

BAT WORLD

Conservation - Rescue - Sanctuary



2020 ANNUAL REPORT

Bat World

Conservation, Rescue, Sanctuary



Zogi, a neglected Egyptian fruit bat rescued from a zoo closure in 2018. Zogi loves to hang in an area of the fruit bat enclosure that contains a lot of colorful flowers. In this photo he is waiting for a treat of honeydew melon, which he has grown to expect.

Printed on 20% recycled paper certified by the Sustainable Forestry Initiative, using 100% vegetable based ink.

NOTE: The articles in this magazine are written by the same humans who also care for the bats. Although we try very hard, a few typos always seem to slip through. Please bear with us and overlook any mistakes.

The content in this publication was created by trained, vaccinated bat care professionals in possession of all appropriate licenses or permits. No statement or photo contained in this magazine should be construed as permission or recommendation to handle bats.

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PRINTED ANNUALLY. Want more updates than an annual printing? Sign up to receive Night Flight News emails at batworld.org



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Bat World is published annually by Bat World Sanctuary, a 501c3 non-profit organization. Donations allow Bat World to continue its mission of rescue and conservation. To obtain more information about bats and how they make our world a better place please visit batworld.org.

To inquire about local rescue, make a donation, sponsor a bat, purchase merchandise or sign up for emails, please contact us at:

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2020 Year End Letter

Dear Supporters,

This has been a year to remember for many reasons. Despite a devastating, worldwide crisis that crippled donations and blamed bats for the pandemic, astonishingly, Bat World Sanctuary has not only survived, we have excelled in the number of fruit bat rescues from the cruel, exotic pet trade. We did so with only one grant and the generous support of our very devoted contributors who came through like shining stars for the bats just when they needed it most. For that there are no words that can express our gratitude.

There are two critical factors of a successful nonprofit - dedication to the mission of the organization, and continuance of that very mission. For Bat World Sanctuary, that continuance requires a Board and a staff who are equally committed to both the animals and the future of our organization. In order to prevail, we must have personnel who will carry on the cornerstone mission of Bat World Sanctuary well after I have retired. Over the course of the past five years we have been working on just that, and I am so proud to say that we have succeeded. However, none of this can be accomplished without sustainability, and we are joyous to also report that the long-term future stability of Bat World Sanctuary was greatly reinforced this year with an astounding bequest from a remarkable donor; a woman who not only loved bats, but deer, buffalo and hummingbirds. A portion of the monies immediately replenished our emergency fund that was depleted from the Mini S Exotic Zoo rescue and other rescues that took place this year. The bulk of the bequest has been put into high yield CD's so Bat World will derive additional annual income to help bolster our rescue efforts in the future (see page 48).

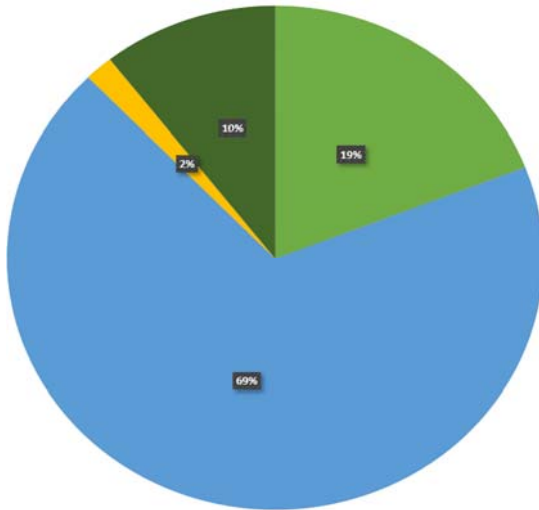
So what comes next? We continue, even better than before, with added strength from our devoted staff and our magnificent supporters. But please remember, in the many ways that we grow and move forward, nothing we have accomplished was done without you. As you look through the pages of this magazine, please note the now beautiful and happy faces that were only rescued through your support. Your financial contributions allow us to heal the injured, save the orphans, and give lifetime sanctuary to the disabled, aged and unwanted bats who were once part of the cruel, exotic pet trade, research and those who have suffered at the hands of humans. From the bottom of our hearts, and from the tips of those tiny bat toes, we thank you for your everlasting support.



Amanda Lollar
Founder and President

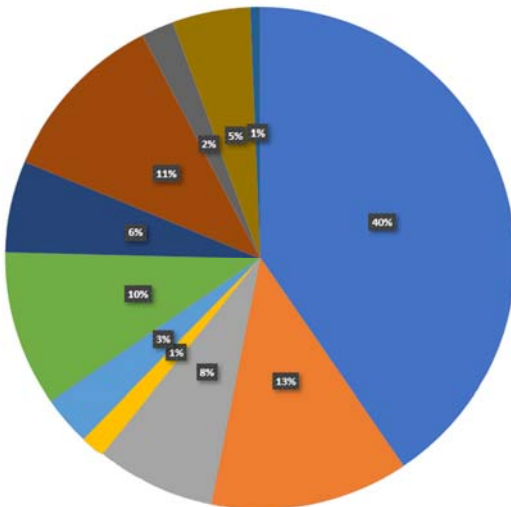
2020 Financial Accounting

Bat World 2020 Income



- Donations from the public
- Commissions from store awareness items and workshops
- Grants
- *Bequest to Bat World Sanctuary (See Special Note on page 5 and article on page 48.)

Bat World 2020 Expenses



- Pipe fence to protect the property from feral hogs (page 36), goat barn, new intern quarters (page 48) & flood repair
- *Fruit bat rescues from across the U.S. and donations to rescue centers involved
- Food and nutritional supplies
- Insurance
- Medical & veterinary supplies
- Shipping, office & resale supplies
- **Operating expenses
- Payroll
- Printing and website services and fees
- ***Professional Fees
- Travel (rescues & conferences)

* The Covid-19 pandemic caused several exotic pet trade dealers to “dump” their stock. We rescued these bats from various locations across the U.S to prevent them from entering the cruel, exotic pet trade. See pages 6, 19, 26, and 32.

**Utilities, building maintenance, cleaning supplies, enrichment items.

***Professional fees include contractor, carpenter, legal, bookkeeping and accounting fees.

Breakdown of Income & Expenses

<i>Income</i>		<i>Expenses</i>	
Donations from the public	\$278,234.38	Pipe fence, barn, new intern quarters & flood repair	\$246,326.00
Commissions from store and workshops	\$154,017.28	Fruit bat rescue/travel expenses & donations to the rescue centers involved. These centers are now equipped with permits and temporary flight enclosures to help with future rescues of fruit bats in the pet trade.	\$76,500.76
Grants	\$25,000.00	Food & nutritional supplements	\$46,200.36
*Bequest to Bat World Sanctuary	\$1,000,000.00	Insurance	\$9,282.30
		Medical & veterinary	\$19,118.08
		**Shipping, office & resale supplies	\$61,207.07
		Operating expenses	\$35,859.63
		Payroll	\$67,241.28
		Printing & website services and fees	\$12,571.31
		Professional fees	\$30,072.00
		Travel expenses	\$3,826.51
Total income	\$1,457,251.66	*Total expenses	\$608,205.30

***SPECIAL NOTES:** Total expenses paid include savings we had in reserve for critical needs. The significant bequest to Bat World Sanctuary allowed us to invest in high-yield CDs and a high-yield savings account. The interest income will help Bat World Sanctuary survive during unforeseen financial hardships. Grants and donations from the public continue to support our rescue operations each year.

**Shipping, office, items for resale and program expenses include ink, t-shirts, educational materials, shipping expenses and items needed to create our Adopt-a-Bat sponsorship packages.

This accounting reflects 2020 through the third quarter; it does not reflect the entire year. Please see “Annual Reports” at batworld.org to view year-end IRS 990s.

2020 Rescues

Your contributions enabled us to save 698 orphaned, injured and displaced bats in the U.S. and internationally. Although a few of these bats were not releasable, over 600 bats now fly free because you bought their food, medicine, and housing, and you provided resources critical to our rescue efforts. The bats featured in this section represent a few of the lives saved through your support. For a complete list please visit batworld.org/rescue-log.

THE MINI S EXOTIC ZOO

On January 7th, 2020 we received a call from Chances Wildlife Center (SCWC) in Kentucky. They had just picked up several Egyptian fruit bats that were offered for sale by the Mini S Exotic Zoo. The zoo was located in Mineola, Texas and owned by Michelle Smith. SCWC reported to us that the remaining bats at the zoo desperately needed to be rescued before they entered the pet trade. The bat exhibit was closing in order to make room for an anteater.

Appallingly, 60 bats were being kept inside an enclosure that measured 4' wide by 8' long by 10' tall. No windows, natural light, fresh water, fresh food or fresh air was available and the building smelled heavily of ammonia.

One food dish was located on the floor (bat dishes should always be hung from the ceiling within easy reach for bats). The dish contained slices of what appeared to be rotten apples. The top of the food was contaminated with bat feces and urine, and roaches were visible. Wood shavings were on the floor, covered in excrement and urine. Only one small roosting cloth was available, also covered in filth.

Two bats had injuries. One pitiful female Egyptian fruit bat had only one leg, and that leg was broken and badly infected. She was completely debilitated and feebly crawled across the filthy floor, dragging her broken leg. She did not have the ability to reach the cage ceiling or her roostmates so she was condemned to live on the contaminated, roach infested floor. SCWC asked if they could have the one-legged bat to get her medical attention, but Michelle Smith denied their request. She would only release the suffering bat if SCWC paid for her. SCWC bought the bat so she could receive the help she desperately needed. Four to five sloths were also housed in the building. They were in small, individual cages with no enrichment, food or water. One of the sloths was pacing.

When SCWC called us there were still 52 bats at the Mini S Exotic zoo who were in grave need of help. We immediately called the zoo owner, Michelle Smith, to make arrangements to procure the remaining 52 bats. Although we never approve of purchasing bats, in order to get these bats out of their horrendous situation as quickly as possible and keep them out of the pet trade, we were forced to buy them. Michelle Smith described that the



Above: The Egyptian fruit bat rescued by SCWC who had only one leg, and that leg was broken and severely infected. This photo was taken after the bat was removed from the floor of the Mini S Exotic Zoo enclosure and then placed into a padded carrier with fresh water and fruit, which she immediately began to devour.

Right: A radiograph showing the break in the fractured leg and the severe tissue swelling surrounding the break. The bone was stabilized and antibiotics and pain relievers were given until her injury healed. While undergoing treatment she miscarried a stillborn pup.

