

2024

Annual Report



Clinic for the Rehabilitation of Wildlife



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

Hospital Staff

Jessica Comolli, DVM,
Research & Medical Director

Kaycee Daentl, DVM,
Relief Veterinarian

Kasey Mitchell, DVM,
Veterinary Fellow

Danielle Kreis, DVM,
Veterinary Intern

Becca Wehmeier,
Hospital Practice Manager

Elizabeth Baker,
Hospital Training Coordinator

Amber Strassler,
Registered Veterinary Technician

Autumn Klinge,
Certified Veterinary Technician

Elisa Mendoza,
Veterinary Technician

Lilli Pedersen,
Senior Wildlife Rehabilitator

Jaya Thohan, *Wildlife Rehabilitator*

Tori Benson, *Wildlife Rehabilitator*

Sharif Khan, *Wildlife Rehabilitator*

Tabitha Moyer, *Wildlife Rehabilitator*

Tamara Wentworth,
Wildlife First Responder

Chloe Conlin, *Wildlife First Responder*

Administrative Staff

Alison Hussey, *Executive Director*

Grace Murphy, *Development and
Communications Director*

Michelle Menendez,
Operations and HR Director

Brittney Laster, *Education and
Outreach Coordinator*

Randy Rainbolt, *Facilities and
Grounds Manager*

Pam Stoikey, *Retail/VEC Associate/
Volunteer Coordinator*

Laura Lloyd, *Administrative Assistant*

Board of Directors

Paul Ben-Susan, *President*

Fred Weinman, *Vice President*

Roger Grogman, *Secretary*

Cynthia Hawkins, *CPA, Treasurer*

Holly Boldrin

Karen Buck

Ron Clayton

Anthony Farhat

Roy Gibson

Darrin Grotrian

Jason Maughan, Esq.

Phaidra McDermott

Dave Nichols, DVM

Fred Ryckman, MD



From Executive Leadership

Our islands, our wildlife, and our CROW family continue to demonstrate resilience after enduring the devastation of Hurricane Ian in 2022, only compounded by the impacts of Hurricanes Helene and Milton in 2024. **Thanks to our community, we are making great progress as we continue to build back stronger than ever.** With resiliency in mind, we are improving CROW's infrastructure to better withstand future storms.

One of our proudest accomplishments this year has been the successful reconstruction of six outdoor rehabilitation enclosures damaged by Hurricane Ian. We're also excited to share we've begun the first phases of rebuilding CROW's Sea Turtle Complex. Thanks to the dedicated work of CROW team members, architects, engineers, contractors, and life support specialists, we look forward to being able to treat these endangered species once again. CROW's service is critical now more than ever as the island's habitats and wildlife, such as our endangered sea turtles, are repopulating and our off-island patients are growing in number. This past year, CROW admitted just under 5,000 wildlife patients—nearly back to pre-Ian numbers. CROW is open for intake 365 days a year, and your continued support is essential to ensure we can provide the best possible treatment for every patient that comes through our doors. We recognize this year has posed challenges for many, and we are incredibly grateful for your unwavering support.

Your generosity truly makes a difference in the lives of the injured, abandoned, and sick wildlife we serve.

Alison Charney Hussey

Alison Charney Hussey

Executive Director, CROW

2024 Finances in Review



CROW is extremely appreciative of each and every monetary gift helping to further **our mission: saving wildlife through care, education, and collaboration**. It is because of your generous support that we are able to maintain the highest quality of patient care and excellence in education for the next generation of wildlife professionals and the public. We strive to improve the relationship with our native and migratory wild neighbors, no matter where they call home. Patient care, operations, and rebuilding efforts were supported by individuals, foundations, and corporations alike.

2024 Income preliminary, unaudited:

Membership

\$237,605.50

Contributions/Gifts/Bequests/Memorials

\$1,587,421.97

Visitor Education Center Admissions/Programs

\$42,993.51

Grants

\$1,502,021.88

Misc. Income

\$107,820.46

Events

\$196,968.70

Gift Shop/Online Sales

\$65,926.31

Total Projected Income

\$3,740,758.33

2024 Projected Expenses preliminary, unaudited:

Hospital Program

\$1,389,770.71

Visitor Education Center Program

\$184,800.13

Management and General Costs

\$296,990.03

Public Relations/Fundraising

\$374,186.18

Special Events

\$99,853.41

Gift Shop

\$50,902.95

**Hurricane Repairs

\$1,001,804.13

Total Projected Expenses

\$3,398,307.56

**Hurricane repairs outlined above include the rebuilding of the outdoor enclosures destroyed by Hurricane Ian. CROW's Fund Balance Carry Forward of \$342,450.77 reflects specific contributions toward CROW's Endowment Fund and rebuilding efforts to the Sea Turtle Complex. Such capital improvements are not reflected in the operational figures above.



