

2022 Annual Report

CROW STRONG

Our Mission Continues

Saving wildlife through state-of-the-art veterinary care, research, education, and conservation medicine!

January 2023



Board of Directors

Paul Ben-Susan
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Vice President

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Fred J. Weinman



From Executive Leadership

Someone the other day described 2022 as a rollercoaster- exciting, terrifying, wild, breathtaking, and sometimes it made you ill. The team at CROW experienced those feelings during the past year and more. But as we have seen over our past 55 years, when we work together nothing can stop our mission, our efforts, and our dedication to protecting wildlife.

Early 2022 was one of promise. New rehabilitation enclosures built to the specifications of our patients needs were erected. We launched a new campaign to develop a state-of-the-art sea turtle facility for those endangered patients. We began our search for a new Medical and Research Director and welcomed new interns and students from all over the globe. Fundraising and friend-raising was back in full swing with WILD about CROW and a new and improved Taste of the Islands. Our staff, students, and volunteers all working together to do their best for CROW.

Like many of you, CROW experienced great loss with Hurricane Ian. While we were able to evacuate students, staff, and over 160 animals in our care, we soon realized our CROW campus post-storm would never be the same. In the pages of this Annual Report, you will see how our amazing staff and students worked tirelessly to continue caring for our ambassadors and patients, before, during and after the storm. I know you will be proud of their efforts and dedication.

Entering 2023 and our 55th year of service to our wildlife, we renew our commitment to continuing CROW and Shirley Walter's mission. On behalf of President Paul Ben-Susan, the Board of Directors, and myself, I cannot thank you enough for ensuring CROW's future rebuilding efforts and growth. Our future is filled with possibilities, and we are embracing the positives as they come our way. You have and continue to provide the foundation for CROW's future.

Alison Charney Hussey

Alison Charney Hussey



Notice of Annual Meeting

Members are invited to attend the CROW Annual Meeting on **Wednesday, March 29, 2023 at 4:00 pm** over Zoom. Information to access the Zoom call will be sent via email one week prior to the meeting.

Included on the agenda will be the selection of new members to the Board of Directors. In accordance with the CROW bylaws, additional nominations from the membership may be submitted in writing to the Nominating Chairman at least 40 days prior to the election, supported by letter or petitions from at least five percent of the membership, accompanied by the resume of the nominee's educational and professional experience, and a letter from the nominee stating a willingness to run and attend Board meetings regularly. Nominations should be submitted to Board@CROWclinic.org.

Board Members whose terms are up for renewal and are re-committing:

Phaidra McDermott
Anthony Farhat

Nominations Received to Date:

Dr. Fred Ryckman
Jason A. Maughan
Fred Weinman

**Hospital Staff**

Robin Bast, DVM,
Staff Veterinarian

Laura Kellow, DVM

Associate Veterinarian

Melanie Dittmer, DVM

Veterinary Medicine Intern

Kristie Schott, DVM

Veterinary Medicine Intern

Breanna Frankel, CWR

Rehabilitation Manager

Morgan Hester, CWR

Wildlife Rehabilitator

Katie Mueller, CWR

Wildlife Rehabilitator

Lilli Pedersen

Wildlife Rehabilitator

Dani Podmayersky

Wildlife Rehabilitator

Taylor Lukasik

Wildlife Rehabilitator

Amber Strassler, CVT

Wildlife Rehabilitator

Darlene Blalock

Office & Admissions Manager

Becca Wehmeier

Hospital Training Coordinator

**Administrative Staff**

Alison Charney Hussey
Executive Director

Aimee White

Development Director

Haillie Mesics

PR & Marketing Director

Rachel Taylor

Education & Outreach Director

Michelle Menendez

Operations & HR Director

Pam Stoike

Volunteer Coordinator

Randy Rainbolt

Facilities & Grounds Manager

CROW is extremely appreciative of each and every gift helping to further our work: saving wildlife through care, education, and collaboration. It is because of your support we are able to maintain the highest quality of patient care and excellence in education, both of the next generation of wildlife professionals and the public. We strive to improve the relationship with our native and migratory wild neighbors wherever you call home. Patient care, operations, capital improvements, and capacity building were supported by individuals, foundations and corporations alike.