Despite all of this, she is doing well and now has a life of comfort and care with SCWC.

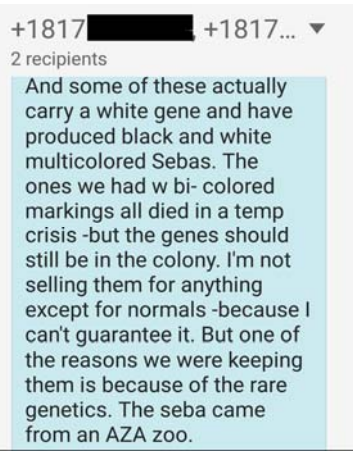


Seba bats (also known as short-tailed fruit bats) were “rare” and possessed a black-and-white gene that could make us a “lot of money”. She went on to say that all of the other black and white Seba bats she had died during a “temperature crisis”, which means the bats were not provided heat or air conditioning as necessary to protect them. Michelle Smith also bragged that BWS is the only group who got adults, the others sold were all babies.

When rescuers arrived at the Mini S Exotic Zoo, they observed that, although small, the outdoor animal enclosures for public viewing appeared clean and well maintained. Michelle Smith explained that all the animals were kept in smaller outbuildings during cold weather. No one knew at the time how deplorable these small outbuildings were. Smith, herself, lived onsite in a large brick home. She invited the rescuers inside to show them her newly remodeled kitchen where it appeared that she spared no expense.



Mariah Adams



Above, top: A screen grab of one of the texts we received from Michelle Smith, owner of the Mini S Exotic Zoo. Her last statement is further evidence of AZA accredited zoos leaking bats to private dealers as well as into the cruel exotic pet trade. The second screen grab is an ad placed on the Mini S Exotic Zoo Facebook page.

Left: The only dish of “food” available to 52 fruit bats was on the floor of their filthy enclosure. The slices of apple appeared rotten and they were covered in bat feces. Roaches were also noticed throughout the enclosure.

Right: The tiny, feculent enclosure where over 50 bats were forced to live for several years. This cage was inside a small outbuilding with no ventilation or natural light.





Moriah Adams

Bats waiting for rescue inside inappropriate wire cages. One bat had her head stuck in the wire and a huge area of skin was torn off. The photo below shows healing taking place at Bat World.

When we arrived, the bats were already gathered up. We were then told they had been in the crates (pictured above) for over 24 hours. Food was available in the crates but it appeared to have recently been placed inside as nothing at all had been eaten. One of the seba bats had an injured nose-leaf that was almost torn off. Another seba bat had her head stuck in the wire and her head was almost scalped (see photo above). Some of the bats had babies and others were heavily pregnant. One anguished and apparently exhausted mother seba bat appeared to be using all of her strength to support herself and her baby on the side of the hazardous wire cage. We immediately transferred the bats to our own appropriate transport carriers and gave them our own fresh food and water. The bats immediately started to drink water and devour the fresh fruit.



Amanda Lollar

In the middle of our rescue, Michelle Smith informed us that a few months prior she had sold a young female pup, from her group of Egyptians, to a buyer in Missouri. Our hearts sank at this knowledge. Egyptian fruit bats form strong, lifetime family bonds. Offspring stay with their mothers for up to two years and then never leave the colony. We pressed Michelle, on a daily basis, in order to obtain the buyers contact information. We finally received it almost a week later and then pleaded with the buyer to allow the pup to return to her family. Thankfully, we succeeded and the pup was back with her mother about a week later.



Amanda Lollar

Above, the pup we call Lily, who was separated from her mom as a baby, rejoins her colony. Lily has a temporary green mark on her head so we can watch her as she settles in. We believe the bat with the scared face that Lily is nuzzling is her mother.

Two other Egyptian fruit bat females were pregnant at the time of rescue and gave birth to beautiful little boys (pictured below are the pups clinging to their mothers). With us, these mothers and babies will never be separated and will remain together for life.



Amanda Lollar



The male fruit bats we rescue are neutered as we would soon run out of space if they were allowed to reproduce. Unfortunately the bats cannot be released as they are not from the US, and getting them back to their original countries is not feasible. We are so very fortunate to have Tad Jarrett, DVM, our veterinarian of over 25 years, help us on-site with neutering the male fruit bats and attending to other medical issues when they arise.

Above left: Our wonderful veterinarian Dr. Tad Jarrett neutering the male bats rescued from Mini S. Exotic Zoo. Above and middle right: Two sleepy bats waking from anesthesia. Lower right: "WhoDat", one of several bats from Mini S, who's personalities has blossomed. Whodat is trusting, takes treats and is active in welcoming and helping another rescue, Baxter (see page 26) to recover.



Addison McCool

Addison McCool

Emily Laszczak

Amanda Lollar

The total number of bats we rescued from Mini S Exotic Zoo included 10 Egyptian fruit bats and 42 short-tailed bats. There were pregnant mothers within both species.

At Mini S Exotic Zoo, no consideration was ever given to these bats other than what profit could be made off of them. They were confined to a dark, windowless outbuilding with no fresh air, food or water and nothing whatsoever to occupy their intelligent minds. But others are at fault besides animal dealers like Michelle Smith. USDA's Animal and Plant Health Inspection Service (APHIS) is sorely lacking in minimum standards for bats in particular, enabling places like the Mini S Exotic Zoo to get away with the mistreatment of bats. The Association of Zoos and Aquariums (AZA) is also to blame in that some of these zoos, even the accredited ones, allow bats to over-breed and then leak the excess into the pet trade as well as research. We have made complaints to both agencies and as of this date, The Mini S Exotic Zoo has closed.



Amanda Lollar

We are so appreciative that we were in a position to get these suffering, abused bats to safety and out of harm's way. Our donors make these rescues possible. Now, our focus is making sure these beautiful beings understand they will not be going anywhere else; they truly are safe in their forever home with dozens of others just like them. They will be able to fly freely in indoor-outdoor enclosures and eat all of the nourishing food their little bellies can hold.



Amanda Lollar

Top: Two of the 42 short-tailed fruit bats rescued from the Mini S Exotic Zoo. Bottom: The ten Egyptian fruit bats rescued from Mini S Exotic Zoo, blending completely with their new forever family.

EMPTY "TANK"



Amanda Lollar

Brazilian free-tailed bats begin to migrate back into the US as early as mid-January in some areas of the U.S. That was the case with little Tank, who essentially "ran out of gas" during his trip and ended up stranded on a window screen. After a few days of rest and refueling with some nutritious food, he was back to flying free and eating loads of harmful crop pests. Free-tailed bats are amazing in that they can fly as fast as 100 miles per hour with a tailwind and migrate as far as 1,500 miles one way.



Amanda Lollar

COLD SNAP BAT

When sub-freezing temperatures hit in February it caught many free-tailed bats off guard, including this little forlorn-looking boy whom we saved after he and several roostmates fell down from behind a sign hanging on a brick building. We rescued over 50 bats that day but sadly only 28 survived. The 28 surviving bats all recovered nicely and were released back to the wild when the weather warmed up.

Aberforth the evening bat somehow ended up in a swimming pool during scorching summer temperatures, and had no way to escape. Unfortunately, in his attempts to escape he tore a ligament in his forearm that controls the ability to move the wrist and fully extend the wing (an absolute necessity for flight). His injury means that his flying (and swimming) days are over. If you have a pool please consider adding a Frog Log as well as a Critter Skimmer (page 47). Both items can save countless small lives.



ABERFORTH

Kate Rugroden

Little Crispin, an eastern red bat, somehow ended up inside a planter outside a restaurant in a busy downtown area only to find that there was no 'all you can eat buffet'. Worse, nowhere on the menu could he find moths, flies, mosquitoes, gnats, or any other tasty flying



insects. Luckily, one of the staff scooped Crispin into a take-out container and called Bat World MidCities for help. He was found to be very dehydrated and a bit thin but otherwise uninjured. After a few days of an actual 'all you can eat bug buffet' he was able to be released back to the wild.

Like Tank, pictured above left on the opposite page, little Titan also ran out of fuel during his winter migration from Mexico back into the U.S. He had a bruised forearm but thankfully no broken bones. Strong winds had passed through the area which may have blown him into an object, causing the bruise. After some pain medication and rest he healed beautifully and was released to eat thousands of flying insects nightly.



Annie Oakley, a hoary bat, was spotted at the base of a tree in a town about an hour away from us. Tree bats, which include hoary bats and red bats, frequently end up on the ground when they are chased from trees by birds. Oftentimes, these bats can simply be placed into a different tree or safely contained by the finder and then released at nightfall. When we asked the caller if she could send a photo of the bat so we could determine if the bat was uninjured and could



possibly be placed into a tree, the caller said she had already left her son's house (where the bat was located) and she did not want to go back to take a photo. So we asked her if she could connect us with her son in order to get more information. She said her son wasn't at his house and she did not know his address. She then said that if we did not come immediately she was going to go kill the bat by shooting it with her gun. So we explained that we would head her way (two rescuers went for safety's sake) and that it would take about an hour to get there. She then stated "tell your rescuer to hurry or I will shoot it." When our rescuers reached the woman's town, they called for her son's address, as she had earlier instructed us to do. She then, **finally**, provided the house number and street. When our rescuers arrived there were about a dozen people there having a cook-out, including the caller and her son. They were apparently there with the bat the entire time. Little Annie Oakley was rescued, found to be uninjured and released back to the wild that same night. Thankfully no one was shot.

With summer temperatures in Texas reaching 108 degrees and no rain in sight, bats began to have a difficult time. This little free-tailed bat ducked under a porch roof to find some shade. When the homeowners tried to shoo him away he flew out into the blistering heat and then right back into the shade of their porch, so they called us for help. After some emergency fluids, and a few days of rest and cooler temperatures, "Sizzle" was released.



BUTTERS



Amanda Lollar

Butters, a velvety free-tailed bat, hailing from somewhere in South America, somehow ended up in a semi-truck full of produce being shipped to Dallas, TX. The driver saw him clinging to a box as he was unloading the truck, called us, and then drove little Butters to Bat World Sanctuary. Butters was in good shape when he arrived, just a bit dehydrated. Unfortunately Butters cannot be released back to the wild due to the red tape of transporting him to another country and not knowing exactly where he came from or the location of his colony. Butters will instead live out his life with his North American cousins, Mexican free-tailed bats, here at Bat World Sanctuary. Our non-releasable free-tail colony immediately accepted Butters into their roost and he seems quite happy snuggling with his new friends and flying whenever he pleases in the large flight enclosure made just for them.



