

# AWARE'S TAILS FROM THE WILD



## Help! I've Found a Baby Animal

Spring 2012



**By Linda Potter and Stephanie Philippo**

Baby season is here again! Actually, as a result of the unseasonably warm winter in Georgia this year, AWARE has been caring for baby squirrels all winter long. In March, however, baby season began in earnest, bringing even more baby squirrels, as well as baby songbirds, opossums, rabbits, owls, turtles, foxes, a river otter, and a woodchuck — and that is just the beginning! During baby season, which typically lasts until October, AWARE receives thousands of phone calls about wild baby animals. Some of these babies are orphaned or injured and in need of help. Others may

seem orphaned, but they are actually still being cared for by their parents or are old enough to be on their own. AWARE's rehabilitators help callers determine if the baby truly needs assistance. When it does, AWARE is ready to help. From armadillos to yellow-throated warblers, our rehabilitators successfully raise and release hundreds of baby animals each year.

### Is This Baby Orphaned?

Seeing a baby animal without a parent doesn't mean the parents are not taking care of it. Often a parent is keeping a watchful eye from a safe distance while the baby learns to take care of itself. Different species of animals become independent at different ages, so knowing a little about the species will help to determine if a baby animal is actually orphaned. Following is some basic information about a few of the most common types of animal babies found in Georgia.

**Birds.** A baby bird that is not yet feathered and should be in the nest is called a *nestling*. If you find a nestling on the ground, the best thing to do is pick it up and put it back in the nest, if possible. If you cannot reach the nest, then make a

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## Look What the Cat Dragged In!

**By Melanie Furr**

I first learned of AWARE in 2010 while searching online for a wildlife rehabilitator to take in a baby chipmunk I had rescued from a neighbor's cat the previous evening. Although the chipmunk wasn't bleeding and didn't seem badly hurt when I rescued it, I put it in a box with a towel to keep it safe and monitor it overnight. The next morning, however, it was having trouble staying upright and clearly needed immediate attention. I called AWARE, and its late founder

and director, Michael Ellis, told me I should bring the chipmunk in as soon as possible.



When I arrived, Michael immediately gave the tiny animal an antibiotic injection and put it in a soft, warm container to minimize its stress. When I asked Michael what I should have done differently, he informed

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[www.AWAREone.org](http://www.AWAREone.org)



**DONATE NOW**

# Otterly Adorable!

By **Melanie Haire and Melanie Furr**

Few animals are more adorable than baby otters. Playful and inquisitive, with incredibly dense, soft fur and expressive faces, baby otters are a delight to watch. The staff and volunteers at AWARE can attest to this fact first-hand, having had the privilege of briefly caring for a young otter pup this spring. In fact, volunteers might say the hardest part of caring for the pup is not to coddle and kiss her. Born wild, however, we want this irresistible little otter to have the best possible chance of survival when she returns to her home, which means staying wild and untamed.

Found alone on the side of a dirt road by a good Samaritan walking in the Chattahoochee National Forest earlier this year, the pup was crying and appeared to be having trouble walking. The man wisely decided to observe quietly from a distance to see if the mother returned. After several hours the mother had still not appeared, even though the baby continued to call for her. The man then decided to rescue the pup and contact a rehabilitator.

When the pup first arrived at AWARE at five to six weeks old, she was too young to survive on her own. In the wild, she would still be nursing and would not have left the den. She would not have learned to escape predators or to find food by herself. At this age, she needed formula feedings every three



hours and close monitoring of her growth. Because of the demands of her care and the volume of animals that we treat at the center, AWARE transferred the pup to an experienced rehabilitator who could give her the

specialized attention that she deserves, but we are thrilled when the pup visits the center from time to time when her “foster mom” has to work long hours.

Now that she is older and has gotten her teeth, the pup has moved on to eating small whole fish and mice. She is very curious about her surroundings and likes to wrestle with her stuffed toys. She will stay in rehabilitation until she is about eight months old, at which time she will be introduced to her potential release site with continued daily fish feedings for another two to four months, as needed.

AWARE is grateful to have had the chance to help rehabilitate this adorable and amazing animal. Stay tuned for updates on her release!



