



South Sound Critter Care

2015 Annual Report

2015: The Year We Became the 2nd Most Utilized Wildlife Care Center in WA

It was a watershed year at the South Sound Critter Care wildlife center. The need for assistance from King and Pierce counties continued to grow. As they've brought us animals in need of assistance, the regional humane societies, animal control agencies, police departments, state, regional, local park staff, and port authorities now have a well-worn path to our door. They consider us their partners and "go to" agency. As more people call the authorities for help, more people also ask us for assistance every year. We closed out 2015 with 2,707 wild animals received which is the highest number in our history.

As of December 2015, we concluded our sixth year in operation. The little group that was founded to help the larger centers with some of the smaller, more fragile species that did not transport well now finds itself in a completely different place. This year, we received the second largest number of wildlife patients of any center in Washington. It was a huge challenge.

We scrambled to plan for a wider array of species and to develop more facilities on an immediate basis as more calls came in for help. In 2015, we continued to partner with centers in other counties to assist us with species for which we could not provide longer-term housing (eagles, vultures, large falcons, very large owls, large hawks, fawns, etc.). We would like to thank PAWS Wildlife Center, West Sound Wildlife Shelter, Center Valley Animal Center, Discovery Bay Raptor Rehabilitation Center, For Heaven's Sake Wildlife Rescue, and Featherhaven for selected transfers. We'd like to give a big shout out to Raindancer for partnering with us for some of the raptors providing the last leg of conditioning and working with us to get them back to their original territories. Working together, we accomplished more than we could have alone. I would note that the other centers in Puget Sound: PAWS and West Sound Wildlife Shelter, also saw their numbers rise significantly and, since their ability to take transfers is dependent upon their incoming numbers, every transfer was a sacrifice for them to make.

More Signs of Growth at SSCC

We responded to the increased need for assistance with a larger volunteer force, a large college intern program, and by hiring our first employee and hospital manager, NaTasha Magnuson. NaTasha interned for us in 2013, finished her BS in Environmental Science in 2014, and became a licensed wildlife rehabilitator in 2015. She partnered with long-time volunteer Colleen Mayer to increase the level of organization and training for the volunteers and interns here at SSCC. Jen Gould and I, the other two licensed wildlife rehabilitators, continued with weekly lectures for the interns at the center (and some volunteers) on a variety of wildlife rehabilitation topics.

Jen has also served as our chief records specialist, putting in *thousands of hours at home* making sure our records, including those

2015 Board of Directors

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*Diane Burke
Richard Cassell
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Sally Dinius
Craig Homes*

dating back to our establishment, are properly filled out. Since our records are cloud-based, we can access them from anywhere. We humbly thank Jen for five years of quiet work that earned us comments like the one we got from Erika Lumus in our regional office in Bothell who dropped us a note that said, in part, “I just wanted to say that your report is one of the most clear and complete reports I have ever seen.” That was partially due to the software program (Wildlife Care System) we had adapted and brought to Washington from California in 2010 and also the way Jen oversaw the data as it went in to ensure it was spelled correctly, properly speciated, and populated with the required information.

This year, we also hired Dr. Meg Lainson, who founded Wolf Hollow near Friday Harbor on San Juan Island in March of 1982 and continued to develop that center where she worked until April of 1994. She then went back into both large and small animal medicine on the San Juan Islands and later in British Columbia doing the same. She has also worked for the Denver Zoo and the London Zoo on both large and small animals. She worked with numerous organizations in conjunction with the many oil spills from Alaska to Los Angeles over several decades. Dr. Lainson came to work at Sawyer Lake Veterinary Hospital early in 2015, and her many years of experience with wildlife, from songbirds to River Otters and from carnivores to deer, are a *huge asset for wildlife in King and Pierce Counties*.

Reaching Out to Our Community

We continued to develop our community education and outreach program by attending community events, talking with civic groups, and doing programs for youth groups and some school gatherings. Dana McDonald, one of our educators and a corvid enthusiast, continued to develop a public education program with *Fancy*, a tame, imprinted crow that came to us in August of 2013. It has been a hit with the kids because, well, crows are very smart birds. We also have songbirds at the center in a public aviary, which was built last year, and have now expanded to doing public programs monthly at the aviary. Our interns attended numerous summer festivals to tell the public what services we offer to them and our board members made similar presentations to various employee-giving campaigns. Michelle Morgenstern, one of our interns who took coursework in college to become a nature interpreter, produced our first middle school program on “Sustainability,” which meets the education standards for Washington State. Similarly, NaTasha and Colleen developed a program geared for the very young wildlife enthusiast in the age group of 4-7 year olds. This program teaches which animals are considered wildlife and how they given care when necessary.

