



## Member Newsletter

January 2017

Seasonal Newsletter of the Wildlife Rehabilitators' Association of Massachusetts

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### Friends of Cape Wildlife By: Theresa M. Barbo, M.A.

The formation of Friends of Cape Wildlife (FCW) is nothing short of a movement that has transformed the conversation about wildlife rehabilitation on Cape Cod.

Last fall, The Humane Society of the United States (HSUS) made the difficult decision to close its Cape Wildlife Center and transfer resources to the larger South Florida Wildlife facility. The sup-posed death knell resounded loudly, and a group of volunteers at the CWC decided to fight tooth and nail to muster resources to keep the Center open.

FCW is led by Co-chairs Elizabeth Brooke of Provincetown and Caryn Ritchie of South Yarmouth, along with a core group including Heather and Ron Fone of Centerville, and other Cape Codders: Suzanne Ryan, Belinda Rubenstein and Mark Vogel.

These professionals, all volunteers, work tirelessly raising funds, connecting with stakeholders in the community, and organize volunteers, all of which has helped tremendously in keeping open the doors of the mid-Cape facility. The FCW is in the process of incorporating into an official 501(c)(3), or non-profit, to continue its work.

Elizabeth also sits on the Stakeholder Committee which is chaired by a representative of The HSUS and Barbara Birdsey, founder of The Pegasus Foundation. Through financial assistance from Pegasus, The HSUS has agreed to keep the doors open through March 1st and a lease arrangement is in the works to keep the doors open permanently.

In the meantime, Dr. Lynn Miller of The HSUS, a scientist and renowned wildlife rehabilitator, leads a reed-thin staff that keeps watch over the winter residents at the CWC.

The real worry, however, is orphan season this coming spring when hundreds of more animal heartbeats will need the loving care of skilled, talented and loving caregivers.

To learn more about Friends of Cape Wildlife, visit:  
<http://www.friendsofcapewildlife.org>

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