Kate Rugroden

IRVING

Irving the evening bat was blown to the ground when a strong thunderstorm blew through. He was scooped up and taken to Bat Word Mid-Cities where fortunately he was found to be uninjured. After a few days of rest and several hand-fed meals he was ready to get back to his colony and eagerly flew off into the night. In the wild, evening bats eat thousands of insects nightly including cucumber beetles, ants, spittle bugs, pomace flies, stinkbugs, and small moths.

GROVER



Before



After

Kate Rugroden

Poor Grover, an eastern red bat, got caught in severe thunderstorms and ended up on the ground, unable to take flight. He was uninjured but then developed aspiration pneumonia from inhaling rainwater. After two weeks of care he was given a clean bill of health and released back to the wild.

This pretty little free-tailed bat was rescued during an exclusion where bats were roosting. We are working with the building owner to make sure the bats get out safely as the building is dangerous for the bats and is being renovated. Bernadette, along with a few other roost mates, was afraid to leave the building through the exclusion netting (this always happens with a few bats during exclusions). She was gently swept into a dust pan by the owner of the building and we were able to safely extract the rest of her friends and release them into our bat castle where they were free to leave at nightfall. With luck they will go tell their roost mates about the castle so more bats will move in.

BERNADETTE



Before



After

Amanda Lollar



Amanda Lollar



Top: Sarah on the day she arrived at Bat Word Sanctuary. She is wrapped in a towel to make her feel more secure.

Center: An ad placed online by Sarah's previous owner. Luckily PA Bat Rescue was alerted to the ad and Sarah was rescued before she entered the cruel, exotic pet trade where she likely would have been used for breeding purposes.

Below: Sarah the morning following her introduction to the rescued Egyptian fruit bat colony at Bat World Sanctuary. Many of these bats came from similar situations as Sarah. In this photo her head is marked in green so we could keep track of her as she settled in. Sarah now has a huge indoor-outdoor flight enclosure and over 80 friends of her own kind.



Amanda Lollar

We initially heard about Sarah through Pennsylvania Bat Rescue (pabatrescue.org), a nonprofit group doing a tremendous job for the bats of PA. Founder Steph Morlock became aware of a young Egyptian fruit bat who was for sale locally in the exotic pet trade. Steph contacted the seller, who explained that the youngster was the offspring of a pair of fruit bats she owned. She said the youngster was “aggressive” and did not want to be handled, so she isolated the young female in a small cage and kept her in the hallway all alone. Steph contacted us and we immediately made arrangements to purchase the bat. As stated in our Mini S Rescue article on page 6, we do not approve of purchasing bats as that only serves to propagate the pet trade. However, there are exceptions, such as cases like this, where a pet trade dealer is not involved and the life of a bat is at stake.

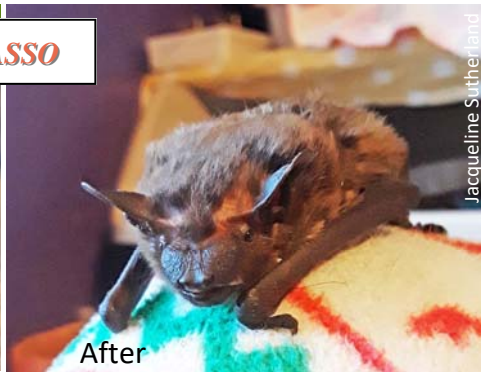
With the help of Steph, we were able to procure little Sarah and get her to the safe and loving hands of PA Bat Rescue. We had just started making arrangements to get Sarah to TX when the pandemic hit. With travel being very limited for a long period, Sarah remained at PA Bat Rescue for the next four months. During that time she displayed no aggression whatsoever and learned to trust her caregivers enough to accept treats.

In July, Bat World volunteer extraordinaire Jennifer Dantzler flew to PA and drove little Sarah from PA to TX to bring Sarah home. She is pictured on the left, settled in with her new forever family.

PICASSO



Before



After

Jacqueline Sutherland

This sweet little evening bat was accidentally spray painted with a water based paint during construction of a home. According to the painter, she was tucked up near the ceiling and was not noticed until the sprayer was swept over her thin form. After four baths and brushings by Bat World, most of the matted areas were removed from her fur. She remained relaxed the entire time, seeming to realize that she was being helped. After a few days of rest she was ready to go free and eat flying insects once again.

Little "Fina" found herself grounded with a broken wing at a Pastafina Restaurant. The kind folks at the restaurant scooped her up in a to-go dish and added a couple of cherry tomatoes so she could have a little moisture. On intake it was discovered that Fina had a severely fractured wing. It was broken in several places and the exposed bone was

FINA



Amanda Lollar



dried up. That, along with her poor body condition which included dehydration and emaciation meant that she had likely been struggling on the ground for several days before being spotted. Sadly, her wing could not be saved. However, Fina made a full recovery, learned to feed herself from a dish and is now living happily in our indoor cave, with others of her kind at Bat World Sanctuary, where she will have lifetime care.

HARLEY



Kate Rugroden

Harley was found grounded at a Walmart store by employees who used a box to scoop her up. They then offered her bits of banana, thinking she was a fruit bat. She was collected by Bat World MidCities, where she was found to be painfully thin, likely from migrating back to Texas from Mexico. It took several weeks of supportive care until she was strong enough to be released back to the wild. She is out there now happily gobbling up beetles, mosquitoes, flying ants, flying termites and tons of crop-damaging corn borer moths.



Kate Rugroden

RESCUES IN HIGH PLACES



Amanda Lollar



Emily Laszczak

A pastor at a church spotted a small dark form clinging to the wall, and could not figure out what it was until he used binoculars to get a better look. Realizing there was a bat trapped inside the church, he then called us for help. Oddly enough, most of the staff at Bat World have a slight fear of heights, all but Moriah that is. So Moriah braved the extremely tall ladder and secured the tiny frightened bat, who happened to be a little male free-tail. After a few days of supportive care he was able to go back to the wild.

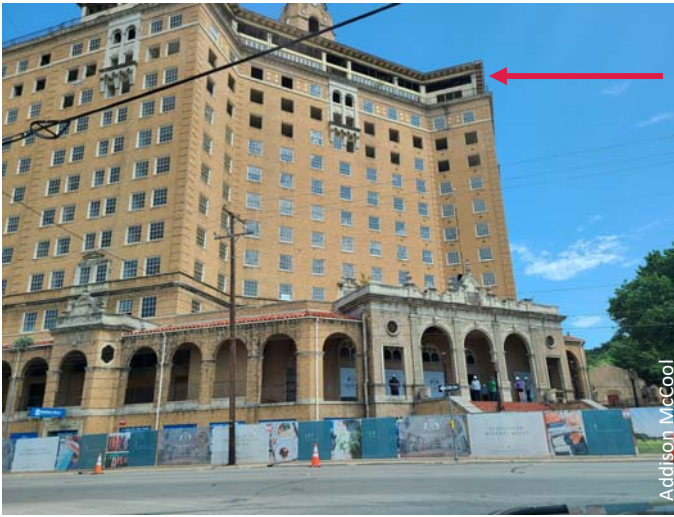
A little free-tailed bat found herself trapped and flailing for dear life on a power line and was fortunately spotted by rescuer Moriah. We immediately contacted a local businessman, Randy Nix, who quickly sent over a bucket truck. Moriah was able to then remove little "Electra" from the power line and save her life. Electra's wing (pictured on the upper right), was so badly damaged that it could not be saved, so she will live out her life with others of her kind here at Bat World.



Amanda Lollar



ELECTRA



Baker, an orphaned free-tailed bat, somehow ended up on the top floor of the Baker Hotel as it was being renovated. Fortunately, he was spotted by a construction worker who then called us. Baker was starving and extremely dehydrated but made a full recovery. See his “after” photo on page 27.



Wee Gnome, the tricolor bat, was found inside an office in downtown Ft. Worth, Texas. He was rescued by Bat World MidCities and thankfully found to be uninjured, but at just 6 grams (about the weight of a nickel), he had no fat reserves to



spare. He was given a few weeks of supportive care and finally gained enough weight to survive without difficulty. Wee Gnome flew off into the night to gobble up moths, beetles, mosquitoes, night midges, flies, and ants.

This heavily pregnant free-tail was found unable to take flight in a downtown area. She appeared to be a first-time mom, and they usually have a very hard time. At birth their babies are, on average, 1/4 the size of the mother (the equivalent of a 120 pound woman giving birth to a 30 pound baby). During pregnancy she must be able to fly with this added weight, and work even harder to consume enough insects to feed herself as well as her rapidly growing, unborn pup. (Imagine having to run a marathon every night while holding a bowling ball just to catch your food!) This little mom stayed with us until she had her pup, a little boy. She nursed him for the ensuing 10 weeks while we took care of her, and when they were both ready, they flew off into the night sky together. Both mom and baby will each be capable of eating 20-million harmful flying insects in their lifespan of 15 to 20 years.





Moriah Adams

HAWK GIRL



Amanda Lollar



Moriah Adams

This little free-tail female had a lucky break escaping an owl or a hawk. She was spotted diving for cover under a homeowner's porch and we were called for help. At first glance we saw minor injuries that included small, symmetrical punctures in her wing membrane, which indicated she was likely grabbed by the talons of a bird of prey and somehow managed to escape. The following day she de-

veloped swelling and abrasions on both her ear lobe and forearm. After pain medication, antibiotics and a few months of rest, her flight abilities were tested and she passed with flying colors. She is now flying free, none worse for the wear.

BLUE JAY BOY

A homeowner working in his yard noticed this little male evening bat being driven to the ground and pecked relentlessly by a blue jay. He ran over to the bat and shooed the bird away, then used his hat to scoop up the injured bat. Thankfully the bat only suffered minor membrane tears and no broken bones so he was able to go free after his injuries healed.



Kate Rugroden



This summer we rescued 102 red bat mothers and pups, yellow bat babies and Seminole pups, all tree bat species. Thankfully, many of the small families were intact and able to be placed safely back into trees. However, over 87 pups were orphaned and subsequently needed to be hand-raised.

Tree bats are among the few bat species that give birth to more than one live young. Red bats in particular typically have three to five pups every summer. They roost openly in trees using their “dried leaf” coloring as camouflage. Despite this natural ability to hide in plain sight, they are still sometimes spotted by birds such as blue jays and crows.