Nature Crashes Our Party, but We Are Undaunted

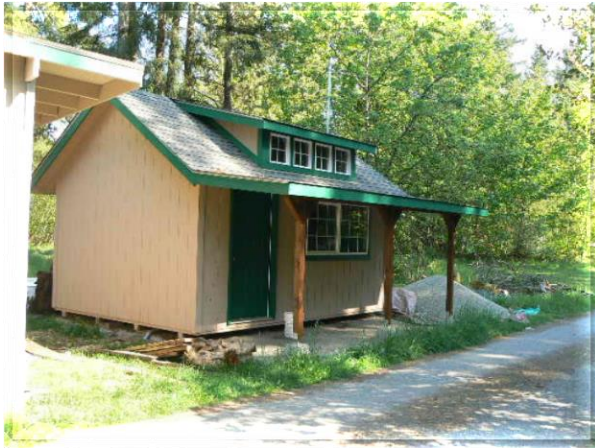
Nature surprised us in midsummer with a giant, very old maple tree that fell from a neighbor’s property



**A tree hits the squirrel housing
(Dragoon Creek Enclosure)**

right into the middle of our squirrel complex and all the way across the isolation ward onto both seabird pens. Our volunteers came to the rescue! They got the animals out and uncovered the isolation ward and the seabird pens that fortunately were not structurally damaged. Curt Pliler helped repair the damage and a professional team came to remove the downed tree.

The Annex is Coming Along!



One of the buildings on the SSCC annex property

finished right on time at the end of the month. The volunteer annex building finally got exhaust fans, wiring, and lighting, and then over the winter was insulated and sheet-rocked thanks to the tireless work of volunteer Jerry Hunter. We have yet to texturize and paint the annex building, but it will be in operation in 2016 due to the on-going efforts of Ed and Sue Baker, Curt Pliler, and David Sharman, who continue to labor on the project. This building will be used for health checks and records work for animals housed at the annex.

More Animals in Need = More Enclosures

Craig Holmes, a volunteer board member and long-time waterfowl collector, finished the second seabird pool/pen at the center, which completed the set of two pool enclosures that were funded by the Washington Fish and Wildlife Department's license plate fund. This \$5,000 grant helped us waterproof a variety of waterfowl and seabirds.

We were able to build another squirrel complex this summer (Hope Island Complex) that provided three chambers of outside housing for various species of squirrels. This gave us the flexibility in the late squirrel season to have 10 small mammal enclosures that can be pressed into service. This was a good thing because over 2015, we received 257 squirrels from three species (Flying, Douglas, and Eastern Gray) in an early breeding season, followed by an even bigger group in the late summer.

Giving New Life to the Flight Aviary

At the close of the year, we remodeled the first flight aviary that we built in 2011 and made it 12-14 feet high to accommodate mid-sized raptors. It can also house American Crows, bitterns,

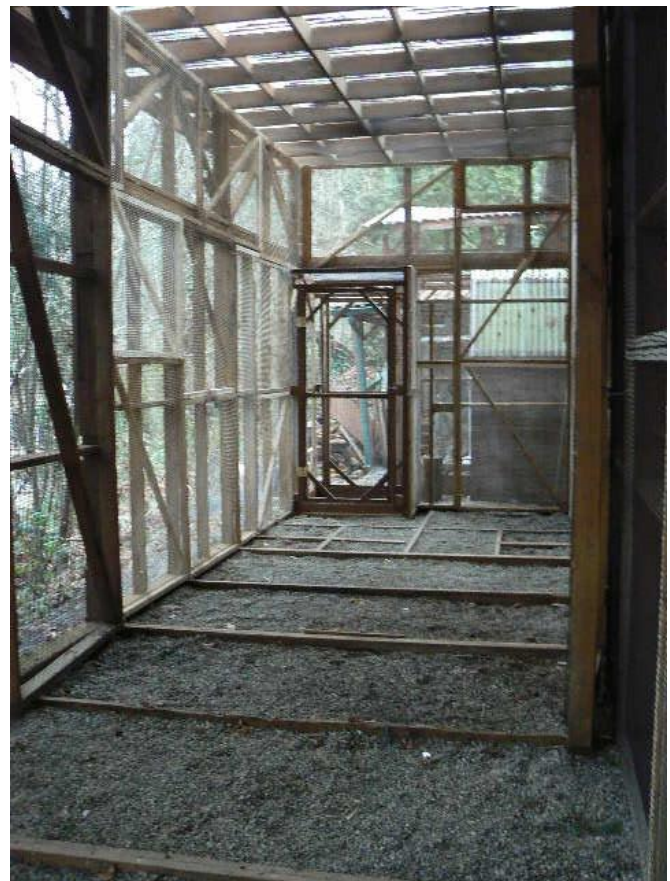
geese, and Great Blue Herons, and we have different perches, pools, and baths that are used as we reset aviaries for different types of animals. We also installed a movable door so that we can, as needed, divide that pen into two 16-foot-long flights and can accommodate a whole host of smaller raptors and other larger birds.

