

# ANNUAL REPORT



# Letter from the Director

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Reflecting on 2025, this year was full of defining moments for Rescuing Ocala Wildlife. For the first time, we operated entirely from our new wildlife hospital. This brought years of planning into fruition, giving us tangible, lifesaving results and expanding our ability to care for the animals who need us most.

With this growth, our impact reached new heights. We rescued over 650 animals, our greatest intake number yet, while expanding our volunteer program to include hands-on, on-site animal care. We also continued to connect with our community through dozens of outreach events, helping educate and inspire coexistence in a rapidly developing Ocala and Marion County.

This year also marked our most successful fundraising efforts to date, allowing us to save more lives and strengthen the foundation of our work. As our community continues to grow, so does the need for licensed wildlife rehabilitation, and our commitment to meeting that need has never been stronger.

Looking ahead to 2026, we are preparing for the final phase of construction within our hospital building, beginning fundraising for flight cages, and continuing to add outdoor enclosures, which will allow us to care for more species and expand our reach even further.

Thank you for being part of this journey. Together, we are making a lasting difference—one wild life at a time.

For the love of wildlife,

*Mikayla Frierson*

MIKAYLA FRIERSON  
FOUNDER & DIRECTOR



# Organization Overview



Rescuing Ocala Wildlife (ROW) is a 501(c)(3) nonprofit wildlife hospital and rehabilitation organization based in Ocala, Florida. Founded in 2022, ROW addresses the critical need for licensed wildlife rehabilitation in Central by rescuing, rehabilitating, and releasing injured, sick, and orphaned native wildlife, while promoting conservation through community education. ROW operates a 10.5-acre facility with a newly opened hospital and is entirely run by volunteers who assist with animal care, transport, construction, outreach, and more.

In 2025, our organization cared for over 650 animals, including mammals, birds, reptiles, and amphibians.

Wildlife patients are admitted through members of the public, veterinarians, local law enforcement, and other animal care agencies, thereby increasing access to humane care.

In 2025, ROW also attended numerous educational and community outreach events, using our ambassador animals to create a hands-on learning experience that builds conservation awareness. As one of the only licensed wildlife rehabilitation facilities in Marion County, ROW plays a key role in supporting wildlife health, environmental stewardship, and community engagement while continuing to expand its capacity and impact.

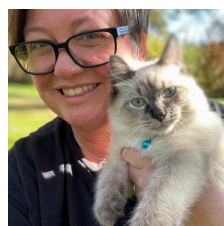
## 2025 BOARD OF DIRECTORS



**MIKAYLA  
FRIERSON**



**TERESA  
BOYDA**



**LESLYE  
HARDIN**



**MARY  
CAMPBELL**



**CARA  
SZNURKOWSKI**

# Mission, Vision, Values

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## Mission

Rescuing Ocala Wildlife (ROW) is dedicated to rescuing and rehabilitating sick, injured, and orphaned native wildlife, releasing them back to the wild whenever possible, and helping our community learn how to coexist with and care for the natural world around us.

## Vision

Our vision is to build a thriving wildlife rehabilitation and education center that strengthens the health and stability of native species, expands access to high-quality medical care for wildlife, and fosters environmental stewardship across generations.

Our long-term goal is to grow into a public rehabilitation and education facility that welcomes visitors of all ages to learn from non-releasable ambassador animals, participate in on-site education programs, and gain a deeper understanding of Florida's ecosystems. Through expanded programming and opportunities for community learning, ROW seeks to support lasting respect, curiosity, and conservation awareness throughout the region.

## Values

Our core values reflect our commitment to wildlife conservation, community engagement, and integrity. We act with compassion, honoring the intrinsic worth of every animal. We practice stewardship by protecting wildlife and ecosystems through ethical, evidence-based care and education. We strive for excellence, maintaining the highest standards of medical care, facility operations, and organizational transparency. We prioritize education as a path to greater understanding and coexistence. We rely on collaboration with veterinarians, rehabilitators, volunteers, and the community to expand our impact. We uphold accountability, ensuring that our decisions support long-term sustainability, responsible resource use, and public trust.

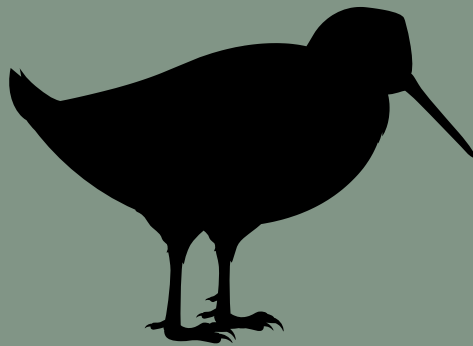
# Intake Statistics

ROW treated **688** patients of 63 species in 2025!



