



Safe Haven

Screech



Safe Haven & Educational Adventures, Inc.

Volume 5, Issue 1

Special points of interest:

- We will take the items you don't want for our charity yard sale.
- We have exciting new fundraisers coming up in April and May. We will keep you posted on details.
- Check out our new website design at www.RescueExotics.org

Safe Haven welcomes
Barbara Foster
to the Board of Directors.

Visit us on the web:
www.RescueExotics.org

We provide educational programs for schools, scout troops, birthday parties and many other events. If you are having an event or know a teacher, troop leader or anyone else that might be interested please contact us for more information.

Dealing with Loss by Kim Chiswell

There is a side to running a sanctuary that most people don't think about; the loss of the animals. The past year brought some of the most emotional losses we have had to deal with here at Safe Haven. That included Tecumseh, the little fox, Valentino's babies, the Black-throated Monitor and most recently Deitra. Nigel and I put many hours into caring for these animals so naturally we would feel the pain of losing a loved one but we also recognize that these animals don't belong to just us. It is not lost on us that our volunteers who have put in so many hours feel the attachment. When we lost Tecumseh my heart broke many times over with all of the calls I made to notify people.

There is one loss that affected me more than any other animal in my lifetime. That was the poor little gray fox that was less than a year old. We received a group of animals that had been confiscated by a local county and one of them was a young fox with a broken leg. It came to us because it clearly had been imprinted on people and



Above: The Little Gray Fox resting comfortably after his treatment.

would not be able to be released to the wild. We took him to the veterinarian as soon as possible. Once sedated the true horror of what this animal had gone through came to light. His broken bone had

been improperly set, by someone that was not medically trained, such that infection had set in the bone and had been spreading to his blood. The worst part was something we did not expect in the slightest; his skin was scalded from sitting in his own urine for many weeks at a time. We managed to get him cleaned up and comfortable but knew that his chances of survival were minimal with the extent of the infection. He died 2 days later.

I don't normally form a strong attachment to an animal that has only been here for a few days but there was something special about this little guy. During the process we learned that he had come from another wildlife rescuer that had been shut down. This poor animal not only suffered at the hands of a 'professional' that should have known better but also his injuries were



Above: Tecumseh

Dealing with Loss, cont'd

caused by this person and 100% avoidable. I was literally sickened by what had been done. It's one thing when animals come in with issues from people that were ignorant but this person clearly knew (or should have known) what should have been done and not only did not provide proper care but his/her actions caused much more pain and suffering. They had betrayed the animals, the supporters, the public that depended on them and other animal agencies. I had nightmares every night for nearly 2 weeks.

Here at Safe Haven everything we do and every decision we make is based on providing the best quality of life for those in our care. Nigel and I even welcome people into our home to see the animals and where they live. It is sometimes difficult for us that we cannot keep them going longer. Sometimes, providing comfort for only 2 days is all we can do.



Above: Black-Throated Monitor

Check us out on

Facebook at:

www.facebook.com/safehavenanimals

Safe Haven uses:



**Love to Cook?
Want to save time in
the kitchen?
Love *Pampered Chef*
products?**

**Kim has taken on a new
adventure.**

**Contact Kim Chiswell
kim@rescueexotics.org or
864-246-4425 to set up
your party.**

Trivia Questions

The Gray Fox is one of only two species of canids with what specific ability?

Answer will be given in the next newsletter.

Answers from previous question:

There are no species of pheasant native to North America despite the fact that the state bird of South Dakota is the Ring Necked Pheasant. Pheasants originated in Asia and were introduced to the US in 1881.

Thank you!

We would like to thank our families, friends and volunteers for all of your hard work and support. Without you, Safe Haven would not be possible.

Honorable mentions:

Sydney Clapper

Wallis family on behalf of

Marilyn Belk Wallis

Coming Events

February 17

March 3

March 30

May 18

TBD

July 19

Volunteer Meeting

Adopt-a-Highway cleanup

Charity Yard Sale

Adventure Day Open House

Teen Summer Camp

Beasts and Brews



Educational Adventures, Inc.

PO Box 14790

Greenville, SC 29610

Phone: 864-246-4425

Fax: 864-246-4425

Email: Info@rescueexotics.org

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