There was a whole team of volunteers on this remodel, from Joe Papineau and his drawings, to Ed Baker, Rob Seims, Dean Jacot, Bruce Jacot, Paul Baker, Andrew Johnson, Ed Baker, and Curt Pliler, who all spent part of their Thanksgiving weekend literally raising the roof on the flight and making other modifications, which included changing out the five-year-old netting. Our raptor specialist, Bob Jungbluth, then made interchangeable perches according to raptor size so the enclosure can house either small or mid-sized raptors. We also made a special perch platform so the same enclosure can house Great Blue Herons if needed.

In summary, in 2015 we were able to build five more animal enclosures that handle seabirds, songbirds, herons, small raptors, and adult cottontails. But we are not done: We have an annex that offers us another acre of land to develop for wildlife rehabilitation and we will need every inch of it.



Some of our dedicated volunteers working on the Spring Fields flight aviary.



Another view of the flight aviary.

Our Volunteers Are the Legs We Stand On

There are so many volunteers and board members who helped us grow and thrive this year that space does not allow for me to thank them all individually. Being a board member brings little thanks and we would not have been able to grow in this way had they not all mobilized to assist the organization. Their efforts, including the annual thank you event the board throws for the volunteers, are so appreciated. They do the catering and donate numerous gift cards as thank yous for the many volunteers. *Without all of the help we get every year, the center would have failed long ago.*

Looking Ahead

By the close of our sixth year in operation, we had constructed 26 outside animal enclosures or flight aviaries. *That is a big achievement.* We were also able to get key volunteers sub-licensed for animals with facilities at their property for hummingbirds, geese, and crows which adds another four enclosures for animal rehabilitation. We know we'll need every one of them in 2016 as we expect to see an additional 200 to 300 animals come through our door, thanks to the increasing human population and resuming of development in King County following the great recession. We have plans to construct five more mammal enclosures in 2016 and two hawk houses (mews), so we should have the housing that we need for the animals in our care. *How is all of this possible?* It is possible because when the public finds wildlife or abandoned, injured, or sick cats and kittens, they come to us for help. *They also bring their support and help us make it all happen. We could not do it without public support, which ranges from people finding wildlife in need to those dedicated people who come in weekly year after year to help take care of them.*

We would also like to thank all the corporate, county, state, and federal employees that choose us for their employee matching gift programs, because those combined checks really help us with our overhead costs (utilities, rent, and on-going facilities maintenance costs). You have many non-profits to choose from and we are honored that you chose us. *We also thank corporations like Fred Meyer who allow their customers to choose for them who to support in their local communities. This has been really, really a great help and it costs the customers nothing because they are able to keep their points.* We also thank those that have made after-life bequests to help us. People give in many ways: from their time, to supporting our auction, to bringing in wild berries and dandelions they pick from their yards. It is *a big community effort.* Thank you for all that you do to help us care for animals in need.