Mothers trying to escape bird attacks may drop their babies while flying away or they may end up on the ground due to the weight of their pups. Once these mothers are grounded, they often refuse to leave their babies even if it means not surviving. When small families like these are found on the ground and they are uninjured, they can be placed into a tree that is safely away from the birds (for directions please see batworld.org/found-a-bat). Once safely in a tree, a mother bat will typically leave at nightfall, taking her pups with her -one at a time- to a location she prefers.

Each of these orphans was fed a milk formula that is specifically for tree bats, four to five times per day for six to eight weeks. After that they are trained to eat live mealworms. When the pups are ready, which is usually between eight and ten weeks of age, they are allowed to fly in a large flight enclosure to hone their flight skills before being released to the wild.



Top: Three 10-day old red bat siblings who were orphaned after a bird attack. Bottom: A ten-day old red bat pup.

ORPHANED FREE-TAILS



Addison McCool

Little Baker, the free-tailed pup above (story on page 21) blossomed into a healthy, robust adult after he was found starving to death. He was one of only 6 free-tailed pups rescued this summer. In this photo he is nursing from a foam eye-shadow applicator tip that has been removed from the wand. Warm milk formula, developed specifically for free-tailed species, is dropped onto the tip as the pup nurses.

This tiny life was saved by Bat World Bulgaria after his mother was found clinging to curtains inside a home in Sofia, Bulgaria. The homeowner shook the curtain to try to get the bat to leave. Sadly, the mother was giving birth at the time. The stress and panic she felt forced her to leave without her newly-born baby. Under the care of Bat World Bulgaria the tiny baby survived, grew into a beautiful adult and is now flying free.



ORPHANED SAVI'S PIPISTRELLE

Vyara Krushkova

We became aware of Baxter's predicament very early in 2020, when the woman who owned Baxter contacted us asking if we could take him. The woman had a menagerie of exotic animals that she used for education in Minnesota, and she was ready to retire. She stated that she had acquired Baxter 12 years prior and that she needed to place him right away. Of course we immediately agreed to take him.



We offered to make travel arrangements to get Baxter transported from MN to TX but the woman stated that she wanted to drive him to us in April, when the weather was warmer. We wholeheartedly agreed, as that would be less stressful for Baxter to be transported by someone he was familiar with.

In our conversations with Baxter's owner, we learned that he had been purchased at a very young age and that he was in a small cage that did not allow flight. This was very sad for us to hear as his existence all those years could have been happy instead of living a life of total isolation. In fact, most fruit bats do not survive their first year of being all alone, so we were shocked that Baxter had the will to survive, without the company of his kind, for over a decade.

By March, Covid-19 was causing travel restrictions so Baxter's trip was postponed. As the weeks passed we reached out to Baxter's owner several times and offered to meet her half way. We explained that if needed, we

would drive to her. Additionally, we had a rescue volunteer in MN who agreed to temporarily house Baxter until he could get to us. Baxter's owner repeatedly declined all of these offers. Then, in July, when we reached out to Baxter's owner again, she informed us that she was tired of waiting to place him so she had transferred him to a small zoo.

We were confused and found her actions unconscionable, but most of all we were absolutely devastated for Baxter. We pressed his owner and learned that the zoo where Baxter went was actually a wolf center and that Baxter was still alone and confined to a small cage. Outside of being used for an educational exhibit in October, which we noted on the wolf group's Facebook page, thankfully there would be no benefit for the wolf center to keep Baxter permanently. We then began reaching out to the wolf center to see if they were open to allowing Baxter to retire to Bat World Sanctuary. We hoped that appealing to their sense of compassion might help and explained in great detail that



Opposite page: Whodat, rescued from the Mini S Exotic Zoo (page 12) was the first to approach Baxter and welcome him to the group. Left: Baxter appearing to smile as he looks toward his new forever family. Below: Whodat nuzzling Baxter's chest.

Egyptian fruit bats are highly social and Baxter had already been alone for 12 years. He deserved to live the remaining half of his life with the company of his own kind in a large and enriched flight enclosure. Unfortunately, this fell on deaf ears so we offered to make a donation to the wolf center for the "release" of Baxter. Sadly, that is what it took to get the lines of communication open. When the wolf center agreed, volunteer Jennifer Dantzer immediately booked a flight to MN, secured Baxter and then drove him to Texas. Two short days later Baxter was with us.

When Baxter arrived we were shocked to see that, along with being thin, he had lost most of his teeth. Egyptian fruit bats typically have healthy teeth and rarely have dental issues. Baxter's tooth loss indicated that he had likely been taken from his mother at a young age and was deprived of the calcium necessary to keep his mouth healthy. Along with this, Baxter was mentally scarred from being all alone for over a decade. He was completely overwhelmed with seeing another bat and began to shake uncontrollably. For this reason, we introduced him to the

elderly bats first. The elderly bats live in our "geriatric ward" where they can still see the younger bats in the flight area, however their space is smaller and thickly padded to prevent injuries in case of falls, which elderly bats frequently experience. Baxter quickly grew to trust his new surroundings, especially the elderly Egyptian fruit bats. By the second day he began to cuddle with them almost constantly. When Baxter was ready, we introduced him to the large flight enclosure and 80+ Egyptian fruit bats who came from similar situations, just like him. We marked his head with green nontoxic paste so we could keep track of him as he settled in. The photos here show Baxter during the introduction.

It is often said that money can't buy happiness, but in Baxter's case we believe it truly did.



SMUDGE



Before

Little Smudge, an orphaned evening bat, found herself in a bit of a hot spot when she slipped through an open chimney and out onto a black granite hearth. Fortunately, the homeowners spotted her and contacted Bat World MidCities for help. Smudge was thankfully uninjured, but only about two-weeks old. She was covered in soot, dehydrated, and very thin, indicating that she was indeed orphaned. She likely slipped and fell into the chimney in search of her mother, who may have herself become injured and unable to return to the roost. After a few injections of warmed electrolytes and a first feeding of milk formula, plus two baths, she looked much better. (The photo above was taken after her 2nd bath.) After a few weeks in care it was determined that she had thankfully not inhaled any soot from the chimney. When she was ready and able to survive on her own, she was released, along with several other evening bat orphans who were ready to go.



After



LINDBERG

Lindberg, a Mexican free-tail bat, made a bad decision when he chose to roost in an airplane hangar. He was right by the door when the owner raised it, and he got caught in the pulley cable, resulting in a disastrous wing injury. He was rescued by a Bat World Sanctuary volunteer who then transported him to Bat World Mid-Cities. After receiving pain

medication and antibiotics for several weeks he recovered nicely. However, he is not releasable due to his extensive wing injury so he will enjoy a “permanent layover” in Bat World’s “luxury lounge”.



ASTER

A firefighter noticed Aster, an eastern red bat, tangled up in the tether lines of the flag pole and quickly worked to untangle her. Her wing was damaged and she will not likely be able to fly again so Aster is receiving lifetime care. She was rescued by Bat World Mid-Cities, where her injuries healed. She was also heavily pregnant when injured and later gave birth to four healthy pups who were released when they were old enough to fly.

PLEASE NOTE: We are trained and vaccinated to handle bats so we sometimes use bare hands in our photos as it allows better tactile sensitivity and control. However, if you find a bat please remember to use gloves or a towel as the bat will be frightened and may bite in self-defense. Please contact us if you find a bat, we have rescuers around the world and will do our best to help.

Protect yourself, protect them

**NEVER
RESCUE
A BAT
BARE
HANDED!**



Find help at batworld.org

BENNIE & THE JET



Amanda Loller

Bennie is another Egyptian fruit bat rescued from the pet trade this year. She had been purchased as a pet and her owner did not have a clue how to care for her. We were alerted to Bennie when someone shared an online ad with us where Bennie was being offered for sale in South Carolina. According to the owner, he just wanted to recoup his money. He mistakenly thought Bennie was a male. Had he known that Bennie was actually a female she would have been sold into the pet trade at a much higher price and dismally used for breeding purposes. The exotic pet trade is tremendously cruel on Egyptian fruit bats in particular. Babies are often ripped from their mothers chest and sold at a young age. Mother bats grieve for weeks for their missing pups, who, without the company of their own kind, ultimately die. Egyptian fruit bats have a lifespan of 25

years and families typically stay together for life.

Wildlife rescuers Joanne Weitzel and Anne Palyok went to retrieve Bennie from the house where she was kept and they were appalled at the conditions. The house was in shambles, with ashtrays and beer cans everywhere. Bennie was in a glass cage in the living room with only a single rope to cling from. The food bowl contained something that looked like gruel. It was later learned that the gruel was a mixture of crushed monkey chow and instant milk. Bennie is a fruit bat; this is something that Bennie would have only eaten to prevent herself from starving to death. As expected, she was extremely thin and malnourished.

Aside from the conditions of Bennie, there were other exotic animals in the house. A fennec fox with what looked to be an infected eye was cowering in a crate, and a fawn appeared out of nowhere, just walking through the living room. When asked, the owner replied that the fox was for sale and the deer was being held for a wildlife rehabilitator. The owner explained that they were moving and needed to get rid of the bat and the fox. We knew we could not leave that poor little fox behind, so he was also rescued (see page 37).

Later we learned of 8 more Egyptian fruit bats (mothers and young babies) and 5 short-tailed fruit bats that were destined for the pet trade in Florida so we networked with Amy Furbee and the rescue group Birds Gone Wild to

rescue these bats. Then, Joanne, Anne and Amy coordinated to get all of the bats to one location. The bats were then flown to Bat World Sanctuary via a private pilot secured by Amy.

All of these beings, including the fox, are now safe and will spend the rest of their lives in comfort and safety. Bennie will overcome her nutritional

deficiencies with proper vitamins and food, and the fruit bat moms and babies will spend their lives together as they are meant to do.

We could not save bats like these without the support of our wonderful donors. Thank you for helping us save these precious lives as well as those still waiting to be saved from a life of misery.



Moriath Adams

Left, opposite page: Bennie after she arrived at Bat World Sanctuary. Her fur is rough and her wing membrane has lost elasticity from months of inappropriate food. However, she is eating well and will make a full recovery from her deficiencies.

Above left: The pilot unloading the crate that holds nine Egyptian fruit bats.

Above right: The Bat World staff peeking into the crate to make sure the five short-tailed fruit bats inside arrived safe and sound.

Lower left: A mother Egyptian fruit bat and her daughter, who will now be able to remain together for life, as nature intended.

Lower right: the group of nine rescued Egyptian fruit bats together in the quarantine enclosure at Bat World Sanctuary. After they have de-stressed from the transfer they will be moved to the large indoor-semi-outdoor enclosure with the other sanctuary bats.

