



Animal rescues

Recognize other providers

Regarding the May 15 article, "Friends of a Feather": There are numerous licensed and federally permitted bird rehabilitators on the Big Island. Your story, while informative about the excellent care given by that particular rehabber, had many errors, including the information about sanctuaries and other rehabbers on the Big Island.

The Three Ring Ranch Exotic Animal Sanctuary has been rehabilitating raptors and other species on the Big Island for over seven years. We care for both native and non- native birds, including endangered species.

We have permits to care for io, pueo, barn owls, nene, bats, sea birds and forest birds. We also have sub-permittees on every part of the island who may legally pick-up and care for these birds. In addition, we serve as a long-term home for those birds that are not able to return to the wild due to reasons of injury or age. The DLNR sometimes brings us birds from other islands for long-term care, as well. We also have been able to return about 20 birds a year to the wild.

Accredited sanctuaries, like the Three Ring Ranch, are willing to care for native endangered species in large, natural enclosures, free from harassment or public stress. Most of the birds here stay for only a short time while they heal before being released, but others may live their entire lives with us. This lifelong care is a commitment that requires additional, special federal permits. As the lone educational facility on this side of the island we are the only entity that holds all of these permits. These birds that stay are seen by veterinary students, pre-vet students and interns in our many educational programs.

Rehabilitation should not be a competition for injured animals.

It should be a cooperative effort to provide the best care to the most animals possible. After all, each of us is doing this voluntarily. No one is paid and we all spend our own funds caring for these creatures. When a good Samaritan finds an injured animal, the Humane Society should be able to give them as many phone numbers as possible for help. To give out only one phone number or tell of only one rehabber could leave the injured animal waiting for care if that one rehabber is not available.

In addition, no one rehabber or veterinarian should attempt to discredit the work of another. It makes no sense not to work together when the goal of every rehabber is to educate the public so that human and animal interaction is minimized and our rehab mews stay empty.

Good Samaritans are the greatest tool any rehabber has for getting animals into care. If you find injured wildlife you can call: DLNR 887-6063 Humane Society 329-2135 Three Ring Ranch 331-8773 Steve Snyder 938-3303. Even after hours, you can call the Three Ring Ranch for information and to arrange an emergency pick-up or drop-off.

If you find an injured bird, please gently move the animal into a cardboard box (on a towel, if possible) and get it to a cool, quiet place until it can be taken to a local veterinarian or rehabber for care.

Caring for wildlife is a partnership between the Good Samaritan, the veterinarian and the rehabber. The Big Island is blessed to have a wealth of each.

Ann Goody

Three Ring Ranch Exotic Animal Sanctuary

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