## OTTER FACTS

In Georgia, otter pups are usually born in January or February. They remain in their natal dens (usually tunnels in the bank along a river or lake or inside a hollow log) until they are about ten to twelve weeks old, at which time the mother begins to teach them to swim and hunt for food. Before that time, pups are completely dependent on their mother to provide them with food and care. Mother otters care for their pups (usually two or three in a litter) until they are eight to twelve months old. At that point they are large enough to protect themselves from most predators and have learned all the survival skills they need from observing and imitating their mother.

## Born to be wild...



## Director's Reflections from the Wild



Hello AWARE Friends and Volunteers! Beautiful spring weather is upon us. At AWARE Wildlife Center, our measure of spring is typically the increased numbers of injured and orphaned baby animals that we receive from the caring public. While I am thankful about the graceful exit that winter made, I cannot forget the hard work that has occurred at the center during the winter months. During the Martin Luther King Jr. holiday weekend, a

group of over 30 volunteers from Georgia Perimeter College and Atlanta-area high schools joined us for a day of cleaning. We removed tons of excess wood and metal debris, most of which was recycled, and reorganized our building materials. This will certainly help us to maintain the pristine beauty of the portion of Arabia Mountain that is under our care. We also worked with smaller groups to add and complete outside animal enclosures that will allow us to rehabilitate even more squirrels, waterfowl, and songbirds than ever before.

On the education side, we have recruited a dedicated group of experienced volunteers to spend extra time with and help train our ambassador animals on a daily basis. Our ambassador animals (which include hawks, owls, crows, a bobcat, and an opossum among others) originally came to the center to be rehabilitated and released, but serious injuries or other circumstances prevented them from being returned to the wild. The Ambassador Care Program, created by Wildlife Care Supervisor Marjan Ghardran, seeks to provide additional enrichment and stimulation for each ambassador as well as a standardized program of training. This program will provide an added boost to our current educational outreach. More importantly, we take our responsibility as caretakers for these animals very seriously.

Overall, I am hopeful that these kinds of cooperative efforts and improvements will permit us to continue to fulfill our mission to preserve Georgia's native wildlife through rehabilitation and education.



*Owlbert Einstein and each of AWARE's ambassador animals receive daily enrichment as part of the new Ambassador Care Program.*

## Rehab 911!

### *AWARE Rehabilitators Provide Answers to Common Calls about Wildlife*



***Help! My children found a baby turtle and are begging to keep it. Should I let them? Can't turtles transmit diseases?***

Turtles can carry salmonella bacteria and infect people who touch them and don't wash their hands afterward, but this fact is perhaps the least of many reasons that keeping a wild turtle (or any wild animal) is not a good idea. By Georgia Law, most native species of wildlife cannot be held without permits or licenses; these licenses are not issued for the purpose of keeping wildlife as pets. Aside from breaking the law, however, there are a number of important factors to consider when you capture a wild turtle as a pet.

- One important reason not to take wild turtles as pets is that the collection of wild turtles has caused many species to become threatened or endangered, especially when combined with habitat loss, water pollution, and predation. Some species of turtles do not breed until they are several years old, so it can take several years for a local population to become established. Taking animals out of the wild diminishes the breeding population, which could lead to grave consequences for some species.
- Many people don't realize that turtles require time and money for proper care, just as other pets do. In addition to an aquarium with a filtration system (for aquatic turtles) or a large pen with sufficient substrate (for land turtles), turtles need a source of heat and ultraviolet light. Without these special lamps, many health issues can arise. In addition, each species has different feeding requirements; some diets can be very

specialized, requiring snails, aquatic insects, and crayfish. Many pet turtles suffer from malnutrition because of their special dietary needs.

- Turtles are loners and don't like to be held, so they quickly lose their appeal as pets with most children. When properly cared for, turtles can live long lives, some up to 50 years — long past the interest of childhood. These pets often get dumped back into the wild where they usually suffer.
- Wild turtles that are kept as pets and then released back into the wild are not likely to survive. Many turtles imprint on their home territory and food source very early in life, so unless they are deposited in the same spot they were picked up, they will struggle to find food and adequate protection from the elements. Even if they are returned to the same location they were found, they may lack the skills necessary to care for themselves and to evade predators. And, if they do survive, these once-captive turtles can transmit diseases to wild turtle populations that are already struggling against numerous odds.
- Captive-bred turtles make much better pets. Their diets are less specialized and they are used to living in confinement, making them easier to care for and less easily stressed. Captive-bred turtles may still live 20 or more years, though, so make sure you know what kind of commitment you are making.