A Message from the **Research & Medical Director**

I am thrilled and honored to introduce myself as CROW's new Research & Medical Director!

Joining this incredible organization is truly an exciting opportunity, and I'm filled with gratitude as I embark on this new chapter.

My journey to this point has been deeply fulfilling, shaped by experiences in wildlife, zoo, exotic pet, and aquatic animal medicine. Following a post-doctoral specialty internship in Zoo and Wildlife Medicine, I completed a Zoological Medicine Residency – a collaboration between the University of Georgia, Zoo Atlanta, and the Georgia Aquarium. All this training and challenging work culminated in earning my board certification with the American College of Zoological Medicine (ACZM) this year.

I am deeply committed to sharing my knowledge and expertise with our growing team and further advancing our research and diagnostic capabilities to better serve our local wildlife. Thanks to your generous support, we are also updating our radiography equipment, further ensuring we continue to provide the highest level of care to our wildlife patients.

Additionally, we're laying a solid foundation for the growth of our training programs and research efforts, while always ensuring the best care possible for our patients.

Milestones include:

- Representing CROW while giving back to the veterinary community by instructing at exotic animal surgical courses both nationally and internationally
- Launching a one-year Veterinary Fellowship Program
- Planning for a competitive 4th-year Clinical Veterinary Externship in the future

Looking ahead, I am excited about what the future holds for CROW. I'm eager to strengthen the invaluable relationships we've built and continue making a meaningful impact on the lives of both the animals we care for and the communities we serve. Thank you for being part of this incredible journey – ***I can't wait to see what we will achieve!***



**Together, we will continue providing
exceptional care to wildlife in need.**

Jessica R. Comolli DVM, MS, Dipl. ACZM

Board Certified Specialist in Zoological Medicine™



Student Contributions During Hurricane Season & Beyond

Students are a testament to CROW's work and mission, contributing to its excellent reputation as a wildlife teaching hospital. The CROW staff hosts dozens of students every year with diverse backgrounds from around the world who learn about seabird, songbird, raptor, mammalian, and reptile rehabilitation and medical treatments.

In October, our students and staff endured not one, but two hurricanes, which involved significant teamwork in ensuring our hospital operations could continue when access to Sanibel's CROW campus was suspended due to flooding from the storms. From patient evacuations with Hurricane Milton and caring for patients in an off-island hotel room, to assisting with triaging 130 incoming patients following Hurricanes Helene and Milton at Blue Pearl Veterinary Clinic in Fort Myers, our students continue to exhibit amazing dedication, adaptability, and work ethic.

In 2024, we were honored to host **15 veterinary medical students representing 13 veterinary schools, seven undergraduate Wildlife Care Externship students, one veterinary medical intern** (one-year program starting July 2024), **and six Wildlife Rehabilitation Internship students. Of these students, 18 states and six countries were represented.**

Additionally, we created a new one-year Veterinary Fellowship Program to further advance our teaching programs. Our first Veterinary Fellowship Intern was filled by a previous one-year veterinary intern, Dr. Kasey Mitchell.

As our students finish their programs at CROW, they may continue to graduate veterinary school, establishing their careers at wildlife rehabilitation centers, or diving into the research field, and we are fortunate to have them carry a piece of CROW's history, philosophy, and reputation with them.

Scan to learn more about our Student Programs & Internships:



President's Circle

Donors who have given \$10,000 or more in the past year.