2022 Income - preliminary, unaudited

Membership	\$1,494,295.48
Contributions/Gifts/Bequests/Memorials	1,358,953
VEC Admissions/Programs	145,524
Grants	857,342
Miscellaneous Income	4,021
Special Events	144,368
Gift Shop/Online Store	115,954
In-Kind Contributions	12,339

TOTAL PROJECTED INCOME **\$4,124,756**

2022 Expenses - preliminary, unaudited

Hospital.....	\$1,267,426
Visitor Education Center	140,586
Management and General	305,734
Public Relations/Fundraising	307,820
Special Events	60,690
Gift Shop	46,657
In-Kind Contributions	12,339

TOTAL PROJECTED EXPENSES **\$2,141,255**

**CROW's Fund Balance Carry Forward of \$1,983,501.04 represents restricted grant funds, unexpected legacy gifts, and a significant donation to be applied to a capital campaign for rebuild and repair due to Hurricane Ian.*

President's Circle

Every donation received is essential to continuing CROW's work of saving Southwest Florida native and migratory wildlife. Founded in 2012, the President's Circle recognizes those who support CROW's mission with contributions of \$10,000 or more. We extend our gratitude to the 2022 President's Circle supporters:

Anonymous
Bank of the Islands/Edison National Bank
Alfonso Barroso
Douglas and Leah Beck
Paul and Julie Ben-Susan
Lynne Birdt
John Claypoole
Mary Drazan
Dudley D. and Delores R. Malone Family Foundation
The Edith MacGuire Charitable Trust
The Edward and Gale McBride Foundation, Inc.
Paul Ernst
The Eugene and Mary Dooner Foundation
Fred and Jean Allegretti Foundation
Johanna Frerichs
The George H. and Estelle M. Sands Foundation
Marianne Gymer
The Hardison Family Foundation
William and Laurie Harkey
Pat Fairless Hatfield
James and Glenna Irwin
Jacarlene Foundation

William and Laurie Harkey
Pat Fairless Hatfield
James and Glenna Irwin
Jacarlene Foundation
Raymond Kauffman
Knopf Family Foundation
The L.A.T. Foundation
Leslie L. Alexander Foundation
Barbara Little
Frank and Pat Middendorf
Frederick and Geordie Moon
David and Jennifer Nichols
The Peter and Ann Lambertus Family Foundation, Inc.
Scott and Barbara Pressly
Philip and Roberta Puschel
Red Moose Charitable Trust
Sargent Family Foundation
Shipley Foundation, Inc
Jonathan and Evelyn Rose Silverman
Van Sloun Foundation
Stuart Watson
Wescustogo Foundation, Inc.

Featured Patients

Barred Owl (22-149)

Reason For Admission: Hit By Car (HBC)