Of course, an injured turtle presents a different situation, one that may require a brief stay in rehabilitation. If you find a turtle that seems hurt, call AWARE or visit [awareone.org](http://awareone.org) for a list of Georgia's licensed rehabilitators.

## Help! I've Found a Baby Animal

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substitute nest from a berry basket or a margarine tub with holes poked in the bottom for drainage. Line the basket or tub with dry grass or pine needles, put it as close to the original nest as possible, then observe from a distance. If the mother visits the nest with the baby in it, all is well. If the mother does not return, you should call AWARE or a wildlife rehabilitator for further guidance.



A young bird that is hopping on the ground and has most of its feathers but cannot yet fly is called a *fledgling*. Fledglings often are supposed to be on the ground and should be left there.

Many species remain on the ground for several days after leaving the nest as their parents teach them to fly and find food. You may not see the parents because they are watching the fledgling from a distance. Or you may see the parents swooping down on the fledgling either to teach it to avoid predators or to scold it for doing something wrong. During this time, it is important to keep the fledgling safe by keeping pets away from it. Dogs should be kept on a leash and cats should remain inside.

**Squirrels.** A squirrel that is able to run, jump, and climb is independent. However, a baby squirrel that falls from a nest needs help. If the baby is uninjured, place it in a small cardboard box with t-shirt material as bedding. To keep the baby warm, microwave a cup of uncooked rice in a sock for one minute and set it in the box next to the baby. (Young babies can not regulate their body temperature, so this step is important even on warm days). Attach the box to the tree at eye level, making sure that it won't tip when the mother steps on it. Reheat the sock periodically, as necessary. Keep pets away from the area and observe from a distance. Give the mother at least six hours of daylight to recover the baby. If she doesn't, call AWARE.



**Rabbits.** A rabbit that is four inches long and hopping around with its eyes open and ears erect is ready to be on its own. Rabbits that are still dependent on their mother remain in their nest and should be left alone. Mother rabbits only visit

the nest a few times a day (often near dawn and dusk) to avoid attracting predators, so it may be difficult to tell if she is around. The best way to tell if a mother rabbit is feeding her babies is to check their stomachs just before sundown and then again first thing in the morning. Their stomachs should be fatter in the morning if their mother fed them overnight.

**Opossums.** An opossum that is seven inches long (excluding the tail) can take care of itself. Baby opossums found with a dead mother are obviously orphaned and need to be taken to a wildlife rehabilitator. An opossum less than seven inches long that is found wandering around on its own is most likely orphaned or abandoned. Young opossums begin to ride on their mother's back when they are about four inches long. Since a mother opossum usually has many babies clinging to her, sometimes a baby can fall off without the mother even realizing it, and she will walk off and leave the baby behind.



**Deer.** Baby deer, called *fawns*, are left alone all day long, sometimes in visible areas such as the middle of a field or by the side of a road. The mother deer instructs the fawn to curl up and remain still while she forages for food. The mother then waits until after dark to reunite with her baby. Unless a dead adult deer is found nearby or the fawn is visibly injured, leave the baby where it is so that the mother can find it when she returns after nightfall.



### I've Found an Orphan. Now What?

If you have found a truly orphaned baby animal or a baby that is ill or injured, you should get the animal to a wildlife rehabilitator as soon as possible. Not only is caring for wildlife on your own without a special permit illegal in Georgia, but feeding a baby animal the wrong food or providing food and water the wrong way can make the baby severely ill and possibly even kill it. Until you can get the baby to a rehabilitator, make sure to keep it in a safe place that is warm, dark, and quiet. Don't handle the baby and never give an animal food or water unless instructed to do so by a rehabilitator. Getting an orphaned animal to a rehabilitator quickly will give the baby its best chance for survival.

To find help for orphaned wildlife or an injured adult wild animal, call AWARE at 678-418-1111 or visit [awareone.org](http://awareone.org) for a list of licensed rehabilitators in your county.

### **When to call a rehabilitator:**

- the animal is bleeding or has broken limbs or other injuries
- the animal has been caught by a dog or cat
- a featherless bird or furless mammal on the ground and/or evidence of a dead parent nearby
- the animal is gasping, shivering, or showing other signs of distress

**MYTH:** An animal will abandon its young if humans have touched it.

**FACT:** Animals are strongly bonded with their young and won't abandon them. The best thing humans can do for baby animals that have fallen from their nest is to put them right back in it.