Not pictured are the short-tailed fruit bats who are all doing fine as well.



Amanda Lollar

CRICKET



Kate Rugroden

Sometimes fate puts us in the right place at the right time, and the world is a better place for it. Bat World Mid-Cities volunteer Jennifer was visiting family, and when she stopped to fill her car and head home, spotted an injured bat in the parking lot. She carefully scooped up little Cricket the pallid bat, bringing him straight to Bat World

MidCities for the help he so urgently needed. He had a badly broken wrist, was thin and dehydrated, and in a lot of pain. He received pain medication and antibiotics, and his wing was tended to and healed nicely. He can no longer fly but he will live a full, happy life with his new colony of nonreleasable bat friends.



ACORN



Kate Rugroden

This sweet evening bat was injured during removal of a dead tree where he happened to be roosting earlier this year. He was understandably frightened from the ordeal and displayed typical defense behavior often used by bats who are panicked. This behavior includes opening their mouths to show their teeth to try to look aggressive, spreading their wings in an attempt to look larger, clicking and hissing, and sometimes even flipping onto their backs and flapping their wings.

Unfortunately, Acorn's wing was injured. However, despite his attempt to look scary, he was saved and we were called. He was located over 200 miles from us but one of our wonderful volunteers made the 400-mile round trip to rescue him. Acorn healed nicely and is now receiving lifetime care.

Evening bats often roost in dead trees. Please take a moment to check before pruning or removing trees to ensure that the tree is not occupied.

Rescuing in Other Areas

In 2020 we helped individuals and bat care professionals in 73 locations worldwide. Using photos and videos, we were able to identify species, share book chapters on bat care and rehabilitation published by Bat World Sanctuary, and offer medical advice to veterinarians, researchers, biologists and wildlife rehabilitators around the world.

This year we provided book chapters on how to treat injured bats and raise orphaned bats to bat rescuers in the following International locations:

Austria, Belize, Brazil, Bulgaria, Canada, Columbia, Croatia, East African Coast, France, Germany, Greece, Hong Kong, Hungary, India, Italy, Jamaica, Kenya, Malaysia, Mexico, Pakistan, Poland, Puerto Rico, Puerto Vallarta, Romania, Trinidad, Turkey, Singapore, South Africa, Switzerland, Ukraine and the United Kingdom.

In 2020 we also provided help and information to U.S. bat rescuers as well as assisting the public with downed bats and humane bat exclusions in 43 states.

*For more details on our rescue work please see our **Rescue Log** at batworld.org where you can view the daily logs that include photographs and videos (when available).*

An Accidental "Rescue"



Amanda Lollar

Little "Meadow", an African fruit bat, was born at Bat World Sanctuary earlier this year after one of the elderly male African fruit bats rescued in 2018 became a bit frisky. We assumed logically, because of his age, he would not have the energy (or interest) to reproduce. He certainly proved us wrong. Meadow's mom took excellent care of her and she is now a young adult.

We neuter the male fruit bats because if we allowed reproduction we would soon run out of space and would not have room for bats in need of rescue. Mr. Frisky has since been neutered.

Rescuing Other Species

Our Little Herd



We were shocked, however, at just how much damage could occur. In researching how to humanely keep feral hogs away, we came across disturbing articles of feral hogs causing human fatalities, especially when babies are present. We immediately warned our neighbors and cautioned them to be aware when going outside at night in particular.

Early one morning we noticed severe damage to large areas of ground on Bat World Sanctuary's property. The ground in several areas looked like someone had come in with a tiller and caused the ground to be broken up in numerous places, even fairly large rocks had been overturned. We checked the security cameras to see what could have possibly caused such damage and noticed seven large feral hogs, as well as babies, actively digging up the ground in several areas. We were aware that feral hogs were in our area and that they caused damage.

Our only option in keeping the feral hogs off the areas of Bat World's property that we frequently use was to put up a fence. Thankfully, we did so just in time as the population of feral hogs in our area increased to over 30. The fence we chose allows small animals like rabbits to enter but will keep the feral hogs out. Of course, having a fence meant that we could expand our rescue efforts for livestock in need, so we chose to save a few goats. Having goats also cuts down on the amount of mowing we have to do in spring and summer.



Top: Cheba and her son Poe, getting rid of the tall grass on Bat World's property. Bottom: A portion of the fence that was installed over 1.5 acres of Bat World's 13 acre property. The damage to the ground caused by the feral hogs can be seen along the fence line.

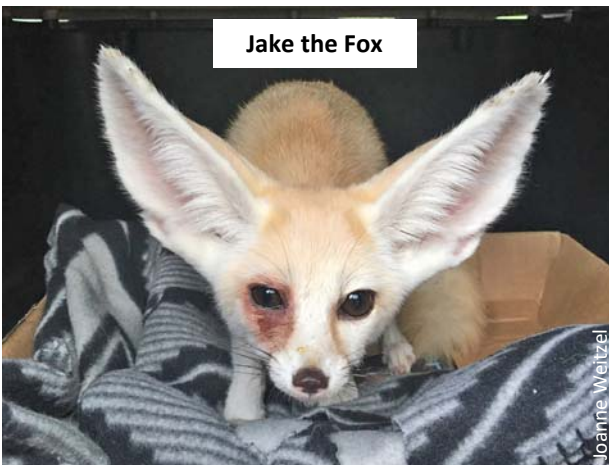


Four of the goats we rescued came from a family who needed to place them because they were “getting picked off by predators.” They were kept in a very small lot with a short fence and three of the babies had been carried off by coyotes. The four we rescued included two mothers and two babies who we named Hilda,

Cheba, Poe and Elvis. More rescues came later. One, a little black and white boy we named Rover, was bought as a pet as a small baby and kept all alone. He was treated much like a dog and even fed dog food, which caused health issues. We corrected his nutritional imbalance and he is now a proper goat. The other rescue, a gray and white little beauty we named Julep, was destined to be dinner. Both Rover and Julep are pictured above.



Having goats on Bat World’s land has proven to be a win-win. Aside from the great job they do keeping the tall weeds down, they seem to love the area where they roam and browse. They also have safe quarters to sleep at night without any fear of coyotes getting in. They have loads of enrichment in the form of a swing made from a pallet, see-saws and wooden spools to climb (pictured above), all built by our wonderful contractor Arturo. To see comical videos of their antics visit our “Inside Bat World” page at batworld.org.



After we rescued Bennie (page 32), we simply could not leave the fennec fox knowing that he was in need of medical attention. We rescued “Jake” a week after rescuing Bennie the Egyptian fruit bat. Jake is now with a wildlife rehabilitator. His eye infection has cleared and he is now forever safe from the pet trade.

Bat Rehabilitation Workshops



In early March we provided a two-day intensive workshop on the rehabilitation of Insectivorous bats to the Carolina Wildlife Conservation Center in Charlotte, NC. North Carolina had previously banned the rescue of bats but Carolina Wildlife worked hard and was successful in changing that legislation. In order to be permitted to rescue bats, NC wildlife rehabilitators were required to take an approved course. The workshop was given by Kate Rugroden, BWS VP of Operations, pictured standing on the far right.

Going Virtual!

With travel and contact restrictions in place due to the COVID-19 pandemic, continuing our commitment to educating bat care professionals has been a significant challenge this year. We met the challenge by going virtual with our classes in bat care and rehabilitation.

Our virtual year began in June, 2020 when VP of Operations Kate Rugroden participated in the annual White Nose Syndrome workshop, hosted by the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service which featured presentations from researchers across the US discussing their most recent work and findings.

In July, 2020, Kate presented a virtual workshop for the Texas Unites for Animals conference, focusing on how animal control officers can effectively handle calls from the public about wildlife issues. Twenty-two officers

participated in this session and discussion of real-life situations they have encountered. In August, 2020, we launched our first virtual training program with a bat rehabilitation online workshop. Although registration opened just one week before the workshop, 37 participants from the U.S., Canada, Ireland, Australia, and Bolivia attended. Additional sessions are scheduled for 2021. Using Internet conferencing capabilities, we also participated in the first annual Heroes 4 Wildlife virtual wildlife rehabilitation conference with a presentation on common injuries in bat rehabilitation. Kate led the discussion with 67 participants from around the world.

We will continue to offer our two-day hands-on workshops as soon as travel and contact restrictions permit.

For additional information please visit batworld.org and click on Workshops.

Education

Facebook Live Streams

This year we began live-streaming on our Facebook page on weekend evenings to help alleviate the stress many folks were feeling while stuck at home during the pandemic. Our live streams are now a regular occurrence and are viewed by hundreds of people at a time. Directors Emily Laszczak and Addison McCool educate and answer viewers' questions in real time.



Teaching Compassion for Bats



We are thrilled to see the Lamar Elementary school in Mineral Wells, Texas "adopting" and supporting Gizmo, a rescued Egyptian fruit bat who lives at Bat World Sanctuary!

Many of the students brought in their spare change to help Gizmo, including Heidi Benavidez (pictured), the daughter of Bat World's very own contractor, Arturo, who often donates materials and time to Bat World Sanctuary (see page 34).

As a thank you for the children's kindness, we hand-delivered a special surprise of books and educational cards to all of these wonderful students and teachers. Children are the future of bat conservation. We so appreciate what teachers do each and every day in shaping a better world for bats.

After an online Zoom program we provided to the American School of Puerto Vallarta in Mexico, the students created a "Bat Cave Sanctuary" where they "treated" injured bats and nursed them back to health. ♥



Activism in 2020

Hands down, 2020 was a terrible year for bats as well as humans. The pandemic was bad enough but on top of this, bats were then unfairly blamed. Then, to make matters worse still, some state and federal agencies took steps to restrict bat rescue, speculating that humans infected with the COVID-19 virus may infect North American bat species, resulting in the bats becoming a new natural reservoir for the virus and leading to new outbreaks of disease in humans. Alternatively, there was concern that bats could be infected and go on to develop lethal disease, further devastating our declining bat populations.

Some of these restrictions have disastrous long-term implications for conservation. Some states recommended that the public be directed to contact local Animal Care and Control agencies if a bat is found on the ground, regardless of the bat's condition, so that the bat can be humanely euthanized. One state called for pest control operators to kill entire colonies roosting in the attics of homes resulting in the deaths of hundreds of bats. In other cases, states directed bat rehabilitators to stop taking in new admissions and to advise the public to leave the bat where they found it, again, regardless of its condition.

We saw many dangerous risks inherent in this approach as the vast majority of compassionate people will not leave an animal to suffer and die. Bat World Sanctuary issued a position statement in response to the wildlife agencies restricting the rehabilitation of bats and urged a rational, scientific, and humane approach to the management and handling of grounded bats.