Findings: Lens displacement, 2 wing and 2 leg fractures, gunshot wound

Treatments: Supportive medication, eye removal surgery, physical therapy

Released after 61 days of supportive care into a 10,000 acre preserve



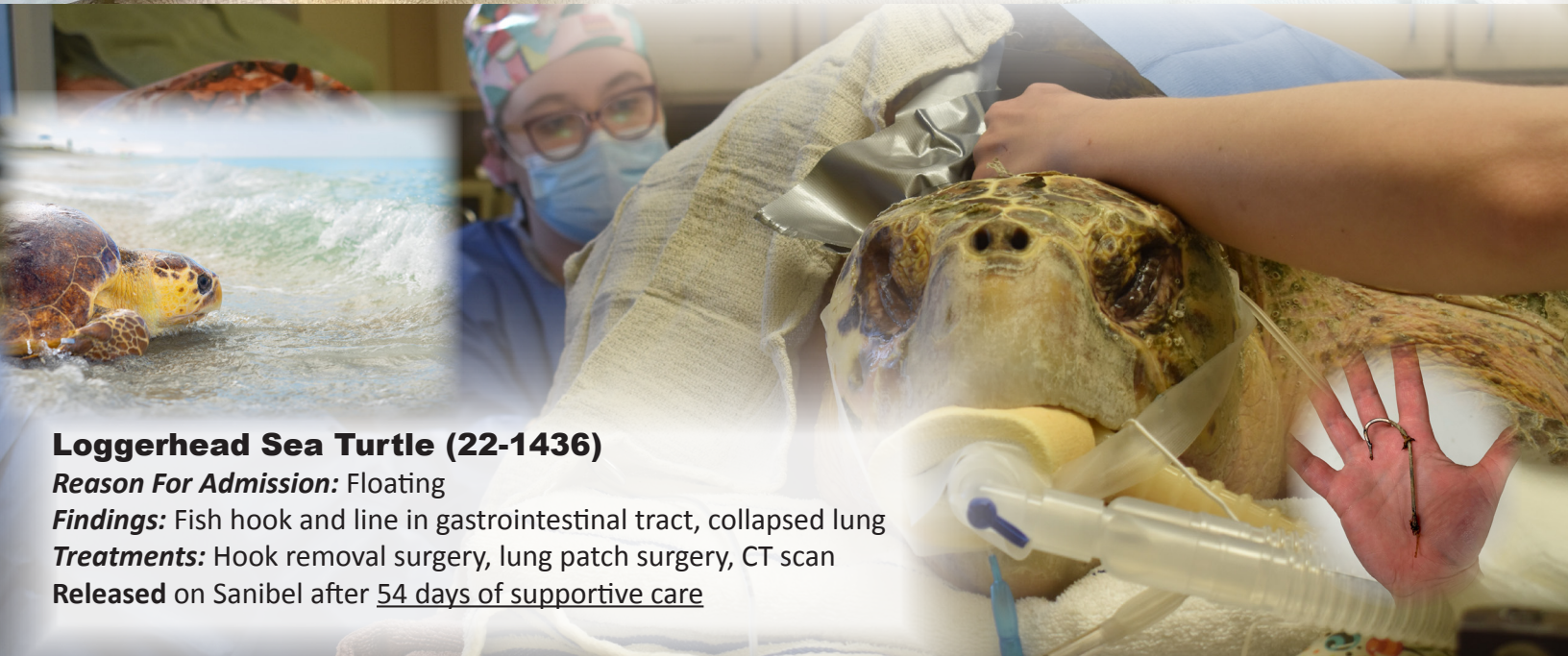
Roseate Spoonbill (22-2817)

Reason For Admission: Symptoms of Red Tide Poisoning (RT)

Findings: Weak, unable to fly, no blink reflex, feather lice, abrasions

Treatments: Intravenous lipid emulsion therapy (IVLE), supportive care

Released back on Fort Myers Beach after 8 days in care



Loggerhead Sea Turtle (22-1436)

Reason For Admission: Floating

Findings: Fish hook and line in gastrointestinal tract, collapsed lung

Treatments: Hook removal surgery, lung patch surgery, CT scan

Released on Sanibel after 54 days of supportive care

In my address last year, I referenced the strength and resilience of the CROW team continuing our mission in the face of challenges such as the COVID-19 pandemic. Little did I know what this year would bring – a hurricane with lasting impacts on our beloved Sanibel Island and the surrounding community. Amidst the devastation, the team came together to continue providing the highest standard of care for our wild patients during the storm and in its wake. Whether we were working out of our home hospital, hotel rooms and garages, or our temporary facility at the Animal Refuge Center (ARC) in North Fort Myers, we were still able to treat 5,600 patients in 2022! A special thanks to partnering organizations across the state of Florida who provided assistance with patient evacuation and transfers, supplied donations, and found placement for our students – with your help, we were able to continue helping local wildlife at a time of greatest need. As we look forward to recovery, this next year promises new beginnings for our outdoor rehabilitation enclosures – many of them need to be completely rebuilt including the sea turtle complex, and most of them need some level of repair. The lower level of the hospital is already in the process of undergoing necessary renovations, and thankfully the upper level of the hospital, the living areas of student housing, and the Visitor Education Center were all minimally affected. Although it will take time for our home hospital to return to normal, we hope return to the Sanibel campus in the upcoming months. In addition to patient care, CROW's mission also includes education, research, and collaboration.



