

# Tails

FROM CMWR

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May 2020

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Welcome to the first ever newsletter for Central Minnesota Wildlife Rehabilitation!

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“Stay at Home” is making many orphans, including triple the amount of raccoons than last year.

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How quickly they have grown: The baby Woodchucks/Groundhogs are almost ready for release!



## Care to Volunteer?

We need a newsletter editor and writers to keep this paper going! Please get in touch

## WEARING MANY HATS

So, the long promised news letter has arrived. My apologize for the delay but so much of my time is taken up with wildlife care, that administration duties fall into the “as time allows” file. The Newsletter writer happens to be one of those duties or hats that I wear, that often gets pushed aside.

If anyone out there would like to volunteer to be the editor of our newsletter, or enjoys writing, please say the word and we will put your skills to good use.

# And MORE Raccoons...



## COVID ORPHANS – THE DISEASE ISN'T THE KILLER

This year has been difficult on all of us, including the animals. The calls coming in have more than tripled what came in daily this time last year. It's not that the animals that are born are not as strong, or that the crazy temperatures have caused the problem. It's simply that more people are staying home.

When we are bored at home, we find things to occupy our day. Many have decided to do much needed yard work, or landscaping. Others have thought they would get rid of that old tree in the back yard to brighten up the place. Still others are more aware of their surroundings and notice the thin raccoons that are out during the day and think they are ill instead of understanding that this happens every spring and these raccoon mothers are taking a break from keeping their babies warm during the cool nights and are looking for something to eat to help them feed their young families.

For us at CMWR, this has meant outrageous amounts of orphaned raccoons needing care. Usually it's too late to explain to people that mother raccoons will come back and cry for their young for as many as three nights. It's also too late to ask people to refrain from cutting down trees or shooting at wildlife until spring has past so these little ones can grow up with their mothers. The saddest part of all is that we have had so many calls this year that we are now having to turn away these babies because our cages are absolutely full..

This is why we appreciate all of your help. As we work towards having a rehab facility and nature center, every penny counts. No matter if you donate food or supplies for the animals, or money, it all saves our precious pennies so we can reach our goal! Thank you!



## CREATURE FEATURE: OPOSSUM

I think that my favourite animal is a baby possum, or a joey. The face of a really little joey is so divine - so, so gorgeous.

Mem Fox

Did you know that Opossums (properly called "Virginia opossum") were not known in Minnesota until the last 100 years, and it wasn't until more recent years that we have seen them in Central Minnesota.

Opossum get a bad wrap due to the fact that carry a disease that can cause a neurological condition in horses called Equine Protozoal Myeloencephalitis. According to Stephanie Valberg, Director of the Equine Center at the University of Minnesota's college of veterinary medicine, the latest research shows most exposed horses never exhibit symptoms of the disease and those that do probably have comprised immune systems to begin with.

Needless to say, most people have a strong opinion of this wonderful creature (we are currently caring for 8 that were recovered from their mothers pouch after she was killed on the side of the road) that often eats around 5,000 ticks per season. Here at CMWR, we love them.

