



# Happy Holidays



from



**Second Chance Wildlife Rehabilitation**  
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## NEWSLETTER 2015

**Thank you to everyone who contributed in even a small way to Second Chance in 2015.**

Second Chance Wildlife Rehabilitation receives no funding from Colorado Parks and Wildlife, US Fish and Wildlife or any other government agency. We rely entirely on donations to pay for food, medical treatment and all aspects of animal care. Your past generosity made possible the successful release of healthy animals like those in the stories below. Besides the very generous and much needed monetary donations, other people donated fresh produce, bird seed, cleaning supplies and their time and gasoline to transport animals, as well as the hard work of cleaning at the facility. Thank you also to the veterinarians who helped us throughout the year.

2015 was a particularly busy year at Second Chance with 754 animals admitted encompassing more than 60 different species. While the end of the statewide drought was a welcome event, the increase in precipitation also created an ideal environment for wildlife parasites and disease which we saw in many, many of the birds that were admitted over the year. The wet weather also increased the weeds and insects. While this was ideal as food for wildlife, it also meant that homeowners and businesses felt the need to increase their use of herbicides and pesticides that in turn poisoned an increased number of wildlife.

### 2015 SUCCESS STORIES

In July of 2014, a nestling Great Blue Heron was found nearly dead on a roadway in Salida. In September, Pueblo Raptor Center allowed us the use of their very large flight cages where GBH was able to strengthen flight muscles. GBH was held over for the winter to allow molting to adult flight feathers prior to release. In early August 2015 GBH was released into habitat with other Great Blue Herons. At first it seemed that GBH was not sure about the new situation, but then began fishing. Once we moved off quite a distance and after several minutes, other herons returned to the vicinity and began fishing nearby as if to let the newcomer know it was in the right place and welcome.



In early October of 2014 someone anonymously left a nearly dead crow on our porch. The bird had evidence of



someone trying to care for it themselves with baby parrot formula dried all over its face. This bird was so emaciated it was unable hold its head up and unable to stand. Its feathers were covered in its own excrement. We did not think it would survive. But, crow did survive. Unable to hold its head up or feed itself it had to be fed tiny pieces of by hand. Massage therapy was started



relieve a spasm in its neck that kept the neck from straightening out and the head from being held up normally and eventually crow was able to stand and eat on its own. After months of intensive therapy and proper nutrition, crow was successfully released in March 2015.



This little jackrabbit (a HARE not a rabbit) is only a couple of days old in the first picture. The rescuer ran over it with a lawnmower but amazingly there were no major injuries. Jackrabbits are born with eyes open, fully furred and within a couple of days able to run, unlike cottontails who are born naked with eyes closed. Many people mistake neonate jacks for older cottontails and try to keep them as pets feeding them



as they would an older rabbit and the infants die of starvation. Rabbits and hares have different dietary requirements. This little jackrabbit was lucky and because of proper care was released later.



These tiny nestling hummingbirds had their nest destroyed when a tree fell during one of our summer storms. They were uninjured but needed a specialized diet in order to survive. Sugar water or commercial hummingbird feeder “nectar” does not have enough nutrients for a hummingbird to live on. They were released once they were fully feathered and could hover to find food in flowers.



This holiday season give a gift from the heart. In lieu of a store bought gift for that person who has everything or the animal lover on your list consider a donation to Second Chance in their name. We will send them a commemorative certificate and a card with a photo of one of the animals we have cared for at Second Chance or send it to you so you can give it to them. You can also make a donation in memory of a lost loved one. Their name will be placed on the memorials page of our website at [www.secondchancewildlife.net](http://www.secondchancewildlife.net). And when you donate, you may be able to double your gift. Many employers offer a matching employee gift program. Ask at your place of employment.

Donations may be made on line at the website above or mailed directly to Second Chance Wildlife Rehab at 2730 Colfax Ave., Pueblo, CO 81003. **Second Chance Wildlife Rehab Center is a 501c3 nonprofit organization with no paid administrative staff so your gift goes directly to animal care and your donation is tax deductible.**

Please remember that none of this would be possible without YOUR GENEROSITY! Thank you again to everyone who brought an animal in need to us and to all of our donors and volunteers. We at Second Chance Wildlife Rehabilitation wish you and your family a peaceful holiday season.

