1991

Iowa State University Wildlife Care Clinic

Follow this and additional works at: https://lib.dr.iastate.edu/iowastate_veterinarian

Part of the Large or Food Animal and Equine Medicine Commons, Small or Companion Animal Medicine Commons, and the Zoology Commons

Recommended Citation
(1991) "Iowa State University Wildlife Care Clinic," Iowa State University Veterinarian: Vol. 53 : Iss. 2 , Article 12.
Available at: https://lib.dr.iastate.edu/iowastate_veterinarian/vol53/iss2/12

This Article is brought to you for free and open access by the Journals at Iowa State University Digital Repository. It has been accepted for inclusion in Iowa State University Veterinarian by an authorized editor of Iowa State University Digital Repository. For more information, please contact digirep@iastate.edu.
Since 1984, many of Iowa’s endangered, threatened and common wildlife species have been given a second chance, thanks to the ISU College of Veterinary Medicine’s Wildlife Care Clinic. Founded by Dr. Susan Barrows and currently directed by Dr. Mary Ann Nieves, the clinic is staffed solely by volunteers, including veterinarians, veterinary students, and other caring individuals. Volunteers are required to complete two weeks of training and must be proficient in handling, bandaging and tube feeding.

Patients over the years have included shorteared owls, cottontail rabbits, squirrels, pelicans, mink, osprey and red tailed hawks, to name a few. 75% of the patients have been injured in some way by human activities, including hunting, trapping, abandoned fishing lines and automobile accidents. The Wildlife Care Clinic’s primary objective is to reintroduce fully recovered animals into the wild. Unfortunately, this is not always possible. When the injury is severe and requires medical procedures that would hamper existence in the wild (such as amputation), the animal is transferred to a zoo or wildlife rehabilitation facility.

Besides providing much needed medical care for injured and orphaned wildlife, the clinic has proven to be an excellent learning experience for many people. Veterinary students are given the opportunity to learn hands-on about a branch of veterinary medicine that is not extensively explored in the general curriculum.