Andrea Waitt Carlton Family Foundation
Bank of the Islands/Edison National Bank
The Batchelor Foundation, Inc.
Beth and John Newland
Bill and Laurie Harkey
Bill and Susie Hartz
Clarke Cares Foundation
Christine Attardo
Dave and Jennifer Nichols
Deborah La Gorce
Dudley D. and Delores R. Malone Family Foundation
The Edith MacGuire Charitable Trust
The Edward and Gale McBride Foundation, Inc.
Elizabeth Higgins
Eugene and Mary Dooner Foundation
Fred and Jean Allegretti Foundation
The Gabriel Fund
The George H. and Estelle M. Sands Foundation
The Hardison Family Foundation
Jim Birmingham
Johanna Frerichs
Julie and Paul Ben-Susan
Kauffman Family Foundation
Kim Patmore
Knopf Family Foundation
Leah and Doug Beck
Leslie L. Alexander Foundation
Lynne Birdt
Mark and Kimberly Reller
Middendorf Family Foundation
Pat Fairless Hatfield
Philip and Roberta Puschel
Pockets – A Family Foundation
Raizik Fund
Red Moose Foundation
Sargent Family Foundation
Stuart Watson
The Van Sloun Foundation
Wescustogo Foundation, Inc.



Caring for Our Wildlife

Patients treated in 2024

2,521

Avian

2,127

Mammal

294

Reptile

22

Amphibian

Total Species
Admitted

4,968



Featured Patients



These are a few of the 4,968 wildlife patients we had the honor of rehabilitating at CROW in 2024.

Post Ian, due to the damage to our outdoor flight enclosures, we no longer had the space to recondition and rehabilitate some of our patients after their medical treatment. We are grateful to other local wildlife rehabilitation centers for this final step in the recovery process while rebuilding our own facilities.



RED-SHOULDERED HAWK (24-933)

was admitted after being hit by a car resulting in a wing fracture and ulcers in both eyes. The patient was diagnosed and treated for 153 days before ultimate release in Estero. After surgery on its right wing, treatments for the hawk included wound care, medications, oxygen, fluids, and physical therapy. Thank you to South Florida Wildlife Center for providing flight conditioning prior to release.



ADULT FEMALE BOBCAT (24-42)

was admitted with a broken jaw and pubic bone, head trauma, and hind leg abrasions after being hit by a car in Fort Myers. Treatment included collaborations with Blue Pearl Animal Hospital (CT scan), VCA Coral Animal Hospital (pain medications), Pet Dental Center (CT scan, jaw, and dental surgery). After 19 days of supportive care, the bobcat was transferred to South Florida Wildlife Center's outdoor pre-release enclosure.



GOPHER TORTOISE (24-1116)

was admitted with its carapace (top shell) covered in silver and yellow paint. Treatment included paint removal in stages and outdoor grazing. After 56 days of supportive care, the tortoise was released in collaboration with the Florida Fish and Wildlife Conservation Commission in Lakeland.