Jan White, DVM
President, SSCC

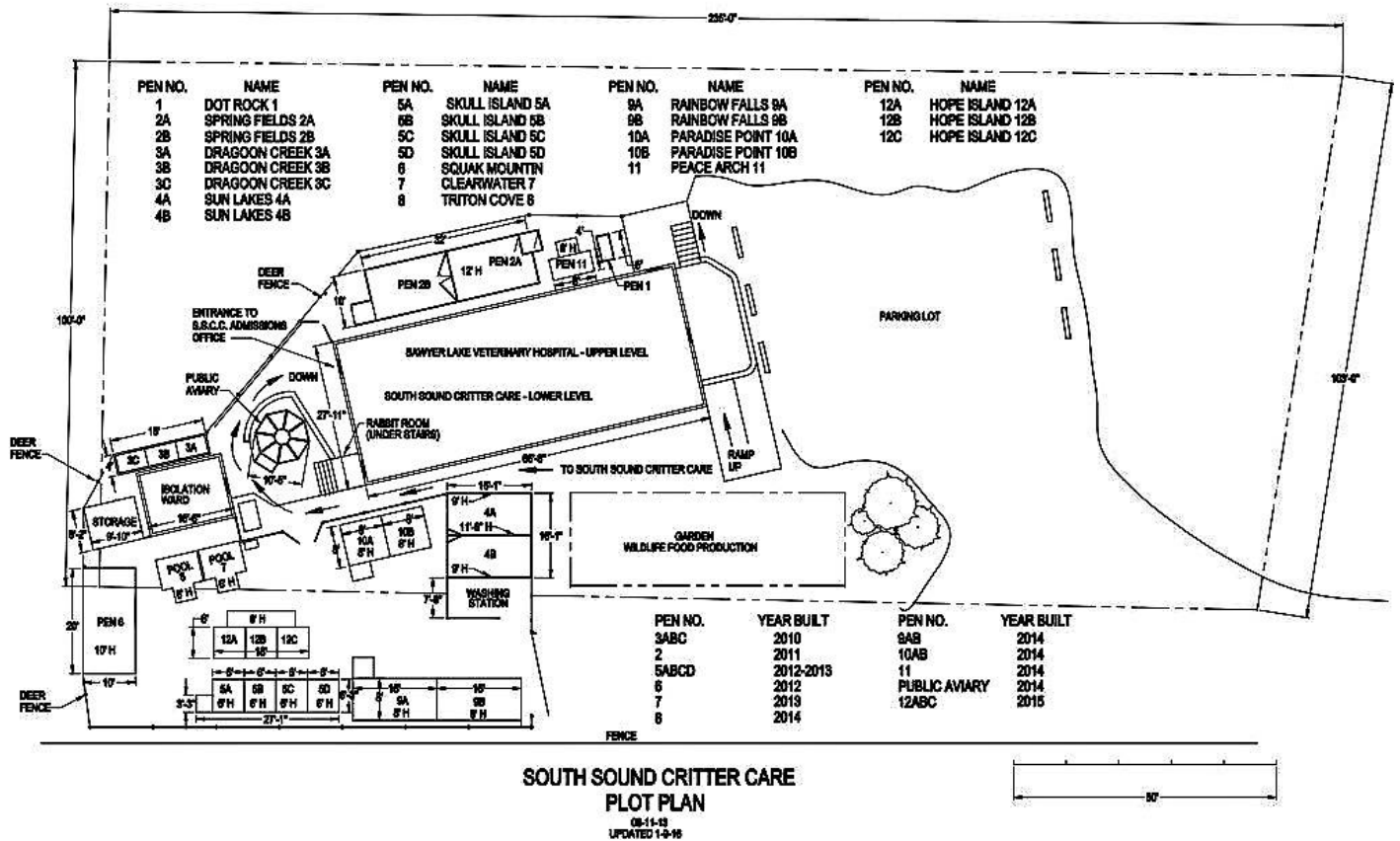
*"There are no passengers on
Spaceship Earth. We are all
crew."*

Marshall McLuhan, Canadian philosopher

**South Sound Critter Care
Statement of Activity
January-December 2015**

	Total
Revenue	
1023000 Direct Public Support	\$81,467.46
1023020 Frontline Promotions	361.65
1023100 Indirect Public Support	12,312.06
1023300 Fundraising	23,673.00
1023400 Grants	236.81
1023500 Program Income	3,655.00
1023700 Rentals	19.00
Total Revenue	\$121,724.98
Gross Profit	\$121,724.98
Expenditures	
1020000 Operations	109,679.36
1050000 Fundraising	16,745.00
1090000 G&A	12,082.34
Total Expenditures	\$138,506.70
Net Operating Revenue	-\$16,871.72
Other Revenue	
1100082 Other – Interest	\$12.74
Total Other Revenue	\$12.74
Net Other Revenue	\$12.74
Net Revenue	-\$16,768.98

South Sound Critter Care Plot Plan



One of Our Many Success Stories!

After being hit by a car in August, this coyote pup was admitted to SSCC with a broken leg. After surgery to repair the injury, followed by a smooth rehabilitation, he was successfully released.



2015 South Sound Critter Care Interns

Enjoy these photos of just a handful of our 2015 interns. They worked very hard to keep South Sound Critter Care running smoothly while earning valuable college credit.



SSCC's caring interns are the future of wildlife rehabilitation.



We Appreciate Our Volunteers!

"The purpose of the South Sound Critter Care Annual Volunteer Event is to recognize individuals who support the work the center for the previous year. The event is held each January as we kick off the new year. This past year was noted by an amazing 19,697 hours volunteered. Without the work of the volunteers this organization would not exist. We appreciate and honor our volunteers for all they do."

