



**ACES**

BELIZE

**WILDLIFE RESCUE**

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**2022 ANNUAL REPORT**



# A word from our directors

2022 was a busy year for us here at Aces Wildlife Rescue. Our wildlife hotline was busier than ever and we have once again surpassed previous year's patient intakes thanks to concerned citizens keeping a watchful eye out for our wild neighbors in-need.

It was also a year of monumental growth for our facility. With the donations we received, we've not only greatly increased our temporary and rehabilitative holding capacity, but we have finally been able to complete large projects that we simply could not previously afford to do. From the new sanctuary habitats, to the new large multi-species use rehabilitation enclosures, we have transformed from "just making do", to a facility equipped to treat, house, and rehabilitate a vast array of avian and reptilian species found on the cayes and northern Belize.

All of this year's successes belong to the many who make our organization what it is, from our incredible donors which give Aces Wildlife Rescue the fuel to keep up with the needs of our community and wildlife, our wildlife partners who stand along side us as we protect and serve as stewards of the environment, and the businesses and community members who work with us to find harmony with nature. We thank each and every one of you for your support and helping us achieve so much.

We want to give a special thank you to our board of directors and our volunteers. Their tireless efforts responding to calls, treating wounds, feeding babies, and doing the behind-the-scenes jobs keep this organization going and we couldn't do it without you!

A large bird, possibly a frigatebird, is shown in flight against a clear blue sky. The bird's wings are spread wide, and it is flying towards the right. Below the bird, the ocean is visible with white-capped waves. The text "Thank you!" is written in a large, black, cursive font in the upper left quadrant of the image.

Thank you!

*Chris Summers + Christina Manzi*  
Directors  
Aces Wildlife Rescue

# 2022 Wildlife Admissions





**208**  
TOTAL WILDLIFE  
ADMISSIONS



 **67**   
**REPTILES**  
23 Crocodiles  
21 Snakes  
17 Turtles  
6 Iguanas

 **118**   
**BIRDS**  
2 Parrots  
33 Songbirds  
3 Raptors  
5 Nightjars/Potoos  
29 Pigeons/doves  
1 Toucan  
8 Waterbirds (marsh)  
31 Waterbirds (coastal)  
3 Woodpeckers  
1 Hummingbird  
2 Exotics

 **23**   
**MAMMALS**  
18 Raccoons  
1 Tamandua  
1 Coati  
2 Squirrels  
1 Bat

**60** **UNIQUE SPECIES TREATED**

**TOP 3 REASONS FOR ADMISSION**  
1. Sick or Injured  
2. Human-Wildlife Conflict  
3. Orphaned

**91%** SURVIVAL RATE AFTER FIRST 24 HOURS

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DECREASE IN INTAKES RESULTING FROM WILDLIFE CRIME **25%**

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**24%** INCREASE IN INTAKES OVER 2021

  
**367**  
HOTLINE CALLS

# Financials

## INCOME

|                              |                     |
|------------------------------|---------------------|
| Online donations             | \$79,600            |
| Aces account direct deposits | \$248,734.88        |
| Fundraisers/Merchandise      | \$23,910            |
| Cash donations               | \$8,092             |
| <b>Total income</b>          | <b>\$360,336.88</b> |

In-kind donations \$4772.88

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## EXPENSES

|   |              |
|---|--------------|
| Wildlife Care   | \$16,910.58  |
| Enclosure construction, maintenance, and property fencing | \$177,863.43 |
| Croc rescues - Traps and equipment                        | \$2625.06    |
| Community outreach and educational materials              | \$17,295.38  |
| Administration*   | \$11,457.29  |
| Property rental   | \$26,800     |
| Fundraising and merchandise                               | \$3547.50    |
| Tools and maintenance equipment                           | \$3850.60    |
| Shipping and barge services                               | \$5927.59    |
| Maintenance and operation of vehicles                     | \$18,232.34  |
| Miscellaneous costs**                                     | \$11,183.38  |

**Total Expenses** **\$298,693.15**



\*Administration costs cover office supplies, bank fees, and electricity to run the pumps on our many ponds.

\*\* Miscellaneous costs include waste transfer fees, our failed ocean side mangrove restoration attempt, and professional felling of any trees that might have compromised the security of croc enclosures during storm season.

# Highlights of 2022

A very unusual rescue involving a Northern Anteater who had, much to the mystery of the crew, got herself stuck aboard a catamaran anchored off shore of south Ambergris Caye. This was an incredibly difficult rescue where the team learned that anteaters can in fact swim! As with wildlife captures, you can plan all you want but wildlife can do unpredictable things and the team has to adapt accordingly! While the capture did not go according to plan and we found ourselves swimming out to sea after this scared individual, we are happy to report she was safely secured, assessed and released.



Aces hosts our most successful fundraiser to date at Wayo's Beach Bar. The attendance, love, and support we received from the community was overwhelming. Between the volunteers who helped organize the event, the prizes donated, the staff at Wayo's, the community members who came out to support us, and the raffle prize money donated back from the winners at Truck Stop, it was an absolutely incredible night where we raised \$19,830 BZD!!!