Top Reasons for Admission

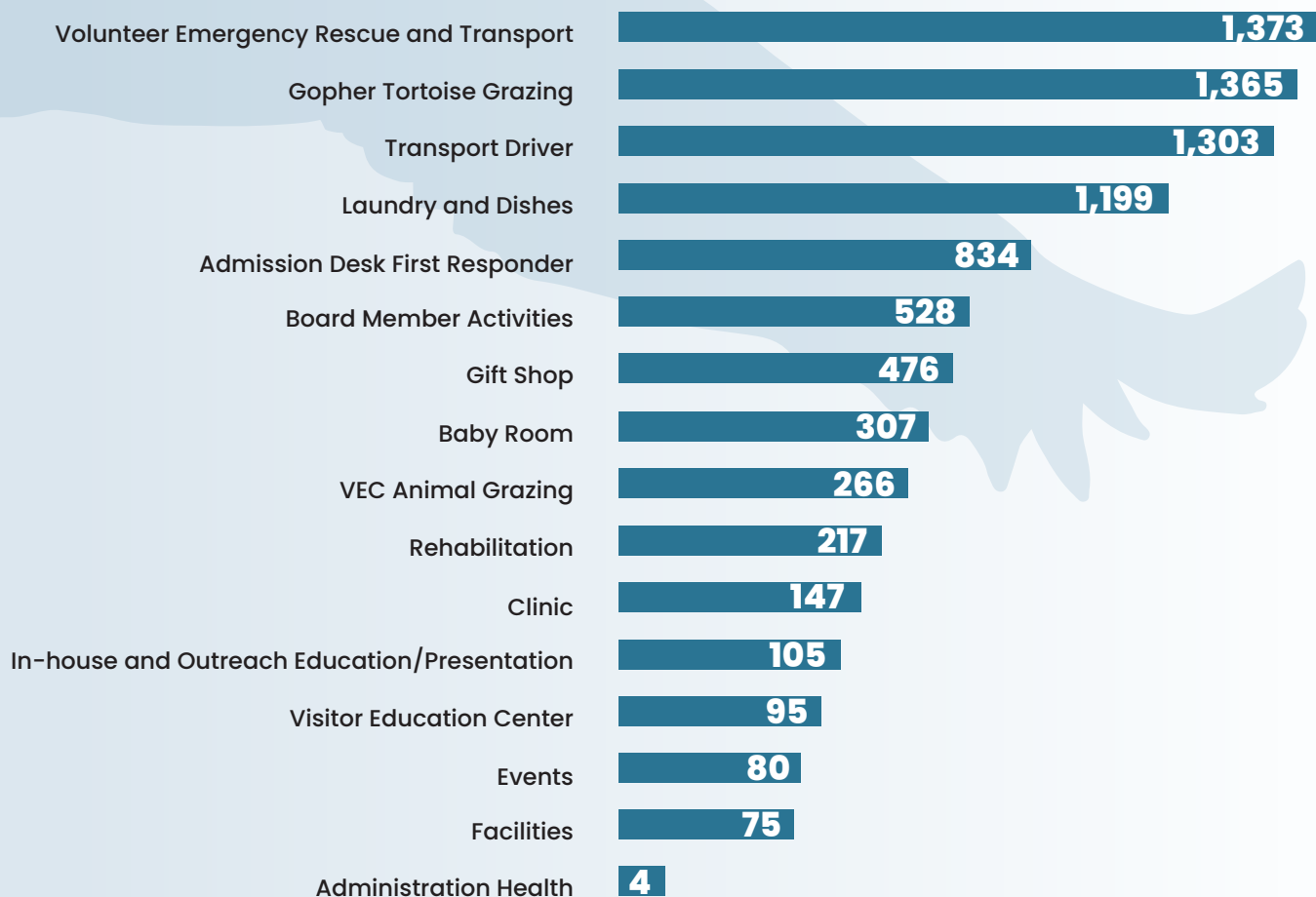
1. Unknown Trauma
2. Orphaned
3. Abducted/Kidnapped
4. Infectious/Systemic Disease
5. Cat/Dog Attack



Volunteers

Make an Impact

We couldn't serve our **wildlife** the way we do without our amazing **volunteers**!



In 2024,
volunteers
accumulated
8,334 hours,
which **saved**
CROW over
\$265,000*



* According to the Independent Sector that sets the value of a volunteer hour at \$31.80.

Saving Our Sea Turtles

As the only licensed sea turtle rehabilitation center on the west coast of Florida between Sarasota and the Florida Keys, CROW's Sea Turtle Complex has been critical to the conservation and success of sea turtle populations. Sadly, **the complex was destroyed by Hurricane Ian**, limiting our ability to care for all of the sea turtles in need.

We are thrilled to report that the new Harkey Sea Turtle Complex will be completed in early 2026! **A \$1.2 million grant from the National Fish & Wildlife Foundation (NFWF)**, as well as the **generosity of avid wildlife and sea turtle advocates – including Bill and Laurie Harkey, for whom the complex will be named – made it possible.** The Harkey Sea Turtle Complex will provide a dedicated center for the rescue, rehabilitation, and release of injured or stranded sea turtles.

CROW treats these vital marine species currently threatened by habitat loss, pollution, boat collisions, entanglements, and red tide. Before Hurricane Ian, CROW **treated around 100 sea turtles annually**, and the addition of this facility will ensure that CROW continues to have the capacity to care for every sea turtle needing assistance in the area. The new facility will include **high-tech medical equipment**, including four specialty oval tanks with life support systems to accommodate sea turtles on a long-term basis. These tanks can be divided in order to house multiple patients if necessary. Additionally, **the complex will feature a “fly-away tank” specifically designed for hatchling sea turtles.**

The completion of the **Harkey Sea Turtle Complex** will help CROW continue its mission to rehabilitate and release sea turtles and other wildlife, furthering CROW's work to **protect and preserve the environment for future generations.**

There are **five** species of **sea turtles** found in **Florida** waters, and all of these species are listed as endangered or threatened under the **Endangered Species Act.**



“We are thrilled to report the new Harkey Sea Turtle Complex will be completed in early 2026!”

Bill and Laurie Harkey
Wildlife and Sea Turtle Advocates

Education & Outreach

For the first time in four years, CROW was able to offer a “regular” year of programming and outreach in 2024.