- Board of Directors Member Richard Cassell

South Sound Critter Care

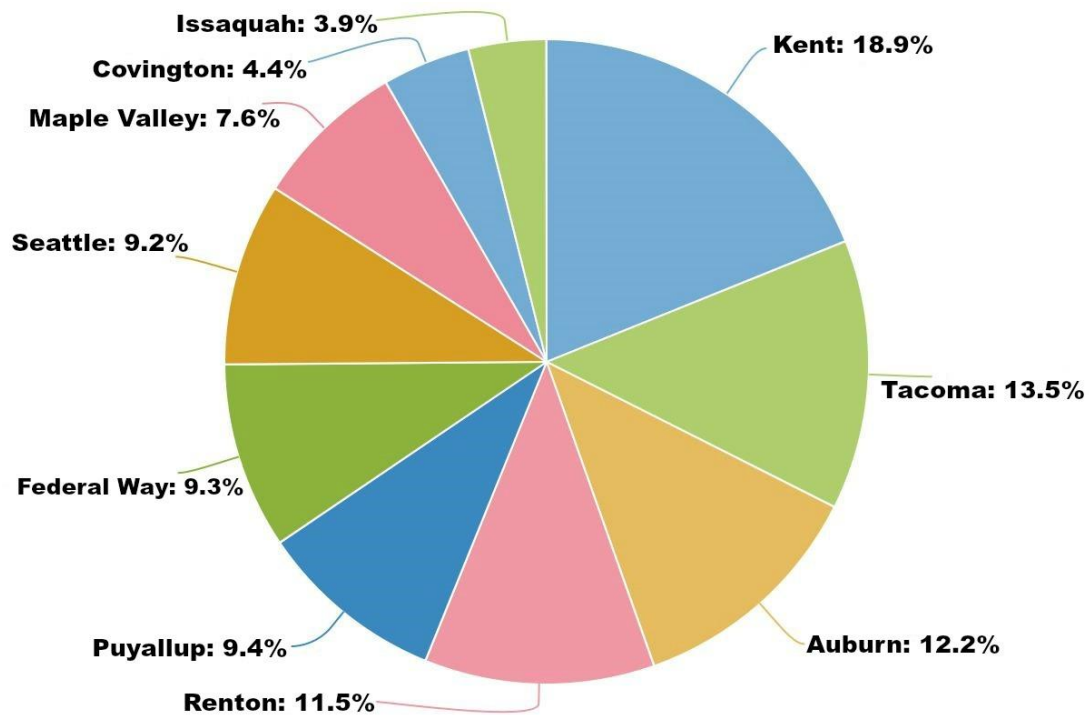
A Poem by SSCC Volunteer Rachael Mlakar

There is a place where critters
can go
To find a luxurious but
temporary home,
Where they can find love,
shelter, clean water and food,
And even climb through a few
windows—darn raccoons—
They are bandaged and patched
and sent back on their own
Better than before and happy to
roam.

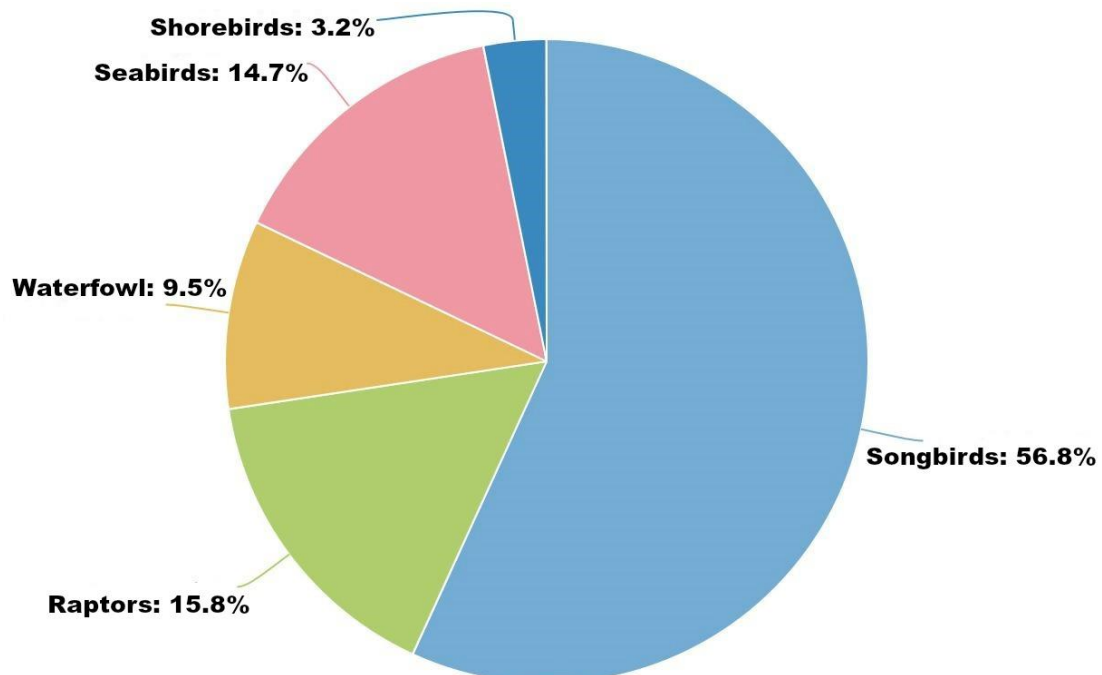
Wildlife comes to us for
professional healthcare,
And that's why we work so hard
at South Sound Critter Care.



