle. We're sure you'll enjoy it!

I went outside to take care of my outdoor critters, and we have a metal bar that we put in our sliding door. I always remove it before I go out. This day, I was rushing around and instead of completely removing it, I propped it up at an angle.

While I was outdoors, my 65lb African Sulcatta tortoise "Tank" (appropriately named!) managed to make it fall into the groove! The door wouldn't budge, even an inch! It was around 8 degrees outside. I had already been outdoors for half an hour and was cold! I had to call my husband home from work (luckily I keep my phone on me at all times)! Imagine that phone call! I said "You can laugh later, but I'm cold and need you home now! Tank locked me out!!!!!!!" Luckily, he only works 12 minutes away.

Although this is truly a funny story, it goes to show that these animals are basically like toddlers. You have to watch them 24 hours. They can get into mischief just like little ones. It's important to know what is at their level (ex: cleaning supplies, things they hurt themselves on, bump into, etc.)

If you've decided to acquire an exotic animal, please, please do your research!!! If you have questions, we are always available to take your calls. In the meantime, I'm still laughing! (Tank is below on the right.)





Accomplishments

A Critter's Chance is constantly working to benefit animals. Here are some of our accomplishments for this quarter.

- ❖ Hosted our annual fundraiser, A Passion for Wildlife 3! This took a lot of work!
- ❖ We've gotten some great new volunteers!
- ❖ Put together training manuals for shelters, animal controls, and others that contact us for wildlife. Workers don't always have experience with these animals, and the manuals help them with basic care until we can get the animal.
- ❖ Updated the website with several new rescue stories. There are also new documents on our Resources page to help with choosing the right critter and basic chinchilla care.
- ❖ By registering complaints, we were able to keep a sugar glider breeder from attending the Christmas Gift & Hobby Show this year.

In The Works...

The following is a list of things we are currently working on.

- ❖ Trying to find land and funding for a center where we can house and care for the animals.
- ❖ Training new foster parents and wildlife rehabilitators.
- ❖ Working on finishing a coffee table book with pictures and stories of our rescued animals.
- ❖ Working to add additional informative documents to the Resources page on our site.
- ❖ Our Webmaster has numerous pictures to add to our site and photo galleries from the events we've attended over the past several months.

How you can help

BECOME A MEMBER OF A CRITTERS CHANCE INC.

Why become a member of ACC?

ACC is a unique animal rescue organization here in central Indiana. We rescue, rehabilitate wildlife and return them into their natural habitat, and we also rescue and find suitable adoptive homes for exotic, domestic and farm animals. In addition to saving the lives of several species of animals, we are dedicated to educating children and adults on wildlife, exotic and domestic pet care, and helping people decide which animal best suits them.

Helping animals also involves raising awareness on animal issues, saving their habitat, and changing laws. "To be a voice for the animals." We work with many Animal Controls and Humane Societies all over Indiana, and we also help domestic and exotic pets outside of Indiana.

ACC volunteers have been caring for these animals in their own homes for several years. However, due to the economy and development, we are receiving more animals and are running out of space. We are looking to acquire some land here in Central Indiana to build our rescue center. We will need separate areas for wildlife, domestic and exotic pets, barns and pasture areas for the farm animals, gardening areas to grow some of our own vegetables, and a place to do our education programs.

We cannot do this without the support of like-minded individuals who appreciate wildlife and what we do for all animals. Members are crucial to our financial support. All the money is used to help feed, provide bedding and veterinary care, and to further our goal of finding land for our future rescue center. Your membership fee is 100% tax deductible, since we are a 501c3 not for profit and your information will never be shared, sold, or exchanged to a third party. All members receive "A Critters Journey," our newsletter, which is filled with valuable information and keeps members updated on what we are doing.

Thank You for your support!!!

From ACC Board of Directors and all of our volunteers.

To become a member, visit our website at <http://www.acritterschance.org> and click the Become a Member button on the left.