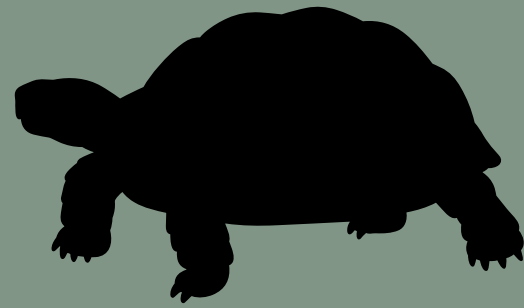
## **459 Mammals**

63% Virginia Opossums  
22% Eastern Cottontails  
12% Squirrels  
(Grey, Flying, Fox)  
3% Other



## **185 Birds**

51.7% Birds of Prey  
28.8% Passerines  
18.3% Waterfowl  
1.2% Other



## **42 Reptiles**

88.1% Gopher Tortoises  
9.6% Aquatic Turtles  
2.3% Non-venomous  
Snakes

**+ 2 Amphibians!**

## **Causes for Admission**

The majority of our admissions this year were due to human-wildlife conflict. This occurs when development, roadways, and domestic animals intersect with wildlife's natural lives, or when harm is caused by human actions, whether intentional or not. Our most common cause for intake was vehicle strikes, followed by cat attacks, which can be fatal even when injuries seem minor. The third highest was orphaned babies—many of which were not truly orphaned, but unintentionally taken by well-meaning individuals or the result of illegal rehabilitation attempts before being brought to us for proper care. These cases serve as a reminder that many threats to wildlife are preventable, and that education is key to creating a community that can safely coexist with the native animals around us.



# Volunteers

**\$34.79**

**average value of  
a volunteer hour**

**1,922**

**total hours**

**\$66,000**

**saved by ROW  
volunteer labor**

As a 100% volunteer-run organization, every aspect of our work depends on people who choose to show up for wildlife, often without recognition and always without pay.

In 2025, our team logged 1,922 volunteer hours, representing an estimated value of over \$66,000 using the national average for the monetary value of volunteer time. But our true impact goes far beyond what can be measured. So much of this work happens outside of logged hours—late-night feedings, early-morning treatments, emergency transports, long phone calls guiding the public, and countless behind-the-scenes efforts required to keep the animals and our organization running.

This level of commitment is what makes our work possible. It is what allows us to respond when wildlife is in crisis, and what ensures those animals have a chance at recovery and return to the wild.

We are endlessly grateful for the people who choose to give their time, energy, and heart to this work. Because of our volunteers, more animals are saved, more lives are changed, and our mission continues to grow stronger every year.



# Financial Overview

At ROW, we are deeply grateful for every contribution that supports our wildlife rescue, education, and outreach efforts. As a 501(c)(3) nonprofit organization, we do not receive government funding and rely entirely on community generosity. Your support allows us to provide high-quality rehabilitation and medical care to vulnerable wildlife, ensuring each patient has the best chance at recovery and release, while continuing our educational outreach programs for all ages.

Donations from individuals, foundations, and corporate partners are essential in covering patient care, transportation, volunteer resources, and other critical needs. Every contribution goes directly toward supporting wildlife, with no funds allocated to staff salaries.

## 2025 Income (Preliminary, Unaudited)

Fundraisers	\$23,792
Donated by Finders	\$2,290
Grants	\$32,344
<b>Total</b>	<b>\$58,426</b>

## 2025 Expenses (Preliminary, Unaudited)

Wildlife Treatment	\$21,108
Construction	\$12,475
Fundraising	\$8,760
Operating Expenses	\$7,092
Administrative	\$5,529
<b>Total</b>	<b>\$54,964</b>



# Education & Outreach

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In 2025, Rescuing Ocala Wildlife continued to expand our education and outreach efforts, connecting with hundreds of people through in-person and virtual events and educational programs. From homeschool visits and workshops to public presentations, we focused on building a deeper understanding of Florida's wildlife and the importance of coexistence.

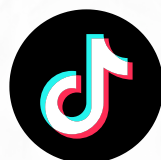
A highlight of this year was the continued growth of our ambassador program. Cleo, our corn snake, remained a favorite—helping many individuals overcome fear and develop respect for native reptiles. Mango and Garbanzo, our box turtles, also attended numerous events to promote conservation of their species and educate on the consequences of human/wildlife conflicts.

Through hands-on learning experiences and partnerships with schools, local organizations, and community groups, we've reached a wider audience and inspired people of all ages to play a role in protecting wildlife.

This work is only possible because of the support of our community. Your involvement allows us to continue growing, educating, and creating a future where people and wildlife can thrive together.



# Contact Us



Gold  
Transparency  
2025

**Candid.**



**352-234-6098**



**[www.ROWildlife.org](http://www.ROWildlife.org)**



**[contact@rowildlife.org](mailto:contact@rowildlife.org)**



Rescuing Ocala Wildlife, Inc. (dba ROW) is a registered 501(c)(3) nonprofit organization (Federal Tax ID: 88-3072020). A copy of the organization's official registration (#CH69125) and financial information may be obtained from the Florida Division of Consumer Services