In 2015, the Majority of Wildlife Admitted to SSCC Came from the Following Cities:



Percentages of Bird Species Admitted:



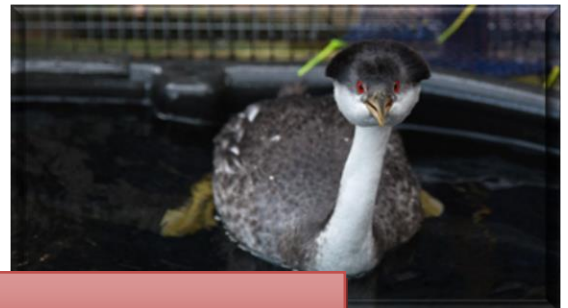
Species Admitted to SSCC in 2015

Amphibians (2 = 1 species)

Salamander, Northwestern

Birds (1,418 = 105 species)

Bewick's Wren	Heron, Great Blue	Siskin, Pine
Blackbird, Red-winged	Heron, Green	Sparrow, Fox
Bushtit	Hummingbird, Anna's	Sparrow, Golden-crowned
Chickadee, Black-capped	Hummingbird, Rufous	Sparrow, House
Chickadee, Chestnut-backed	Jay, Steller's	Sparrow, Lincoln's
Collared-dove, Eurasian	Junco, Dark-eyed	Sparrow, Savannah
Cormorant, Double-crested	Kestrel, American	Sparrow, Song
Cowbird, Brown-headed	Killdeer	Sparrow, White-crowned
Crow, American	Kingfisher, Belted	Starling, European
Crow, Northwestern	Kinglet, Golden-crowned	Swallow, Barn
Dove, Mourning	Kinglet, Ruby-crowned	Swallow, Cliff
Duck, Ring-necked	Mallard	Swallow, Tree
Duck, Ruddy	Merganser, Common	Swallow, Violet-green
Duck, Wood	Merganser, Hooded	Swift, Vaux's
Eagle, Bald	Merlin	Tanager, Western
Falcon, Peregrine	Murre, Common	Thrush, Hermit
Finch, Cassin's	Nighthawk, Common	Thrush, Swainson's
Finch, House	Nuthatch, Red-breasted	Thrush, Varied
Flicker, Northern	Osprey	Towhee, Spotted
Flycatcher, Pacific-slope	Owl, Barn	Vireo, Cassin's
Gadwall	Owl, Barred	Vireo, Hutton's
Goldfinch, American	Owl, Great Horned	Vireo, Yellow-throated
Goldfinch, Lesser	Owl, Northern Saw-whet	Warbler, Macgillivray's
Goose, Cackling	Owl, Short-eared	Warbler, Yellow-rumped
Goose, Canada	Pheasant, Ring-necked	Waxwing, Cedar
Grebe, Pie-billed	Pigeon, Band-tailed	Woodpecker, Pileated
Grebe, Western	Pygmy-owl, Northern	Woodpecker, White-headed
Grosbeak, Black-headed	Quail, California	Wren, Bewick's
Grosbeak, Evening	Rail, Virginia	Wren, Pacific
Gull, California	Raven, Common	Wren, Winter
Gull, Glaucous	Robin, American	
Gull, Glaucous-winged	Sapsucker, Red-breasted	
Gull, Herring	Sapsucker, Red-naped	
Gull, Mew	Scaup, Lesser,	
Gull, Ring-billed	Scoter, Surf	
Hawk, Cooper's	Screech-owl, Western	
Hawk, Red-tailed	Scrub-jay, Western	
Hawk, Sharp-shinned		