Over the course of several months, we banded together with several US bat rescue groups including the HSUS, NWRA, IWRC, veterinarians, biologists and bat rehabilitators across the nation in an effort to allow bat rescue in the states where it was being prohibited. Over the following weeks, testing was performed on big brown bats and they proved incapable of contracting Covid-19, so bat rehabilitation was once again allowed in several states. However, to this day there are still states banning bat rescue and even calling for euthanasia.

We are urging letters to be written to the state agencies that are continuing to restrict bat rescue. To learn more about our efforts and how you can help, or to see if your state is involved, please visit Inside Bat World at batworld.org.

COMBATTING NEGATIVE PRESS

Once bats began to be unfairly targeted for causing the pandemic it came from all sides. Social media, newspaper articles and even Pope Francis blamed bats.



Bat populations around the world were targeted and oftentimes killed in fear by people who didn't know better. A large part of our time was spent combating these articles and sharing posts to educate and counter the misinformation that at times seemed never-ending. Some of the papers we contacted included The Washington Post (photo on right), the Business Insider, talk show host Sean Hannity and Professor Scott Galloway (bottom left, opposite page), who wrote back "Thx for this—I've learned a lot. ...they (no surprise) play a valuable role in the ecosystem. In sum, I've been illuminated, and will tweet about it." Thankfully, several reporters also listened and reversed their position, later posting a correction or a positive article on bats. The best response, however, was written to Pope Francis by *Give Bats a Break* (bottom photo). This post went viral and educated millions of people in the process.



 **Pope Francis** 
@Pontifex

When we are in a state of sin, we are like "human bats" who can move about only at night. We find it easier to live in darkness because the light reveals to us what we do not want to see. But then our eyes grow accustomed to darkness and we no longer recognize the light.

19:35 · 22/4/20 · TweetDeck

6,060 Retweets 29K Likes

Give 🦇 A Break @GiveBatsABreak · 13h

Bats pollinate a wide range of flowers and trees that give entire countries their goods for export; they eat literal tons of bugs per night and save farmers millions of \$\$ in pesticides, which also improves the quality of our food; they spread seed & help reforest after disaster.

14 107 1,118

Give 🦇 A Break @GiveBatsABreak · 13h

Really, bats are a better represented by Our Lord's words in Matt. 6:1 when He teaches, "Beware of practicing your piety before men in order to be seen by them..." Bats practice their good works in the darkness and serve as an example to how diligent in service we ought to be.

8 49 540

 **Give 🦇 A Break** @GiveBatsABreak · 13h
Replying to @Pontifex

On the contrary Holy Father, the darkness brings to the bat precisely that which it DOES want to face, not what it doesn't. Bats are not under the cover of night committing crimes for which it should be ashamed, but providing invaluable services to our ecosystems and communities.

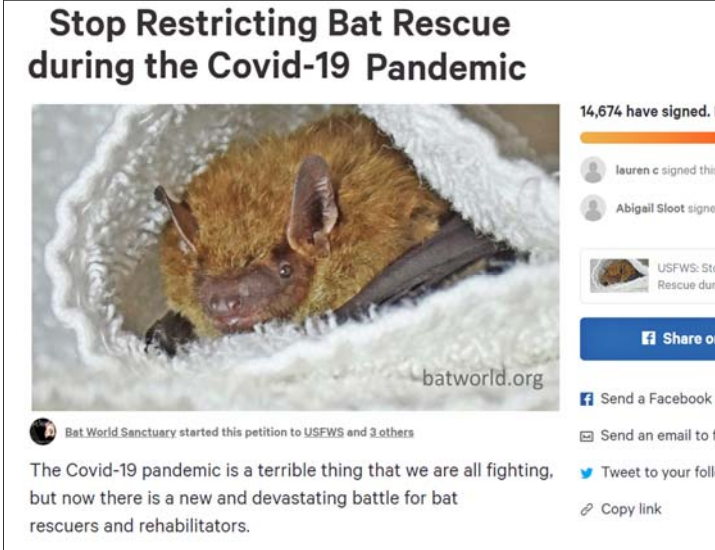
Give 🦇 A Break @GiveBatsABreak · 13h

And all this in the face of constant disrespect, threat of injury and death, very little thanks or praise from humans.

We ought to "not grow weary in well-doing" as St Paul says and expect to be hated in spite of the good we do. THEN we will be like bats.

PETITION TO HELP BATS AND RESCUERS

Our petition to encourage the state wildlife agencies that continue to restrict the rescue and rehabilitation of bats is ongoing. Please sign the petition at Inside Bat World, then “Public Letters Needed to Help Bats” at batworld.org.



Stop Restricting Bat Rescue during the Covid-19 Pandemic

14,674 have signed.

lauren c signed this

Abigail Sloat signed this

USFWS: Stop Restricting Bat Rescue during the Covid-19 Pandemic

Share on Facebook

Send a Facebook message

Send an email to friends

Tweet to your followers

Copy link

Bat World Sanctuary started this petition to USEWS and 3 others

The Covid-19 pandemic is a terrible thing that we are all fighting, but now there is a new and devastating battle for bat rescuers and rehabilitators.

HUMANE BAT EXCLUSIONS

As humans continue to encroach on the land that wild animals use, bats and other animals are constantly looking for roosts to live in and raise their young. Bats often have no where to turn, so they choose to roost in human structures that were built where their original habitat once existed. This is often a disastrous choice for the bats and they are harmed or even killed by home and building owners.

Helping the public with humane bat exclusion information is one of our primary ways to help conserve wild bat colonies in need of habitat. When a local homeowner contacted us regarding bats inside her attic, we were happy to assist in helping her with a humane exclusion as well as mounting bat houses as alternate roosts, as seen in the photos on the right. This year we also provided information and guidance to home and business owners in several states across the US. For information on humane bat exclusions please visit batworld.org and click on Bats in Buildings.



Amanda Lollar

**PROTECT PEOPLE,
PROTECT BATS...**

The Idaho Department of Health and Welfare, Centers for Disease Control and Prevention, Bat World Sanctuary, and Ravenswood Media created a short film called "Protect People, Protect Bats, Avoid Rabies!" The film promotes a One Health message by explaining the connection between human health, bat health, and the environment and how best to avoid a rabies exposure. To view the film visit batworld.org and click on Education, then rabies. This important film was funded through a grant from the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service's White-Nose Syndrome Small Grants Program and a Peekaboo Rescue Fund Grant from Bat World Sanctuary.



"Fly it Forward" was inspired by Pennsylvania Bat Rescue after they sent a goodie care package to Bat World Sanctuary. We then decided to make another group feel as good as we felt when we received the goodie package.



The BWS staff holding th goodies sent by PA Bat Rescue. Left to right: Executive Director Addison McCool, Senior Animal Caregiver Moriah Adams and Assistant Director Emily Laszczak.

The Fly it Forward care packages include various items that bat rescuers use on a daily basis, such as cotton swabs, syringes, roosting pouches and snacks as well as a note that reads "This care package is being sent to you to let you know that we value the hard work you do for bats. The work of bat rescuers is selfless, yet it is often as unappreciated as the very animals we rescue. So please give yourself a pat on the back, and THANK YOU, for giving so much of yourself to the bats." The note also encourages bat rescuers to #flyitforward to another bat rescuer of their choice.

Shop at Amazon.com and Bat World Sanctuary gets a percentage donation directly from Amazon!

1. Go to smile.amazon.com
2. Select your charity
3. SHOP!

Please sign up and choose Bat World as your charity at smile.amazon.com! When you shop on Amazon, we receive a donation from the site at no cost to you! AmazonSmile deposits quarterly donations directly to our account. The last amount we received from AmazonSmile was over \$3,629.61, enough to buy six-weeks of fruit for the fruit bats!

WORLDWIDE AID FOR BATS

- This year we helped veterinarians and bat rescue groups with supplies, guidance and information on bat rehabilitation and husbandry across the US as well as in Canada (Saskatchewan, Alberta, Toronto and Calgary); Gauting, Germany; Estonia; India; Sweden; Switzerland; Hong Kong; Kuwait; Poland; Tel- Aviv, Israel; Tobago and in Queensland, Australia.
- Provided guidance on vaccination protocol for bat rescuers in Canada
- Co-directed the protocol for the rehabilitation of insectivorous bats for Biodiversity Management and Conservation in Argentina
- Provided standards and neutering protocols for Egyptian fruit bats who were rescued from the pet trade by the bat rescue group, Tutela Pipistrelli in Italy
- Assisted scientists at the Max Planck Institute in Germany in their study of the straw-colored fruit bat and the ecosystem services they provide in various African countries by showing how bats fertilize the landscape with their droppings.
- Contacted Wildlife Removal USA after seeing information on their website about “how to care for baby bats” and encouraging the keeping of “bats as pets”. We sent information to the site owner citing the many reasons that information should be removed or corrected and he graciously complied.
- We reported an individual in Maine who managed a petting zoo of sorts, after we received photos of two Egyptian fruit bats being kept in a very small enclosure. She was cited and consequently moved the bats to a larger enclosure, then posted the photos of the larger enclosure on social media. We congratulated her on the decision to give the bats more space and sent enrichment items and toys for the bats. We also offered to place the bats if ever needed.
- Collaborated with Human Animal Support Services wildlife working group, whose purpose is to reduce the number of wild animals taken in at shelters, increase community awareness about wildlife issues and raise the level of tolerance/acceptance, and improve the quality of care provided to wildlife in shelters throughout the U.S., Canada, and Mexico.
- Sent educational cards and literature, free of charge, to schools across the US. This year we sent materials to elementary schools in Arkansas, Texas, Louisiana, Arizona, Connecticut, California, Utah and New York.
- Bat World Sanctuary was featured in videos and articles (magazines and online) including KNON radio station, the “Elvira, Mistress of the Dark” Instagram page and The Dodo’s Facebook page and YouTube Channel.

Happy Birthday, Statler!

