



Land of Enchantment Wildlife Foundation

FALL 2016

PO Box 957
Santa Cruz, NM 87567

Welcome, and thank you for taking the time to read the fall edition of Land of Enchantment Wildlife Foundation's quarterly newsletter.

LEWF had an amazing 2016! Our activities were incredibly diverse and we'll tell you about them after we share the following stories about the remarkable journey of six bear cubs. These stories illustrate the amazing amount of care that takes place among wildlife rehabilitators and the exceptional level of veterinary skill we have in the state.

There year of the cubs!

In early June, the community of Los Alamos was rattled with the news that a bear in the Valles Caldera National Preserve had attacked a marathon runner. The news became worst when it became known that the bear was a sow with two young cubs.

Following state regulation, New Mexico Game and Fish tracked and euthanized the sow to test for rabies. However, with great skill, the local officer was able to capture the two cubs without any incident, and deliver them to Dr. Ramsay of Cottonwood Rehab.



Coming into Dr. Ramsay weighing 10 pounds, and extremely malnourished, Dr. Ramsay immediately began them on a regiment of her "mush" to start helping them gain weight. Soon, the pounds became compounding. The cubs were soon named Valley Girl and Cowboy.

To help pay for the food that the cubs would require, Dr. Ramsay allowed LEWF to fundraise for these poor cubs. Using media outlets and pictures taken

from Bushnell game cameras, LEWF tapped in to the vast generosity of Los Alamos get food for Valley Girl and Cowboy.

However, that was not the end to the tale.

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Soon after Valley Girl and Cowboy had been delivered to Cottonwood Rehab, they received four more cubs from the Cloudcroft area. One set was a pair of sisters that became known as Aubrey and Opal. The next pair was brother and sister that became known as Clark and Judy.



With gracious donations, Cottonwood Rehab was able to take these small cubs and turn them into fat cubs. By the time of their release, all the cubs will have grown to over 150 pounds!

LEWF in 2016 regularly helped these and other rehabilitation efforts with cleaning and repairing cages, providing funds to buy much needed food, feeding the animals, and serving as a

transportation service for many animals that needed special care.

Thank you for caring for New Mexico's wildlife! Please continue to check our website and Facebook page for amazing animal videos from across the world and stories of local wildlife in need

On the next page is a great discussion on a raptor that is perfect for the Halloween season.

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IT IS HALLOWEEN AGAIN AND THE GHOSTS AND GOBLINS ARE OUT THERE TO GET US. NO, IT IS ONLY A BARN OWL!



For many people the ghost is the embodiment of horror. Found on creepy nights flying around old cemeteries and places of the dead. They fly out of the belfry and go over our heads with-out even a sound. We only feel air movement as they fly on by. If that ghost really wanted to scare you all as

No one really knows where Halloween came from originally, but one theory is that it originated from Celtic Harvest Festivals. These festivals latter became All Hallows' Eve. Christianity then began to play a part in these festivals and the lighting of sacred candles was placed on the graves of the dead. The Cajuns still have nocturnal masses that are said in cemeteries on Halloween Night.

We all know that there are not any ghosts? But in fact nature has created the perfect GHOST!



Barn owls, or *Tyto alba*, are medium sized owls. Lets us think about ghosts. They like to fly out of old belfries or buildings at night when the world is supposed to be a sleep. Human ears are not good enough to hear them fly but just feel them fly near. And then, if we scare a ghost it has a scream that will make you shake in your shoes. NO – you just saw a BARN OWL. Barn owls are nocturnal which means they hunt at night. They love to live in old buildings and fly out to look for their dinner in the woods around them. The feathers of their wings are designed to help them fly completely silently. This allows them to sneak up on their prey with greater ease. Another interesting attribute of the Barn Owl is its defensive stance and warning howl. They move their heads from side to side almost like a dance.

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If this does not scare you the Barn Owl is capable of emitting an unearthly scream. To hear him scream visit https://www.allaboutbirds.org/guide/Barn_Owl/id. To see them fly silently visit <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=6pWub12DUoU>

By Nirankar Ambris, Santa Fe Raptor
Dr. Kathleen Ramsay, Cottonwood Rehab

**GHOST or
BARN OWL**