Western Grebe

Photo by SSCC Volunteer Curt Plier

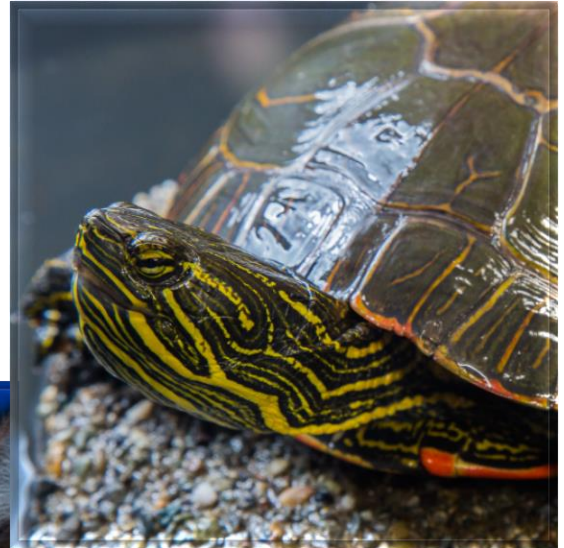
Mammals (1,285 = 24 species)

Bat, Big Brown	Mink, American
Bat, Little Brown	Mole, Townsend's
Beaver, American	Mouse, Oldfield
Beaver, Mountain	Opossum, Virginia
Deer, Black-tailed	Porcupine, North
Chipmunk, Townsend's	American
Cottontail, Eastern	Raccoon, Northern
Coyote	Rat, Black
Deer, Black-tailed	Shrew-mole, American
Deermouse, Northwestern	Skunk, Striped

Squirrel, Cascade Golden-mantled Ground
Squirrel, Douglas'
Squirrel, Eastern Gray
Squirrel, Northern Flying
Vole, Townsend's
Weasel, Long-tailed

Reptiles (3 = 2 species)