From the Staff Veterinarian

CROW interns go on to become leaders in the field – many of them are directors of wildlife centers, work in renowned zoos and aquariums as part of residency programs, or become board-certified specialists in academia to continue training the next generation of wildlife health professionals. These amazing ripple effects start at the heart of CROW's teaching programs, and result in impacts across the country and the globe. We participate in collaborative research efforts with state and national partners as part of a broader One Health initiative (the health of animals, people, and the environment are interconnected). At CROW, we routinely submit samples from our patients to the state lab for screening purposes, and have an infectious disease protocol in place to mitigate spread of viruses like highly pathogenic avian influenza (HPAI). These collaborative efforts in research benefit public health initiatives as well as guiding patient care decisions.

Although this year has presented significant challenges for CROW and the community, I'm honored to work alongside other dedicated individuals and organizations who have found strength in unity and continue to persevere in finding new and creative ways to achieve our mission as we rebuild. As we look forward to whatever lies ahead, we strengthen our commitment to serving this community through wildlife health care, education, research, and collaboration.

Robin Bast, DVM

229

Eastern Gray Squirrels

Survival Rate after 24 hours: 69.63%



Research & Conservation Projects

- Brevetoxicosis and IVLE Treatment
- COVID-19 Surveillance
- Regional Limb Perfusion treatment in seabirds with distal limb infections
- Analysis of parasitic mange in squirrels and rabbits
- Highly Pathogenic Avian Influenza (HPAI) Surveillance

Top Species Admitted in 2022

Eastern Cottontail Rabbit: 891

Survival Rate after 24 hours: 40.51%

Virginia Opossum: 481

Survival Rate after 24 hours: 88.11%

Mourning Dove: 347

Survival Rate after 24 hours: 63.5%

Northern Raccoon: 231

Survival Rate after 24 hours: 73.45%



Resilience in the

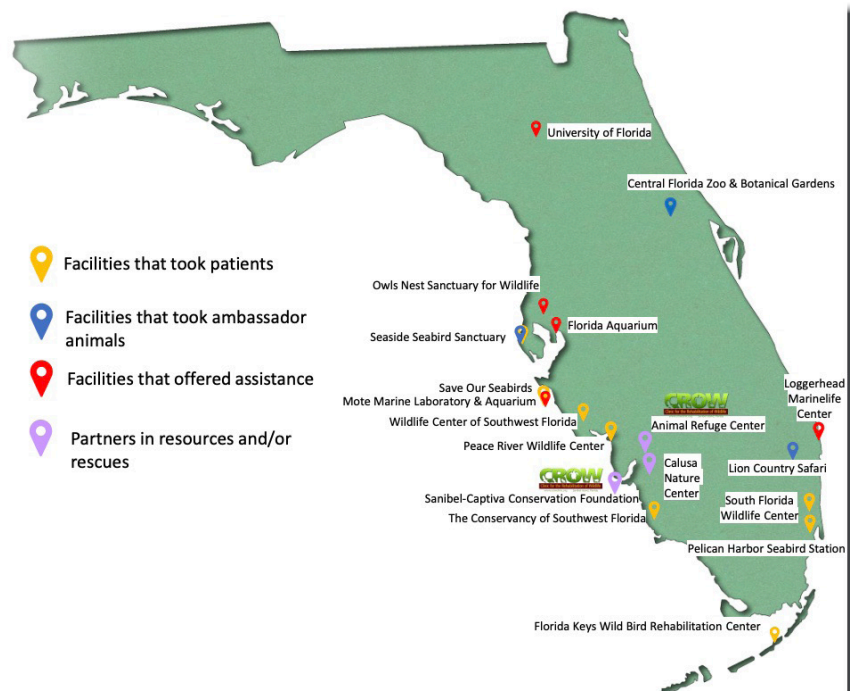
As Charles Darwin once said, "It is not the strongest of species that survive, nor the most intelligent, but the one most responsive to change." CROW staff swiftly adapted to the historic and unprecedented aftermath of Hurricane Ian without missing a beat. On September 26, our staff recognized the real possibility of a severe storm making impact and began preparations to evacuate all patients and students from the island. In less than 24 hours, wildlife patients were transferred, take home care packages were prepared, and students were evacuated to an off-island hotel with orphaned wildlife. Through the wrath of hurricane force winds, flooding, power outages, and loss of water supply, the CROW team persevered in their continuation of optimal care. A Great Horned Owl rode out the storm in our Rehabilitation Manager's garage with several other raptor species while our ambassador raptors, Mina and Talon took shelter in their handlers' apartment. Staff used candles to warm formula and fluids and never wavered in their dedication to the wildlife patients in care despite horrifying and traumatizing personal losses. Once the storm had passed and daylight broke, it was clear we would not be able to access the island or our clinic as the causeway islands had been washed away. Thanks to the Lee County Mosquito Control District, our team was transported via helicopter to the Sanibel