## Spotlight on Georgia's Wildlife

### The Bobcat



- The bobcat is the most common North American wildcat and is found throughout the United States except in parts of the Midwest. Living 10--15 years in the wild (on average), it adapts well to many different habitats including forests, swamps, deserts, and even suburban areas.
- Weighing 12--30 pounds and measuring 24--48 inches in total length, the bobcat is roughly twice as big as the average housecat. Named for its short, "bobbed" tail, it has long legs, large paws, and tufted ears similar to those of its larger relative, the Canada lynx. Its mottled fur is short, dense, and soft and is generally shorter and more reddish in summer and longer and more gray in winter. Spotting, which helps with camouflage, is more pronounced in some bobcats than in others.
- Bobcats are highly elusive and rarely seen by humans. Predominantly crepuscular (active at dawn and dusk), they rest sporadically during the day and night in a den made in a rock cleft, hollow log, dense thicket, or other hiding spot. Bobcats may have more than one den within their home ranges. These dens provide security from other animals and protection from the elements. Bobcats are also excellent climbers and may rest on tree limbs, though they spend less time in the trees than other wildcats.
- Solitary and territorial, the bobcat maintains and defends a home range, marking its boundaries with tree scratches, urine, feces, and scent-gland markings. Territories vary in size from less than a square mile up to 25 square miles, depending on the season and availability of prey. Social interactions among bobcats are infrequent and brief. Except when adults come together to mate or when a female is raising kittens, bobcats remain alone their entire lives.
- Fierce hunters, bobcats can kill prey much bigger than themselves, but their typical prey are rabbits, birds, mice, squirrels, and other small game. They hunt by stealth, delivering a deathblow with a pounce that can cover up to 12 feet. Like many large predators, the bobcat is able to fast for some time when prey is not available, but gorges heavily when it is. Its ability to gorge prevents it from having to share its meal with other large predators like cougars, bears, or coyotes.
- Female bobcats choose a secluded den to raise their litters, typically two or three kittens that are well-furred and spotted at birth. The kittens begin exploring by one month of age and are weaned around three months. They remain with their mother for nearly a year, learning to hunt before their mother leaves them to fend for themselves.
- Humans are the bobcat's worst enemy. As natural habitats are fragmented and destroyed by urbanization, bobcat populations will gradually decline in numbers. Disappearing wilderness also brings bobcats into more fatal encounters with humans — with their dogs, guns, traps, and automobiles. In some places, bobcats are still trapped for their beautiful fur and hunted with hounds for sport.
- Bobcats play an important role in the ecological stability of an area. They defend a home range, keeping both predator and prey species in check so that they don't overpopulate. The absence of large predators like bobcats will certainly have harmful effects on other species and the environment, which is why AWARE is committed to preserving this beautiful and unique species in Georgia and beyond.

### Meet the Ambassador: Cat Ballou



In some ways, Ballou (affectionately known as "Boo") is like a typical housecat. She meows and purrs, likes to chase feather toys and string, and enjoys a good chin rub. And, much like a cat, she is sociable with her caregivers on her own terms — sometimes she's playful and affectionate, other times reclusive and uncooperative. In spite of these similarities to a domestic cat, Ballou was born in the wild and is still very much a wild animal. Although necessary, a life in captivity is an injustice to her. As one of AWARE's education ambassadors, Ballou teaches people an important lesson about respecting wildlife and allowing it to live free. She is a favorite with visitors to AWARE and is the darling of the volunteers and staff, regardless of her mood.

Unfortunately, Ballou became a victim of human interference and self-indulgence when she was just a few weeks old. While bulldozing a brush pile one day, a homeowner accidentally destroyed a bobcat's den, scaring off a female bobcat and killing one of her kittens. Finding another kitten unharmed, the man

decided to take her and raise her as a pet instead of leaving her for her mother to reclaim as he should have done. For four months the kitten was treated as a family pet, playing with people and dogs. When the homeowner decided to take her to be spayed and vaccinated, he chose a veterinarian who also happened to volunteer for AWARE. She informed him what an injustice he had done (not to mention that he had broken the law) and gave him a choice of turning the kitten over to AWARE or being reported to the authorities. Although she was surrendered to AWARE, the damage was permanent -- Ballou had not learned the skills necessary to survive on her own. Moreover, she had no fear of humans or dogs and would inevitably pose a threat to people and herself in the wild.