Snake, Common Garter
Turtle, Painted

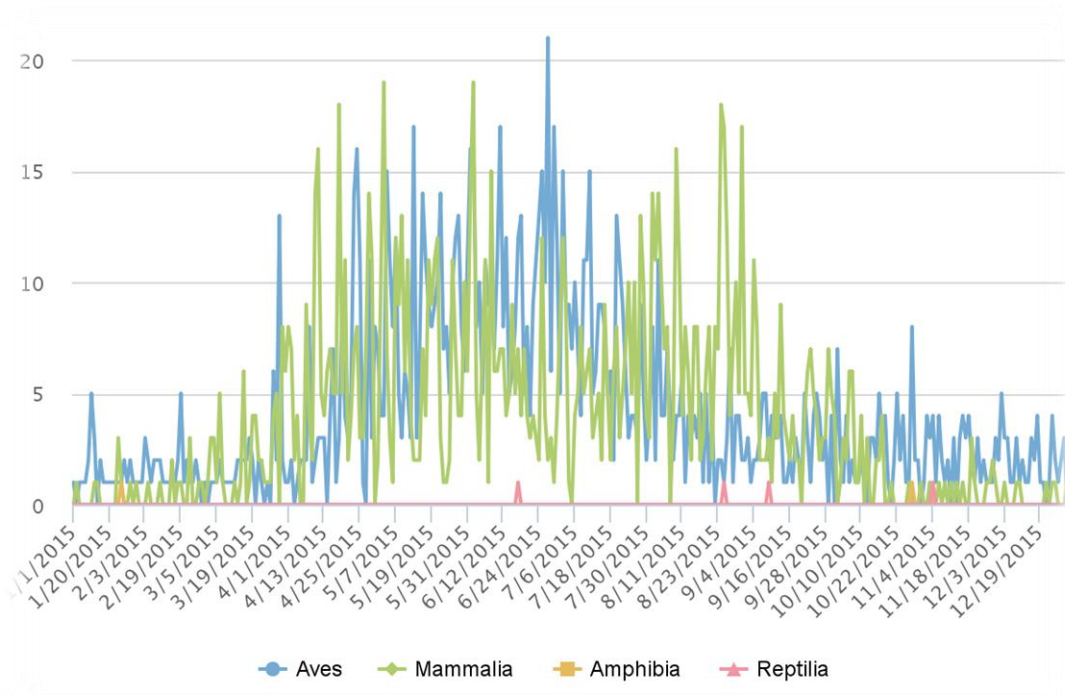


Top: Painted Turtle

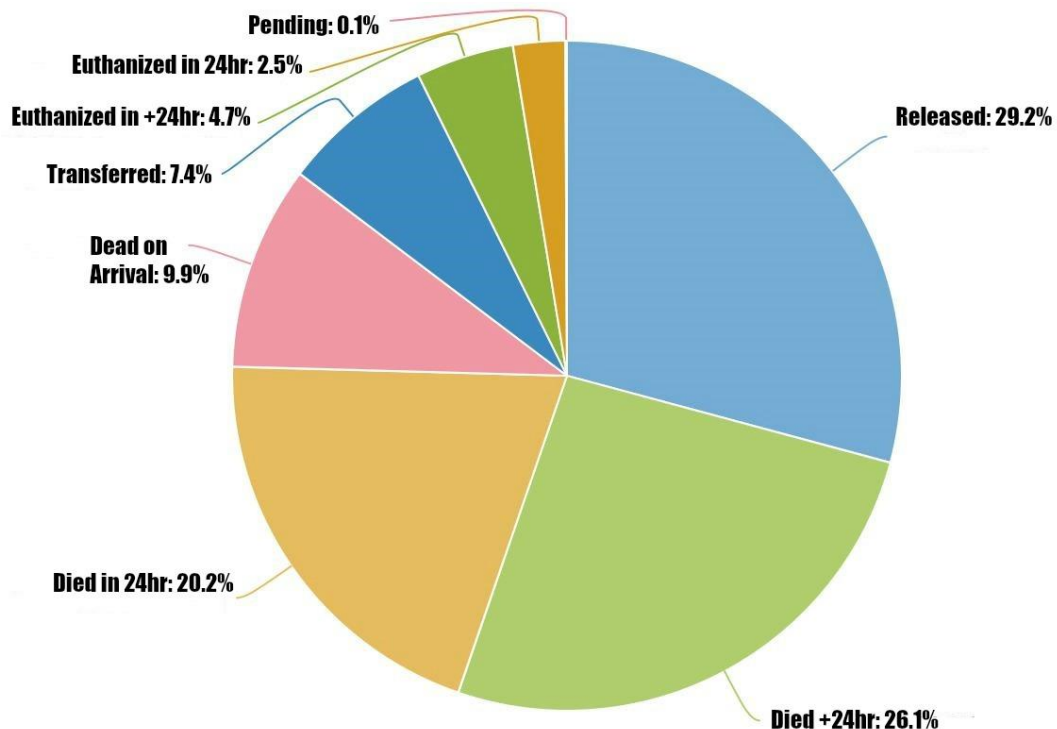
Left: Coyote

*Photos by SSCC Volunteer
Curt Piler*

2015 Daily Wildlife Intake



2015 Wildlife Dispositions



Domestic Species Admitted to SSCC in 2015

In 2015, South Sound Critter Care admitted 174 domestic animals.

Amphibians (6 = 2 species)

Snake Turtle

Birds (61 = 6 species)

Chicken Goose
Dove Pigeon
Duck Quail

Mammals (107 = 4 species)

Cat Pet Rat
Pet Mouse Rabbit



"Until one has loved an animal, a part of one's soul remains unawakened."

Anatole France

2015 South Sound Critter Care Donors

We would like to thank all the wonderful people who donated to help wildlife in 2015. Your gifts truly make a difference.

\$1,000 - \$9,999

Boeing Company
Combined Federal Campaign
Matthew Devine
Kroger
Seattle Foundation
Smile Brands, Inc.

Kim Bower
Brenda Brown
John Bulskey
Steven Christ
Combined Federal Campaign
Pamela Clark
Kassandra Crabb
Melinda Davis

Kris La Plante
Kathryn Lambrana
Diane Larson
Lindsey Lawson
David Lewis
Hiroko Lysenko
Sarah Massengill
Sandra Malone

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Richard Cassell
Estrada Colon
Kate Harper
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Hiroko Lysenko
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TRUIST
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Robin Walker
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Roderick Weeks
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Larissa Wilson
Debbie and Keith Workman
Karen Zambrana

\$50 - \$99

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Ian Alexander
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\$50 - \$99, Continued

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Ted Taylor
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United Way
Frank Vigna
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Lorrie Walter
Connie Watts
Dea Webb
Kay Wicbrand
Tim Wicks
Anne Marie & Irma Williams
Larissa Wilson
Judith Windsor-Newman
Rebecca Wolf-Nail
Cindy Wolfer
James Wright
Karen Yarber



Northern Raccoons. Photo: Curt Pliler

*On our cover: Photo of Peregrine Falcon taken for SSCC by volunteer Curt Pliler.
Compilation: Sally Dinius. Statistics: Jen Gould.*

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<http://southsoundcrittercare.com>