

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.

**Anhinga, tangled in
marine debris**



**Virginia opossum, receiving
lifesaving veterinary treatment**



**A turkey vulture on
the mend**





This cooter's eye was punctured by a fish hook

Like you, we cannot comprehend how people could do such a thing to defenseless creatures.

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.



The veterinary team tends to the arrow-shot Egyptian goose



The injured Egyptian goose received immediate, expert care



The terrified and gravely injured Egyptian goose, arriving at SFWC



This iguana was shot by multiple darts, several had to be surgically extracted



This pelican's pouch was shredded by a fish hook

**Your donation today will stop
wildlife suffering!**

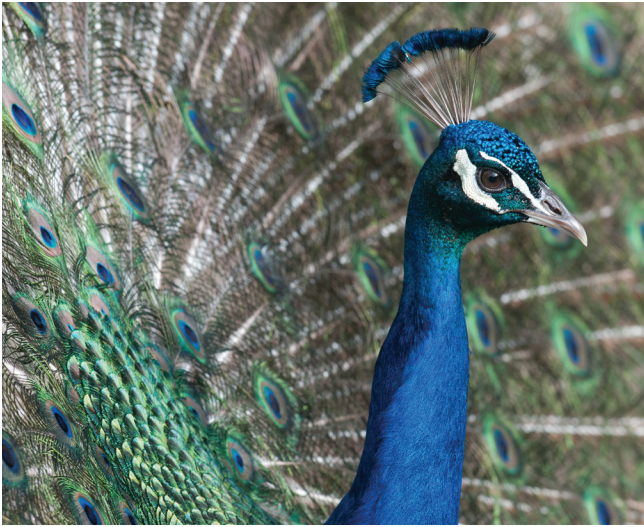
Your gift will make you a partner in South Florida Wildlife Center's efforts to identify animal abuse cases, treat the victims, assist with prosecuting perpetrators and advocate for humane resolutions to wildlife conflicts. These essential actions will not only protect the immediate victims, but our community as a whole.

This soft-shelled turtle was hit by a car as she crossed the road, seeking a spot to lay eggs

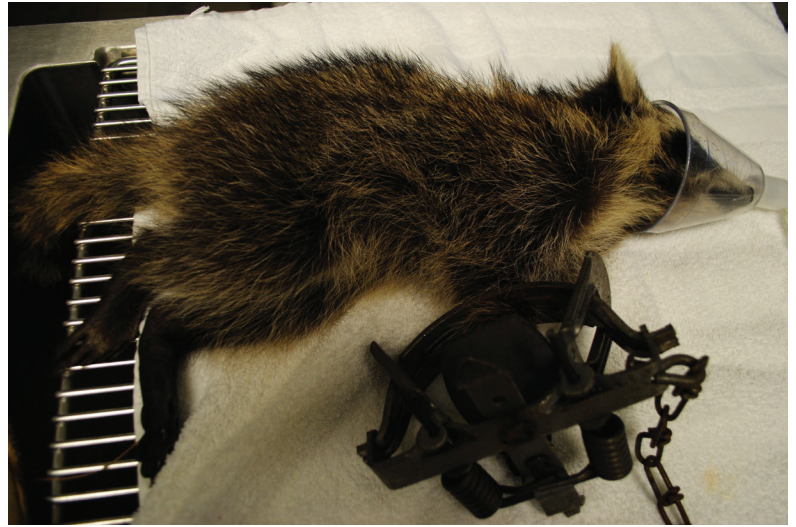


Radiographs reveal this anhinga ingested a very large fish hook





Multiple peacocks have been shot in recent weeks



Raccoon, snared by a leghold trap

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



**Line disposal bin and
information about helping
hooked wildlife**

**Hooked or
Entangled Bird?**

¿Ave Enganchada o Enredada?

DO NOT CUT THE LINE

Call for assistance:
South Florida Wildlife Center
954-524-4302 x10

NO CORTE LA LÍNEA

Reciba ayuda llamando al número arriba

Please help protect our
seabirds by properly
disposing of used
fishing line and bait