Sadly, her habituation to dogs and humans will require Ballou to spend the rest of her life in captivity — a life at odds with most of her natural instincts, in spite of the care and attention she receives daily. At AWARE, at least, she will teach innumerable people about good stewardship of wildlife and its habitat.

## Look What the Cat Dragged In!

(continued from page one)

me that in spite of my good intentions, I should have brought the chipmunk in right away, when the antibiotic would have done the most good. Injured wild animals need the care of a trained rehabilitator, and cat bites, however small, are often lethal. The next thing I should have done, he said, was to ask my neighbors to keep their cat indoors. Unfortunately, AWARE treats hundreds of animals annually that have been injured by cats.

While humans pose the biggest threat to wildlife (with our cars, traps, poisons, weapons, pollution, and habitat destruction),



<http://commons.wikimedia.org>

invasive species, including domestic cats, are the second most serious threat to wildlife worldwide. Free-roaming cats kill hundreds of millions of small mammals, birds, reptiles, and amphibians every year. Some cats kill as many as four hundred animals each year, often just for sport. Cat predation causes significant stress to wildlife

populations that are already struggling against numerous human impacts, and cats do not distinguish common species from endangered ones. Sadly, according to the American Bird Conservancy, “two-thirds of the bird species in the United States have declined over the last half century, many precipitously,” and the threat posed by non-native domestic cats “could be the final straw for some species” (*Cats, Birds, and You*, American Bird Conservancy). Furthermore, the impact is not only on the animals that cats catch and kill, but also on untold numbers of animals that are orphaned as a result of their hunting. Even outside cats that aren’t actively hunting can cause stress to adult animals protecting their offspring. Watching and avoiding cats requires birds to expend precious energy that would otherwise be spent tending to their young, which can mean the difference between life and death for those in the nest. In addition, cats compete with native predators like owls, hawks, foxes, and coyotes that rely on small prey for survival. Cats have a huge advantage over these other predators because they often receive protection from disease, starvation, and predation, while their competition does not.

Even animals that are “rescued” after being caught by a cat often do not survive. Cat saliva contains toxic bacteria. An animal that is released seemingly unharmed will most likely die later from severe infection, if not from internal hemorrhaging or injury to vital organs. If you come upon an animal caught by a cat, find a licensed rehabilitator in your area. You can find one

on the AWARE website at [awareone.org](http://awareone.org). Cat bites require prompt attention. Do not release the animal back into the wild to suffer a slow, painful death.

As a cat lover, I know that unless they are supervised, my cats should stay indoors — for their own health and safety, as well as for the safety of the wildlife in my neighborhood. Like wildlife, life outdoors subjects cats to harm from cars, disease, parasites, poisons, and other animals. In fact, the average life expectancy of an outdoor cat is only two to three years, while that of an indoor cat is twelve to fifteen years. Would we let our dogs roam freely around our neighborhoods? Of course not, it’s too dangerous for them. So why do we let our cats roam freely?

A friend who also is a cat lover wonders why we should care about a cat killing a few little chipmunks. (Chipmunks are pests anyway, she adds). I asked Michael Ellis how he would answer this question. He told me to ask my friend if she likes owls and eagles, bobcats and foxes. The survival of predators like these depends on small animals, and every animal plays an important role in its native habitat. Chipmunks and other small animals are essential to maintaining the ecosystem’s health and biological

diversity. Domestic cats, however, are not a natural part of any ecosystem. And, regardless of whether a species is rare or abundant, each wild animal suffers when captured by a cat. Don’t we as compassionate human beings have a responsibility to minimize the suffering of creatures that need our protection?



I don’t know if my little chipmunk was saved. When I came back to AWARE a couple weeks later to begin volunteer training, it wasn’t there. Michael offered to check the records to see if it survived, but I preferred not to have my suspicions confirmed. I like to think that even if the chipmunk didn’t survive, its death was not in vain. It led me to AWARE and gave me a chance to become a part of the important work that AWARE does. I am thankful for AWARE and organizations like it that protect wildlife and teach others to do the same. If we are to maintain healthy and biologically diverse ecosystems for future generations to enjoy, we owe it to all wildlife to protect them from unnecessary harm.

For more information about the impact of domestic cats on wildlife and ideas for outdoor cat enclosures, visit AWARE’s website at [awareone.org](http://awareone.org). More good information, as well as suggestions on how to transition your outdoor cat to an inside one and keep your pet happy, is available at [abcbirds.org](http://abcbirds.org).