Aftermath of Hurricane Ian

campus to collect necessary supplies and begin assessing damages. For several weeks, we were unable to admit new patients. CROW staff checked in with our partnering patient drop-off locations and went to Blue Pearl Pet Hospital twice daily to triage any injured or orphaned wildlife for transfer to another facility. Thanks to the generosity of the Animal Refuge Center (ARC) in North Fort Myers, CROW staff were able to set up a temporary space where patient care could continue. Once separated in different areas of our large clinic, CROW staff were now working much closer in proximity with much less help. Without the same volume of volunteer and student assistance emerged an opportunity for CROW staff to learn new techniques from their coworkers and hone their skills in conservation medicine. In conjunction with daily patient care responsibilities, staff members organized groups and shifts to salvage supplies and clean the Sanibel clinic in preparation for much needed remediation efforts. The road is long, but we have made great progress as an organization in getting our Sanibel campus closer to operational status. As we move forward one thing is for certain, CROW will be here to provide care for southwest Florida's wildlife for another 55 plus years!



Killdeer (22-1553 & 1554)

A Historic Year in Review

Top Reasons for Admission



UNKNOWN TRAUMA

1,445 PATIENTS



ORPHANED

1,018 PATIENTS



SYSTEMIC DISEASE

892 PATIENTS



FELL FROM NEST

807 PATIENTS



PREDATOR ATTACK

744 PATIENTS



TOXIN EXPOSURE

234 PATIENTS

RAT
POISON

19 OUT OF 234 TOXIN EXPOSURE PATIENTS
WERE SUSPECT RODENTICIDE CASES
PLEASE DON'T USE RAT POISON

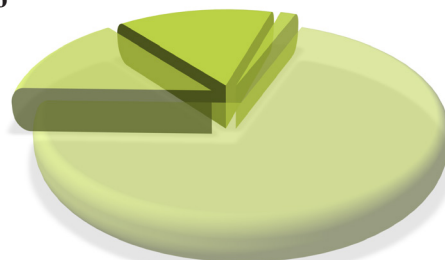
Number of Species: 216

Avian: 133

Mammalian: 26

Reptilian: 30

Amphibian: 2



HURRICANE IAN PATIENT CARE

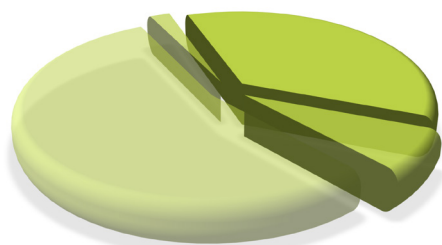
PATIENTS EVACUATED: 150

PATIENTS TREATED POST: 704

PATIENTS RELEASED POST: 76

PATIENTS TRANSFERRED POST: 164

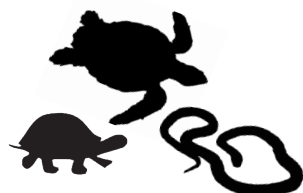
Who are our patients?



