Dear Friend,

Life is not without perils: diseases, accidents, violence. Some days, the news may make you feel that we live in a world of escalating violence and dangers.

The wild animals with whom we co-exist face similar threats. They are hit by cars, succumb to illnesses and infection, get ensnared by fish hooks and face a wide variety of other life-limiting events. Even more disturbing are the number of animals who are crippled or killed through deliberate acts of cruelty.

Every month, South Florida Wildlife Center treats animals deliberately injured by people who simply left them to suffer after inflicting the grievous wounds. Just this month, our rescue team brought in a young Egyptian goose who had been shot through the neck with an arrow.

Other recent patients have included:

- A mother raccoon, discovered limping with a baby in tow; she had been shot twice in the leg.
- A turkey vulture, found sprawled awkwardly, with dried and fresh blood on his chest and leg, unable to fly; he had a fractured left wing and an imbedded pellet.
- A Virginia opossum, found on her side, panting, with a pellet lodged in her spine.
- A gray squirrel, found dragging his hindquarters, also with a pellet in his spine.
Although our skilled team does everything possible to relieve suffering and try to heal these victims, including comprehensive diagnostics, emergency medical care, pain management and surgery, on average, less than half of these gravely-wounded animals will survive; the abuses are simply too much for their small bodies to bear.

I know you agree that all animals – even those considered to be a “nuisance” – deserve humane treatment and expert care. It’s up to you to save them. We can’t save them all, but each animal deserves humane and compassionate care which you can make possible.

Intentional acts of cruelty, regardless of the motivation, are wrong. Moreover, there is a clearly-documented link between animal abuse and violence against people. Studies have shown that people who commit assaults, sex crimes, serial murders, and fatal attacks on schools and other public venues are highly-likely to have previously committed violent acts against animals. A rise in animal cruelty can be an indicator of a societal shift toward more violent crimes against people.
Your donation today will stop wildlife suffering!

Your gift will make you a partner in South Florida Wildlife Center’s efforts to identify animal abuse cases, treat the victims, assist with prosecuting perpetrators and advocate for humane resolutions to wildlife conflicts. These essential actions will not only protect the immediate victims, but our community as a whole.
People like you, who treasure our beautiful south Florida environment and deplore cruelty, preserve our ecosystem and its inhabitants by supporting South Florida Wildlife Center.

Thank you for partnering with us to protect imperiled native species and combat environmental threats of all kinds. Please, make your gift now and stand with us against cruelty and violence.

Sincerely,

Debra Parsons-Drake
Executive Director

“If you care about all forms of life, you have to do something to protect them.”

Barbara Birdsey, conservationist, animal advocate and philanthropist