### GIVE WILDLIFE A HELPING HAND THIS SPRING!

- Keep cats inside, especially during spring and summer when animals are rearing their young.
- Check for nests before trimming bushes and trees or before renovating or boarding up property.
  - Inspect brush and leaf piles for wildlife before bulldozing or burning.
  - Choose natural, non-poisonous lawn care products.
- Cover your chimney with a cap and your dryer vent with a hinged cover.

## **THANK YOU!**

**Thank you to LAFARGE AGGREGATES in Lithonia, a branch of LAFARGE NORTH AMERICA INC, for their kind donation of 20 tons of stone. This stone will allow us to provide natural filtration and drainage for our outside animal enclosures.**

**We also want to thank DeKalb County, particularly Susan Hood and the employees of Natural Services Management, for their kind support of our mission.**



### **Our Volunteers Are the Best!**



AWARE Wildlife Center would like to recognize and thank our dedicated volunteers, many of whom made the time and effort to attend and contribute to our recent annual volunteer meeting. While the experience of volunteering at AWARE is fun, it can also be hard work trying to help so many different species of animals with so many different, special needs. Our volunteers could spend their extra time somewhere else doing something else, but instead they choose AWARE. They are truly appreciated and we are thankful for their commitment. Thanks especially to the following annual meeting attendees.

Linda Allison  
Sarah Arnold  
Scott Borre  
Stephanie Carswell  
Andrea Clay  
Kelly Cooper  
Katherine Denfeld  
Mary DeVoss  
Chris Dunlap  
Melanie Furr  
Tishkii Garcia  
Jackie Gilbert  
Karen Gildea  
Tammy Harper  
Rebecca Hembree  
Phillip Howell  
Lydia Hughes  
Christina Ishtar  
Mia Jacintho

Tammy Jennings  
Courtney Leak  
Carmine Lippolis  
Thea Mayhew  
Nikki McCarthy  
Jessica McKee  
Michael Meagher  
Jerry Nix  
Cory Olesen  
Cathy Radden  
Lynn Reeder  
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Jim Wilson  
Jamie Wireman  
Jared Woermer



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Tours given Saturdays at 1 and 3 P.M.  
and Sundays at 1 P.M.  
*Donations gladly accepted*

Book an educational program and meet  
our ambassador animals up close!



### AWARE's Wish List

- Home Depot and Wal-Mart gift cards
- Towels and linens (no holes or loose threads)
- Sticky notes, fine-tipped permanent markers
- Applesauce, mixed fruit baby food
- Pecan halves or miscellaneous whole nuts
- Unscented HE laundry detergent and bleach
- Purina Dog Chow Complete, Friskies Grillers Blend Cat Chow, or Friskies Classic Pate

AWARE is a volunteer-based organization working to preserve and restore wildlife and its habitat through education and wildlife rehabilitation. We believe that peaceful coexistence of humans and wildlife is essential for our mutual survival.

AWARE rescues and rehabilitates about 1,600 wild animals each year and returns most of them to the wild. In addition, our licensed rehabilitators answer approximately 10,000 phone calls each year from people with wildlife concerns, providing AWARE with opportunities to help people better understand, appreciate, and coexist with wildlife. Our educational outreach programs, which feature our non-releasable ambassador animals, include school programs, festivals, fairs, nature centers, community events, scout meetings, and anywhere there is an audience interested in wildlife. Our non-releasable ambassador animals (a bobcat, four owls, two hawks, a snake, an opossum, a skunk, and a crow) provide a face to our lessons on how to peacefully coexist with wild animals.

AWARE is a 501(c)(3) non-profit organization that relies on private contributions of time and money. AWARE receives no government assistance.

**Your donations make our work possible.**



### Visit AWARE at these exciting upcoming events:

**Dogwood Festival — April 21--22 [dogwood.org](http://dogwood.org)**

**Peachtree Corners Festival — June 30--July 1 [peachtreecornersfestival.org](http://peachtreecornersfestival.org)**

**Big Haynes Creek Wildlife Festival — August 25--26 [bighaynescreekwildlifefestival.com](http://bighaynescreekwildlifefestival.com)**

**We can always use a few good hands! Please come out to AWARE on Saturdays from 9 am to 5 P.M to help with improvements around the center and grounds. Email [Kelly.AWARE@gmail.com](mailto:Kelly.AWARE@gmail.com) for details.**