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A Long Road to a Happy Outcome

On March 25th, after nearly 4 months of extensive treatment, CRC was honored to say goodbye to our 246th patient of 2014. This bird, a juvenile Red-tailed Hawk found along a road and under a power line, was brought in for care November 1, 2014 with burned and necrotic skin on the crown of his head, swelling of surrounding tissue, and a swollen, edematous (full of fluid), and necrotic section on his left wing from the elbow to the wrist. Our best guess for cause of injury: electrocution. The prognosis for electrocution victims varies enormously, as it depends on what path the current took through or over the body. The bird was also thin, couldn't stand, sat back on his hocks with his head drooping, and when hand-fed pieces of mouse, had to do some convoluted movements of his head and neck in order to get the food bits into his mouth and swallow. By the next day, he was more alert but had balance issues - and seemed to have difficulty judging distance. He would miss the forceps frequently when reaching for bits of food.



Within a few days, the injured area on his wing was dying but the area of necrosis seemed to be mostly the skin - the tissues underneath were maintaining a viable blood supply. He was stable and his head wound was sutured, but by the end of that day, he was holding his head upside down. This is not uncommon with head trauma, as swelling, bleeding, or inflammation in the brain can put pressure on different areas, causing various problems. Sometimes it resolves, and sometimes it does not.

Within 2 weeks, despite continued, but improving, balance issues, he was moved to a larger indoor enclosure, as we have found that gradually increasing stimuli can help repair the brain. Operant conditioning physical therapy (using food to reward him for moving where we asked him to go) was used to help him learn to walk again, and then to step up and off low perches.

>> [Click here for the rest of his story!](#)

Enrichment

Cascades Raptor Center is pleased to announce the implementation of an enrichment schedule for our resident raptors! Enrichment is a dynamic process for enhancing captive animals' environments within the context of the animals' behavioral biology and natural history. By identifying and providing the environmental stimuli necessary, we aim to provide optimal psychological and physiological well-being. The goal of enrichment is to encourage species-appropriate behaviors, increase the positive utilization of their enclosures by providing choices, and prevent or reduce the frequency of abnormal behaviors.

Enrichment comes in many different forms: social, cognitive, physical habitat, sensory, and food. Our residents have always received a variety of food items and lots of visual stimuli in terms of a surrounding natural habitat full of other birds and animals. They also have many opportunities for social enrichment with guests, volunteers, and handlers, but we wanted to increase the diversity of enrichment on a regular basis. Our resident raptors also had been receiving various types of cognitive and physical habitat enrichment items but not on a set schedule. By setting up an official schedule, we hope to get more individuals (both CRC volunteers and raptors) involved in enrichment, while providing new and exciting enrichment for all raptors on a regular basis. This enrichment project is focusing mainly on cognitive and physical habitat but not exclusively. We will be adding more enrichment from the other categories once we have a feel for how the schedule is working. Within the new enrichment protocol, we have set up a way to record the enrichment that is given and the interest/interaction of each item for our resident raptors. We hope that this more detailed record keeping will allow us to provide the best individualized enrichment possible for our residents.



If you get a chance to visit, you might notice enrichment items in the aviaries. Some of the items that volunteers will be delivering to the birds include stuffed dog toys, tennis balls, produce to rip and tear, cardboard boxes with shredded newspapers or llama wool, and sand baths. If you would like the opportunity to be part of this new and exciting addition to the birds' daily activities, you can support enrichment by checking out the enrichment section of our Amazon.com wish list to purchase items. You can also help us gather as much information as possible for our enrichment records by posting comments or pictures to our Facebook page, www.facebook.com/eRaptors, if you view one of our birds interacting with their enrichment items during your visit! For example, pictured above is our Snowy Owl huddled over his favorite Hol-ee Roller ball filled with llama wool!

>> [If you want to help provide enrichment items, click here!](#)

Amazon Wish List

For other Wish List items - see links below! And to increase the value of your donation, you can go through AmazonSmile, so Cascades Raptor Center can also receive a portion of your purchase cost.

Rehabilitation Supplies

Link: <http://amzn.com/w/1PT5K6E1DQ3ZP>

Tools & Supplies

Link: <http://amzn.com/w/X9I56LACOZ1>

Emergency Action Supplies

Link: <http://amzn.com/w/1Z7LF1SKZO7MV>

>> [Click here for AmazonSmile!](#)

Mailing List

We were shocked this last year-end to discover that the Post Office was charging us way more to return or redirect our year end magazine than it cost us to print and mail each one! In light of this, we have been winnowing down our mailing list and are in the process of removing anyone from whom we have not heard in three years, under the assumption that they are no longer interested in what we are doing or in supporting our work. So, with apologies, IF we have not received a membership, adoption, or contribution from you since 2012, this will be your last e-newsletter and the year-end 2014 magazine will be your last printed newsletter from us.



We are very grateful for your continued support and we really appreciate it when you let us know if you move. The Post Office charges us \$4.00 for each magazine and \$1.21 for every summer newsletter they return to us because a forwarding notice has expired or they have no forwarding address. This can add up and we know you would far rather we spend our limited funds on taking care of the birds. Thank you for understanding!

We would be happy to keep anyone on the e-newsletter list even without a contribution if we get a specific request to do so. On average, only about 40% of recipients open the e-newsletter and we don't want to be bothering anyone who is no longer interested. So if you are not a recent donor but want to keep getting e-news about CRC activities, please just send me a note at Louise@eRaptors.org (or simply reply to this e-newsletter) and let me know. Thanks!

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