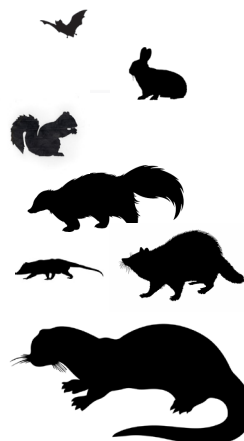
Birds: 2,836 (50.7%)
Mammals: 2,108 (37.7%)
Reptiles: 576 (10.3%)
Amphibians: 71 (1.3%)



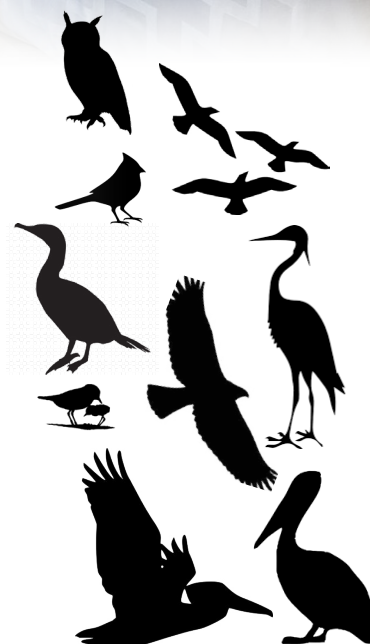
Amphibians



Reptiles



Mammals



Birds



Education & Outreach

Education and Outreach programs started off on a strong note with the Visitor Education Center fully operational and Wildlife Walk Tours in full swing only to end the year with the devastation of Hurricane Ian.

Our tours and daily presentations ran twice daily through season, and it was so great to see familiar faces- whether they were volunteers or frequent visitors. We engaged with a variety of new presentations and our hospital staff resumed their weekly presentations with our animal ambassadors. We also added back volunteers for presentations and were hitting pre-pandemic visitor admission numbers.

Our outreach efforts continued as we visited many schools around Lee County as well as multiple country clubs, Rotary club meetings, and festivals. Whether in person or virtual, we connected with over 3,000 people. Both our Tippy Turtle Nights and monthly presentations at the Inns of Sanibel allowed us to reach out-of-town guests visiting Sanibel.

In July, we hosted Wildlife Care Summer Camp where campers could choose to focus on one of three different species groups: Avian, Mammals,

or Reptiles. The campers obtained general knowledge about each class of animals as well as getting a chance to dissect them to examine the internal anatomy! The hospital staff interacted with the campers looking at blood work slides, x-rays, and even observing some surgeries! Our rehab staff used creative ways to show some of the different bandaging techniques, treatments, and physical therapies for wild patients.

When Hurricane Ian hit in September, all educational programs transitioned to either virtual or outreach. It was hard not to have an education center for visitors to come to, but we were so thankful we still had the opportunity to educate people of all ages about CROW and the importance of wildlife conservation.

As we look into 2023, things might be different, but our education efforts will not stop. We will continue to offer outreach presentations and attend events throughout Lee County. During this time, we also hope to renovate the Visitor Education Center to bring a revitalized educational experience to our new visitors and returning friends of CROW!

To our amazing Volunteers...

What a year it has been for CROW and its volunteers! After the year of welcoming you all back from the pandemic in 2021 and honoring you at the Spring Luncheon, 2022 saw another disruption. This time a result of Hurricane Ian slamming into Southwest Florida. Our volunteer program was once again abruptly suspended. More importantly the CROW staff was deeply concerned about YOU. As we began to hear from you, many of your stories broke our hearts. Our beautiful Southwest Florida and beloved CROW have been changed with many challenges ahead.