We were ecstatic to begin offering tours and presentations Monday through Friday. Students returned to the campus, and in June we welcomed Conservation Education and Marketing Intern, Alessandra Spada. In December, the second intern, Sarah Rinne, began training for the spring program.

For the school year of 2023-2024, CROW offered to host or visit the Sanibel School up to four times a month without a donation. It was a successful year that helped to spread the CROW mission and inspire future conservationists. For the 2024-2025 school year, we secured a scholarship to continue visiting the Sanibel School up to four times monthly, offering new insight into biology and conservation.

CROW’s Summer Camps were a huge hit with the kids and parents alike. Elementary, middle school, and high school students all had a week of education and fun designed specifically for them. Our CROW campers learned about the patients we treat at CROW and how to make a difference in their own environments.

CROW also hosted two free special holiday events: **CROW-O-WEEN** and **CROW Christmas**. Additionally, a Make-A-Wish child was given a behind-the-scenes look at CROW, our ambassadors, and patients to support her love of wildlife.

Sign up for Group Presentations & Tours:



**12
Topics**

added for presentation
at the
visitor center

**70
Programs**

hosted for schools,
groups, and clubs

**340
Attendees**

enjoyed 17 expert speakers at
the speaker series, raising
\$3,658 in ticket sales

**660
Hours**

of educational
outreach

**1,688
campus tours**

**20,162
visitors**

Annual Meeting



Wednesday, March 26, 2025 | 4:00 PM

Our members enjoy free, unlimited access to our Visitor Education Center and other benefits, while supporting patient rescue, care, and rehabilitation efforts, helping to maintain a healthy environment by sustaining wildlife for future generations.

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 a 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.

New board member recommendations include two former board members: Dan Murphy and Rob Lisenbee, along with a new nomination for Laura Rockenberger. Holly Boldrin and Paul Ben-Susan will be renewing for a second term.

2024 Wild About Crow

Our annual fundraiser 'WILD About CROW' aided in raising **\$1 million to fund our new Sea Turtle Complex**. The sold out event was attended by 200 supporters and held at Burroughs Home and Gardens on January 26, 2024. Unique to the event this year, **Sanibel residents Bill and Laurie Harkey donated \$750,000 to CROW's** critical fundraising efforts to jumpstart the evening's festivities.

Along with the Harkey's generous donation, the event raised an additional \$250,000. These funds will go directly towards funding the \$2 million project of rebuilding CROW's new Sea Turtle Complex.

Putting the FUN into Fundraising

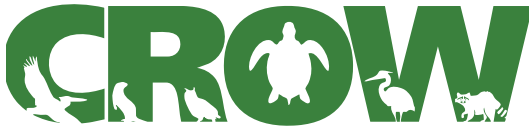
Your support empowers CROW's critical mission of saving wildlife through state-of-the-art veterinary care, research, education, and conservation medicine. We look forward to seeing our members and community at the 2025 FUNdraising events!

Register for upcoming Events!



WILD ABOUT CROW 2024





Clinic for the Rehabilitation of Wildlife

NONPROFIT
U.S. Postage
PAID
Fort Myers, FL
Permit #972

PO Box 150, Sanibel, FL 33957

Visitor Education Center
3883 Sanibel Captiva Rd.
Sanibel, FL 33957



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As the oldest locally-owned and managed community bank in Lee County and on our islands, Bank of the Islands/Edison National Bank joins CROW and the other island non-profits in celebrating the City of Sanibel’s 50th anniversary of incorporation this year.

That makes this a perfect time to reflect on a sentence from the City’s vision statement:

Sanibel is and shall remain a barrier island sanctuary, one in which a diverse population lives in harmony with the island’s wildlife and natural habitats.

What is true for Sanibel is true for all of Lee County - that commitment to the wildlife we cherish would be virtually impossible to sustain without CROW’s extraordinary and mission-driven veterinary care. Moreover, the educational outreach they provide makes us all - residents, business owners, and visitors alike - better stewards of the mammals, birds and reptiles sharing this place we call home.

We salute CROW’s staff, volunteers, and supporters for making CROW’s life-saving work possible. Thanks to CROW, we are blessed to live in harmony with our natural world.

– Geoffrey Roepstorff
CEO, Bank of the Islands/Edison National Bank

Publication of CROW’s Annual Report has been generously underwritten by:



CROW Hospital
Open 7 days
a week

Visitor Education Center
Open Monday – Friday
10 am to 4 pm

Daily
presentations
at 11 am

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