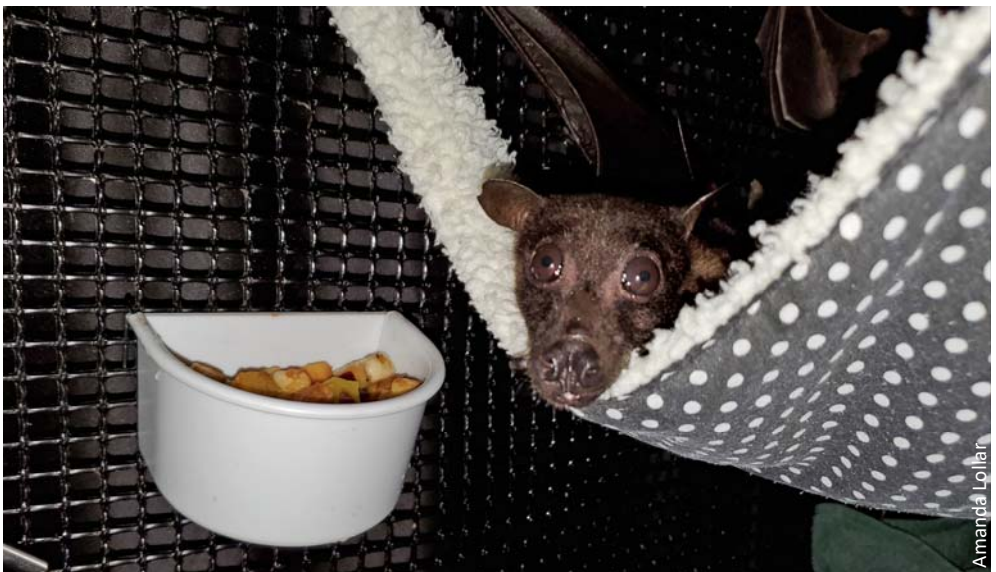


Amanda Lollar

Statler, an Indian flying fox, turned 33 years old on April 28, 2020! Before coming to Bat World Sanctuary he had a very difficult life. He was born in a zoo and suffered broken bones due to falling to the concrete floor. Somehow over the years, he also lost an eye. He came to us after the small zoo (where he was neglected) finally closed.

Statler loves to recline in a hammock with his favorite

snuggle buddy, Starlie (pictured below), another rescued Indian flying fox, who has issues with her feet. Statler's favorite foods are always within reach. He gets arthritis medication every day, as well as a warm facial and gentle brushes. To our knowledge, Statler is the oldest living bat in captivity; we hope to give him many more years of daily pampering.



Amanda Lollar

Keeping Wild Bats Safe

Baby season for our North American bats starts in May and ends in early September, depending on the species. Here are a few tips you can use to help save their lives.

Please don't destroy my nursery!



THERE IS NO HUMANE WAY TO EXCLUDE A BAT COLONY DURING BABY SEASON.

Most bats give birth to just one pup starting in late spring and summer. If you seal out a bat colony or trim down their palm frond home during the spring or summer, baby bats will be left behind to die. If you have an unwanted bat colony in your attic, ensure there's no way they can get into the home's interior, but wait until the end of summer before having the colony excluded. Visit batworld.org for humane ways to evict bats at the proper time of year.

Be careful when mowing!



Bats roosting in trees are often attacked by blue jays and crows, ending up grounded in yards where they are often found by people or pets, or worse, hit by lawn mowers. A mother bat will try to protect her babies by spreading her wings over them as seen in the photo on the left. Please check your yard for downed bats before mowing. If you find a bat in need please visit batworld.org to find a rescuer in your area.

Save bats in palms

Don't trim their natural frond "bat houses"
(especially not in spring or summer during baby season!)



At least 12 of our 47 US bat species use dried palm frond "skirts" as natural bat houses. To protect baby bats and birds, don't trim dried fronds in spring or summer. Try to leave some dried fronds year round so bats have a safe place to raise their pups in summer, or to hibernate in winter. In addition, cosmetic trimming of the fronds can make palm trees more susceptible to heat stress and drought, so leaving some fronds helps both the trees AND bats!

Please don't leave outdoor fans on overnight!



Ceiling fans can break tiny arm bones. Please turn any outdoor ceiling fans OFF at night to avoid tragic accidents with bats that may fly under your porch looking for a tasty insect treat.

Please give bats a break by NOT giving them a break! You'll save a little on your electric bill while also saving little lives.



GLUE TRAPS ARE INHUMANE!

This graphic may be hard to look at, but it is not near as difficult to see as the real thing. Fly and glue traps are horrendous objects of cruelty—they oftentimes catch other small animals such as birds, small reptiles and bats. Most of these trapped animals suffer for days and do not survive the stress, starvation and dehydration that occurs from being stuck on these traps. Glue traps should never be used for mice either, as there are humane alternatives available. If you must use fly strips or glue traps for insects, please cover them with chicken wire or another type of mesh that allows insects in while keeping small, innocent animals out of harms way.

A special thank you to Happy Valley Bats for commissioning this important work by graphic artist Joan Chen.

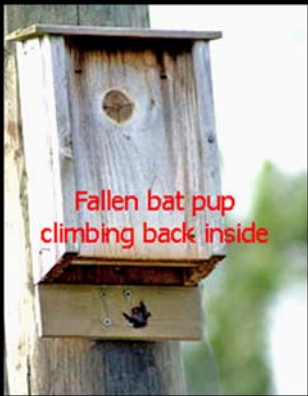
Use Froglogs in Pools!



If you have an outdoor pool please add a “FrogLog” as well as a “critter skimmer”. Both of these items can save countless lives every summer. Froglogs are small and compact and simply hang from the pool edge, allowing mice, lizards, turtles, toads, frogs and bats to escape drowning.

(Note: The image on the left has been Photo shopped to serve as an example.)

Install a pup catcher!



Every summer we receive dozens of reports of baby bats falling from bat houses. This occurs when pregnant moms move into a bat house, not understanding that the population inside the roost will double when their babies are born. The pups grow quickly so it doesn’t take long before the bat house is over-crowded and overheated. Installing a pup catcher is very easy to construct and costs very little. It is a simple net that catches fallen pups and allows them to climb back inside. Pup catchers can even be made to fit inside barns, under the eaves of homes and any other area where babies may be falling. If you have a bat house with bats, or have noticed pups falling from another type of roost, please install a pup catcher right away. See batworld.org for free instructions.

Special thanks to Cindy Myers for the use of her graphics and text!

The Diana Lee Coles Memorial



As of this writing the Memorial is over half-completed. Please see Inside Bat World at batworld.org for updates.



Amanda Lollar

A longtime supporter of Bat World Sanctuary, Diana Lee Coles, passed away on April 27, 2019. We later learned that she had left an astounding bequest to Bat World Sanctuary in the amount of one million dollars.



Amanda Lollar

As stated previously, this significant bequest to Bat World Sanctuary allowed us to invest in high-yield CDs and a high-yield saving account. The interest derived will help Bat World Sanctuary survive during unforeseen financial hardships while grants and donations from the public continue to support our rescue operations each year.



Amanda Lollar

In Honoring the life of Diana Lee Coles, we are creating a Memorial on a portion of Bat World Sanctuary's 13-acres, so that others may know about her generous and beautiful spirit. The Memorial consists of a bronze plaque (photo right, opposite page), a tiny house for interns, and a protected area for deer to feed—all of which sits in view of our bat castle.

Top Left: Diana Lee Coles. Top right: The tiny house for interns. Middle right: Interior of the tiny house. Bottom Right: The sheltered area for the deer to feed can be seen on the right. A fence to keep feral hogs out while allowing deer and other wildlife in is almost finished. Grass will be planted when the area is complete. We are so happy to report that deer are already coming to feed under the sheltered area.



The Diana Lee Coles Memorial

Diana Lee Coles - brilliant artist,
adventurer, and avid philanthropist.
December 31, 1948 to April 27, 2019

Diana Lee Coles was the daughter of decorated US Army Lieutenant, Clarence James Coles, and German immigrant, Franziska Tempelmeir. The family moved to Queens, New York where she obtained her formal education. Diana grew up with a lot of tough love, or sometimes none at all, with her mother being a Third Reich refugee and her military father being frequently absent. There was little opportunity to nurture Diana's sensitivities but nothing could stop her fierce love of life. Diana became a force to be reckoned with.

Diana's beauty was only surpassed by her bravery. She was a trendsetter and she broke down interracial barriers. Diana was forgiving, eccentric, meticulous, unique, spontaneous, hilarious, and full of life. She was a brilliant artist and found solace in art & creativity. Her love of wildlife manifested itself in a great fondness for bats, hummingbirds, buffalo and deer.

The Diana Lee Coles Memorial is just one of the many ways Diana's love of all wildlife will forever be remembered. Diana's bequest to Bat World Sanctuary is a beacon of hope that will forever shine with an inextinguishable light, guiding bats and other wildlife to safety.

May you always feel the presence of the creatures you both loved and supported, Diana, and may you be lifted by their spirits. Rest in peace, beautiful soul, as you soar with the angels, the hummingbirds, and the bats.



Though we never met Diana personally, we have learned much about her inspiring life, which is portrayed on the bronze memorial, above. The Memorial will be placed in a one-acre spot that includes a tiny house for interns so that others who come to learn about bats will also learn about the life and legacy of Diana Lee Coles.

Expenses & Fundraisers



Amanda Miller

FOOD JUST IN CASE

At the start of the pandemic we decided to store a back-up supply of fruit for the fruit bats in the event of a critical shortage. This back-up consists of enough fruit cocktail to last three months. Luckily, our mealworm supply comes from a local source so there was no danger of a shortage for the insect bats. Thankfully, a shortage did not occur. As the fruit cocktail will never expire, and we use it in our fresh fruit mix regardless, we are pleased to have extra on hand "just in case".

NORTH TEXAS GIVING TUESDAY

On May 5, 2020, we participated in North Texas Giving Tuesday Now (NTGT); an early giving day created to help nonprofits raise critical funds for lost donations due to Covid-19. This came at a time when we needed it most as we were no longer able to get discounted produce from our local supplier, and instead have to purchase food from a distributor. In addition, one of our large commercial refrigerators stopped working so we needed funds for a replacement refrigerator to store fresh produce. Also, the cancellation of in-person fundraising opportunities has made raising funds for the bats much harder while the need for rescue continued. Most troubling, however, is the fact that bats are being unfairly blamed for creating this pandemic, which makes raising critical funds to save bats even more difficult still. We were so pleased that we were able to raise \$37,675! The support of our donors carried us through difficult times and insured that our rescue efforts for bats could continue.



BAT CASTLE UPDATE

The bat houses mounted on the south side of the bat castle continue to be used periodically throughout the year. This year, while not visible, we heard bats on the inside of the bat castle with the use of a bat detector. Until it is occupied, the bat castle continues to be a wonderful site for release.