Slowly, we are all making progress, beginning with the healing process and the path to recovery. For some, you have decided to move on and away from Southwest Florida, we are so sorry to see you leave, but we understand. Please know that you will be missed.

Many of you have expressed interest in volunteering, but it may not be the right time as you are in the midst of rebuilding and trying to get your lives back together. And finally, many of you are already back volunteering, helping with wildlife rescues and patient transport.

Despite losing three months of volunteer service, you still managed to provide CROW with over 10,000 volunteer hours in 2022. Through this life-altering destruction, each day brings a renewed sense of hope as we all take another step forward towards recovery. Our hearts remain with all of you as we all work to rebuild our lives. CROW is here for you and we can't wait to see you. We will need you more than ever in the months and years ahead.



Student Programs

CROW's reputation as a wildlife teaching hospital has continued to attract students from around the world to learn about wildlife medicine and rehabilitation through hands-on experience and research. We were fortunate to have hosted 25 Veterinary Medical Students representing 20 different veterinary schools, 10 undergraduate students, 6 six-month Fellowship students, and 2 Veterinary Technician students. The aftermath of Hurricane Ian left our 12 accepted students for October through December 2022 unable to complete their programs. The students during the time of the hurricane safely evacuated with our staff and patients to an off-island hotel and waited out the storm. Through the entirety of the week leading up to the hurricane and the days following, our 8 students dedicated around the clock patient care within the hotel walls. Alternating shifts on a daily basis following the storm with our veterinary team at Blue Pearl Animal Hospital became the normal work day for our students. Our Fall students' programs were sadly suspended once we learned of the severe damage to the CROW campus. Once travel was accessible, all of our students were sent home except for our two veterinary medicine interns. Two of our veterinary externship students were lucky enough to finish their programs at South Florida Wildlife Center with alumna veterinary intern, Dr. Charlotte Cournoyer (Veterinary Medicine Intern '21-'22).

In addition to our veterinary externship students, our two veterinary medicine interns received the opportunity to assist at South Florida Wildlife Center and Lion Country Safari to supplement their learning. We were fortunate enough to welcome Dr. Laura Kellow (Veterinary Medicine Intern '21-'22) who joined our team as an Associate Veterinarian after her internship to assist in training our incoming veterinary interns and students. Each year we are astounded by the new faces we meet, train, and mentor as students begin their career in the wildlife veterinary field, but this year was entirely different. Our patients' success would not have been possible without the outstanding network of partnering clinics and groups of devoted students on our team. Our students continue to learn standard protocols of wildlife triage, husbandry, blood work, diet preparation, surgery, disease control, and treatment plans for various wildlife species. Students who have completed our programs this year have since began or finished veterinary school, secured other internships in wildlife medicine or research opportunities, and accepted jobs within the wildlife rehabilitation field as wildlife rehabilitators and veterinarians. As we continue through the aftermath of Hurricane Ian, we look forward to reinstating our reputable student program to continue educating the future leaders of the wildlife medicine and rehabilitation field.

2022 Wildlife & Conservation Medicine Interns

Dr. Laura Kellow: *July 2021 - June 2022*
Dr. Charlotte Cournoyer: *July 2021 - June 2022*
Dr. Melanie Dittmer: *July 2022 - June 2023*
Dr. Kristie Schott: *July 2022 - June 2023*

2022 Conservation Education & Marketing Interns

Allie Newhart: *December 2021 - May 2022*
Alyssa Amundson: *May 2022 - October 2022*

2022 Schools Represented

<i>Auburn University</i>	<i>Royal Veterinary College</i>
<i>Berry College</i>	<i>St. George's University</i>
<i>Boston University</i>	<i>Texas A&M University</i>
<i>California State University</i>	<i>University of Delaware</i>
<i>Colby College</i>	<i>University of Florida</i>
<i>Colorado State University</i>	<i>University of Georgia</i>
<i>Cornell University</i>	<i>University of Guelph</i>
<i>Escuela de cirugía y medicina</i>	<i>University of Miami</i>
<i>Veterinaria San Francisco de Asis</i>	<i>University of Michigan</i>
<i>Florida Atlantic University</i>	<i>Universidad Nacional de</i>
<i>Iowa State University</i>	<i>Columbia College of Veterinary</i>
<i>Kansas State University</i>	<i>Science</i>
<i>Lincoln-Memorial University</i>	<i>University of Pennsylvania</i>
<i>Midwestern University</i>	<i>University of California Davis</i>
<i>National autonomous University of Mexico</i>	<i>University of Southern California</i>
<i>North Carolina State University</i>	<i>University of South Carolina</i>
<i>Ohio University</i>	<i>University of Tennessee</i>
<i>Michigan State University</i>	<i>Ursinus College</i>
	<i>Virginia Tech</i>
	<i>West Texas A&M University</i>



WILD About CROW



After a “wildly” successful WILD about CROW in 2020 prior to COVID shutdowns, its delayed return in 2022 was much anticipated and much needed. Although it was postponed for just a couple of months, WILD attendees, once again adorned in animal print attire, enjoyed a beautiful March evening on the shore of the Caloosahatchee River at the magnificent Burrough’s Home and Gardens. The night was just what everyone was hoping with fun and generosity on the menu! Guests enjoyed delicious food and beverages, took part in live and silent auctions, and vied to be last person standing in the always popular Heads or Tails game. Supporting CROW’s mission of rehabilitation, the request from the heart reached a new level with bountiful donations from \$25,000 to \$100. Special thanks to Edison National Bank/Bank of the Islands as our title sponsor for the event and to all of those who were able to attend.



Taste of the Islands



This year would have marked the 41st year of Taste of the Islands. A brand new format, Taste of the Islands would have been a “restaurant week” but of course, Hurricane Ian changed those plans. With events scheduled throughout the week, CROW planned to feature trolleys on both Saturdays so patrons could enjoy Taste features across the islands. Our goal was to bring the ‘fun’ people reminisced about from past events on the field back to the Taste event. Instead, we worked with ABC-7 to feature some of the island restaurants as they reopened. And amongst the islands’ destruction from Hurricane Ian, remnants Taste of the Islands we found. Last year’s first time Taste of the Taste winner Sanibel Fresh owner Troy Thompson found pieces of the most honored trophy in the damaged restaurant. This trophy and our island restaurants are resilient. Taste might be battered and broken but it will be back, and we are looking forward to the reopening of all the island restaurants.





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Clinic for the Rehabilitation
of Wildlife
PO Box 150
Sanibel, FL 33957

Visitor Education Center
3883 Sanibel Captiva Rd.
Sanibel, FL 33957
(239) 472-3644

Open 10:00 am to 4:00 pm

January - July
Monday - Saturday

August - December
Monday - Friday

**Due to Hurricane Ian recovery, the Visitor Education Center is temporarily closed. Follow us on social media and join our newsletter to stay updated on our progress!*



PUBLICATION OF CROW'S ANNUAL REPORT HAS BEEN GENEROUSLY UNDERWRITTEN BY:



**Bank of The
Islands**



**Edison
NATIONAL BANK**

"As the oldest locally owned and managed community bank on our islands and in Lee County, Bank of the Islands/Edison National Bank cares deeply about all of our island residents and visitors - both human and wildlife. While 2022 dealt our islands a harsh blow, we are proud to support CROW and we know the mammals, birds, and reptiles sharing our ecosystems are safer because CROW is here to continue to care for our injured, sick and orphaned wildlife neighbors. I want to extend our thanks to the family of volunteers and supporters that sustain CROW's mission. They know, as we do, CROW is irreplaceable in our community to not only care for our wildlife but also to teach us how to live in harmony with our beautiful natural world."

— Geoffrey Roepstorff

Chief Executive Officer, Bank of the Islands/Edison National Bank