VOLUNTEER SPOTLIGHT

Zogi (featured on the front cover) is always a volunteer favorite, as proven by Amy McNutt (owner of Fort Worth, Texas's famous Spiral Diner restaurant), and BWS supporter Curtis Heath.

The team volunteered with us and couldn't get enough of giving sweet Zogi treat after treat.



Batty Word Search

Use your batty brain to find the words below that include bat behavior, bat species, bats at our sanctuary and the many beneficial products that bats bring to us. Look for the hidden word as well! (Hint: kindness to animals)

S A V E T H E B A T S N A C I A M A J J
 N H L A F R I C A N O T S E O G N A M B
 S I A M S D L Z P I V N A T A B A G E M
 N B N A G H O O T L O R T B Z Q M P Z Y
 W E R Z N G O A R I C H I R O P T E R A
 O R U I I Y V R T T M B T B G R M T S Q
 R N T N W R R A T I N A A E E E C R L L
 B A C G E L C A G T B O R N V N E I A J
 G T O S F O A R U Y A I C E A T N P M Y
 I E N S L R A I R T B I N T T N P I F B
 B O R O T T E A C A C I L U C L A L E J
 C Z H E E A O E T I N N B S E E Y S R J
 B C U G D H T R T G F T A S H I S E W J
 E Z M Y Y B I L B A H E W S N T T N R M
 E A A P P C A A E G I H N G T X O S I D
 T N N T W Q T T I R O L F E A Y E M W Q
 L I E A D Z B L T D B O R B B V F I G S
 E F R I N N F B A K X Y W M A Z V Y B Q
 S D Q N G J M T X D K Q P C D P R G N L

AFRICAN
 AMAZING
 APPLES
 BANANAS
 BAXTER
 BENNIE
 BENEFICIAL
 BEETLES
 BUTTERS
 BIG BROWNS

CAVES
 CHIROPTERA
 CONSERVATION
 ECHOLOCATION
 EGYPTAIN
 EVENING BAT
 FIGS
 FINA
 FLIGHT
 FLYING FOX

FREETAIL
 GERIBATRIC WARD
 HIBERNATE
 HOARY BAT
 INSECT CONTROL
 JAMAICAN
 MANGOES
 MEGABAT
 MICROBAT
 MIGRATE

MOTHS
 NOCTURNAL
 RED BAT
 SANCTUARY
 SAVE THE BATS
 SHORT TAIL
 STATLER
 WHODAT
 WINGS
 ZOGI



Loving Tributes

*In Memory of Virginia Upham and JJ Tissing
~ M. K. Upham*

*In Loving Memory of Joe Barbosa
~ Brenda Malinics*

*In Memory of Carol Dean Porter, a fellow bat lover.
~ Constance Cornehl Martin*

*In Memory of the ones who weren't so fortunate. Thank you for caring for
these wonderful creatures.
~ Laura Marler*

*In Loving Memory of a little bat.
~ ECT*

*In Loving Memory of Bingo, you are gone but never forgotten.
~ Emily R.*

Letters *Sharing a few of the messages we received in 2020. Receiving notes like these means more to us than we can fully express! We hope you enjoy reading them.*

Today's mail brought your annual report. It is the first one of yours that I have received. I'd like to let you know that it is one of the most excellent annual reports that I have ever seen (and I've had to slog through many of them in my career). I read every word from front to back cover and was enthralled with your work and commitment, and impressed by the allocation of your funds. I knew I was giving to a great organization, and now I know just how great you are. Carry on the good work and I count myself as one of your bat ambassadors among family and friends and on social media.

- TPC, Williamstown, MA

Dear Bat World, I wanted to reach out and let you all know how much your organization means to me. I didn't know that much about bats until my wife 'adopted' Sticky the big brown bat on my behalf a year or so ago. She thought it would be a funny present, but I don't think she realized how much it would impact me! Since then, I've fallen in love with bats of all shapes and sizes (although my favs are big/little browns, vampire bats, eastern reds, tricolors, and New World fruit bats). I just wanted to give back and thank you all for the hard work that you do. - Paul

Although I am afraid of bats, I am an animal lover and your videos give me life. Thank you for being animal lovers, too. I am now a proud monthly donor.

Thank you for all of your tremendous efforts on behalf of this so misunderstood species. Your hard work is so evident in every facet of your superb operations and by the very successes you achieve with all of your rescues. Because of your fine organization I've come to learn how valuable and adorable these precious little creatures are... I can't believe there was a time I was afraid of bats!!

I would just like to say that organizations like yours are making the world a better place. We all come to share in the tremendous love and compassion you show for these creatures.

There was a day when I would have scoffed at the concept of compassion toward a bat. And when reading the phrase "his personality began to emerge" might have elicited an eye-roll. Thankfully, you and others have helped to foster a wiser understanding. Thanks for your work with these little guys, and for showcasing how unique and worthy of respect they truly are.

*I ordered the book *The Rehabilitation and Captive Care of Insectivorous Bats* a while ago and finally last week I received it. I have to say I am totally amazed of all the things that Bat World does and achieves. I have been rescuing bats for a while here in Switzerland and while our laws are very restrictive (all bats here are protected by law) and we all got proper training, I still learned a lot from your book. For me bats are one of the most fascinating species and working with them has shown me a lot about how wonderful nature is. I love that you explain in your book the personality and the emotions of bats. A lot of people can't imagine that, but I learned that each and every bat is different, has its own mind and moods. While I have a whole bunch of books about bats, yours is the only one that mentions anything like that. Thank you for that.*

♥

Dear Bat World, Thank you for your tireless efforts for bats. You are a testament to what is good in this world and bats are so much better off because of you.

On March 13, which was a Friday, I received a female large brown. She has been someone's "pet" for 19 months. She came in weighing 12 grams and had hugely swollen joints, missing hair and torn wing membranes. In other words she looked awful and I considered euthanasia. But instead I called Amanda Lollar. She immediately answered the phone and said a definite NO to euthanasia. She outlined a plan. Pain meds, antibiotics, good nutrition and patience. Now I have never met Amanda, (and I might never in this lifetime) but I call her frequently. She has ALWAYS gotten back to me within 20 minutes. She is caring, professional and supportive. She listens to my concerns, fears and calms my broken heart when I think things have gone awry. I have had the good fortune of taking a class from Kate Rugroden. She too, is most knowledgeable and supportive. These two women and I'm sure others at Bat World Sanctuary are devoted, supportive and knowledgeable. You can ask them for help and they will be there. Amanda's love and commitment to ALL animals rights and welfare is astounding. She doesn't give up, she's a motivated activist. A huge thank you, ladies. You have graced the planet with your expertise, compassion and guidance. P.S. The bat is much better, she weighs 19 grams now.

Sponsor a bat in need for \$35!



Your sponsorship package includes:

- An adoption certificate listing the person or group of your choice as the sponsor.
- The personal background of your sponsored bat.
- The natural history of the species.
- Educational cards and a bookmark.
- A matted photograph of your bat, suitable for framing.
- An online subscription to *NIGHT FLIGHT NEWS* (subscribe at batworld.org or email us at orders@batworld.org to be added).
- A personalized message for a gift Adopt-a-Bat. Our optional gift card message reads: "This Adopt-a-Bat sponsorship has been made in your name. Your sponsorship package includes our *BAT WORLD* magazine and an informational card on bat rescue. Enclosed you will find a 5" x 7" photo of your adopted bat, who thanks you from the bottom of its little bat toes for the food and medical supplies your gift has provided."



Orphaned free-tails



Bootsanna



Orphaned red bats



Please enter the name of bat(s) you wish to sponsor: _____

Name as it should appear on the certificate: _____

Email address (to receive our online magazine) _____

NOTE: We do not sell, trade, or share your personal information with anyone.

BILLING INFORMATION:

Name: _____ Phone _____ Date _____

SHIPPING ADDRESS:

Name (if different than above): _____

Address _____ City _____ State _____ Zip _____

Total of sponsorship (**Please remember to include \$7.00 shipping**): _____

Check enclosed _____ Charge _____

Credit Card Number: _____ Exp. Date: MO _____ YR _____

NOTE: If this is a gift Adopt-a-Bat please include any special instructions, such as a special message, on a separate piece of paper.



WHY SAVE BATS?

Roughly one of every four mammals on earth is a bat. Consider this: if your day includes soap, toothpaste, cosmetics, coffee, margarine, chewing gum, candles, paper, ink, wood, fuel, rope, twine, rubber, spices, vegetables, fruits, chocolate, margaritas, air fresheners or even life-saving medicines, you are not only involved with bats, you are likely dependant upon bats. Bats are among the most beautiful and beneficial animals on earth. They are clean, gentle and intelligent. Bats are vital for healthy ecosystems and enhance our lives in many ways. Fruit and nectar bats bring us approximately 450 commercial products and 80 different medicines through seed dispersal and pollination. Up to 98% of all rainforest re-growth comes from seeds that have been spread by fruit bats. Insect-eating bats are literal vacuum cleaners of the night skies, eating millions upon millions of harmful bugs. They protect us by eating insects that destroy crops as well as insects that cause human disease.

Yet for all they do, bats are continually killed due to myths, superstition and fear. The life expectancy of a single bat may exceed 20 years, but slow birth rates limit their population growth. When just 5 bats are needlessly killed, a potential 100 years of animal life is destroyed. Worldwide, almost 60% of bats are either endangered or official candidates for listing, and they desperately need your help.

HOW YOU CAN HELP

In a world where so many look away, Bat World Sanctuary is on the front line to end the abuse and destruction of bats. We have been recognized as the world leader in bat rehabilitation for nearly two decades. Each year we rescue thousands of bats that might otherwise die. Lifetime sanctuary is given to non-releasable bats, including those that are orphaned, injured, confiscated from the illegal pet trade and retired from zoos and research facilities. You can help us save bats by educating others about their plight, and by donating to Bat World Sanctuary.

Bat World Sanctuary was founded in 1994 and is a 501c3 non-profit, volunteer-based organization. Donations allow us to continue our rescue efforts for bats.

Bats are now in their 11th hour. We can save them, but we cannot do it without your help. Bat World Sanctuary is not state or federally funded, our funds come from caring people like you. Please join us in our efforts to save bats by making a donation and becoming a member of Bat World today.

BATWORLD.ORG offers free educational materials, videos, kid's games and rescue information. You can even sponsor a bat in need through our Adopt-a-Bat program. Sponsors receive educational materials and *BAT WORLD*, our conservation magazine that includes beautiful photos of rescued bats. You can also receive an online membership to *Night Flight News*, our e-newsletter, by simply making a donation of any size through batworld.org.