An American crocodile was discovered trapped inside a well at an abandoned research camp. Finders alerted us and she was rescued just in the nick of time. On the verge of starving to death, this lady was riddled with ailments from her accidental imprisonment and is still currently in rehabilitation at Aces facility regaining weight and her strength and her teeth which had all been lost due to malnourishment.



# Highlights of 2022

While in rehabilitation, a gravid boa constrictor who we believe to have been hit by a golf cart gives birth to 12 babies. After being given more than the appropriate time with their mother, the babies were all released into the wild in carefully chosen locations around the island where they can thrive and help the future success of their species.



Partnered with several resorts on the island, our mainland partner organizations, the Belize Forest Department, and the Belize Tourism Boards, Aces facilitates the design and installation of an anti-feeding wildlife sign at the international airport as part of our continued outreach and coexistence education program.

Our most unusual intake of the year goes to this Keel-Billed Toucan. Although it's the national bird of Belize and found throughout the country, it is a species seen very rarely on Ambergris Caye. She came to us after a miscalculated flight caused her to collide with one of the buildings of a resort. Thankfully resort staff acted fast and contacted us for help as soon as it happened. After some much needed down time to rest and heal, this beauty made a full recovery and was released on island.



# Highlights of 2022



"Fighting Extinction After Dark", a documentary about Aces' crocodile conservation efforts by David Ozier had its European debut at the S.O.F.A Film Festival in Cyprus. The film festival focuses on movies that raise awareness for animals, wildlife, conservation and environmental concerns, and the film itself has been nominated for several awards.

A crocodile who was purposely tied up to a mangrove and left for dead was found and freed by Aces team the morning Hurricane Lisa was making landfall in Belize. The crocodile had some abrasions from the ropes but overall was none the worse for wear thankfully, and was immediately released so she could go take shelter from the storm in the protection of the mangrove.



Pearl, the Red Footed Booby, was incredibly disheveled and under the weather when she came to us. She was in such bad shape with infections and parasites and she crashed more than once on us, but after hard work and life-saving care, we are happy to report that after months of rehab, she made a full recovery and was released with her colony at Half Moon Caye where her species lives.

# Highlights of 2022



Thanks to an incredible anonymous donation from a supporter, we were able to begin much needed expansion at our facility, and begin projects we've been trying for years to raise the funds to do.



Over the course of summer and fall of 2022, we have been able to now fence off the property completely, construct two crocodiles enclosures that will act as forever homes for two unreleasable adult crocodiles, build 2 adult crocodile rehabilitation enclosures, and two additional large rehabilitation aviaries.





# Upcoming Projects 2023

## COMPLETING A HOME FOR PHINEAS

Phineas has been a resident croc with us for the last four years. He had a turbulent history in the wilds of Ambergris, and towards the end of 2018 after consultation with the forest department it was decided he not be released and relocated. Since then, we had been trying to raise funds to build him a proper home so he can be an ambassador for his species. Finally it happened, and the construction was completed just before Christmas. There are still many things to be done before we can introduce Phineas, but we're so close you can almost taste it!



## CLINIC EXPANSION

The clinic is the first stage of an animals rehabilitation process. Intake exams are performed there, wounds are stabilized, and medicine is administered. Regardless of what ails a critter, until they're done with their rounds of medicine and cleared of parasites, they cannot be moved to an outside enclosure and the clinic is where they live. Our current clinic is the spare apartment downstairs and for the time being we've made do. For 2023, we are hoping to raise enough to funding to turn the current "clinic" into a dedicated space with treatment rooms and isolation rooms for the wide variety of species we admit.

## MANGROVE REFORESTATION

During the summer, we constructed a protected area in the ocean along the shoreline for young mangrove to grow strong in an attempt to use mother nature to reclaim mass amounts of beach lost to erosion caused by a seawall, and to slow down any continued erosion. While the idea was sound in theory, the shoreline is a harsh place for young mangrove and ultimately the project was a failure. But when all is said and done, we learnt a lot from our failures, and funding permitting for 2023, we're excited to try again



# **Our partners and business supporters**

***Belize Forest Department***

***Belize Fisheries Department***

***Hol Chan Marine Reserve***

***The Audubon Society***

***SACD***

***Wildtracks***

***Belize Bird Rescue***

***Animal Medical Center***

***SAGA Humane Society***

***Belize Wildlife and Referral Clinic***

***The Belize Zoo***

***Ralph Gregory***

***ECI Development***

***Global Conservation Force***

***The Truck Stop***

***Nauti Crab***

***Gypsy***

***Cross Sunset Sports Bar***

***Rotary Club***

***Palapa Bar***

***Secret Beach Bar & Grill***

***Ramons***

***Xsite Belize Sailing***

***Table Rock Jungle Lodge***

***Ian Anderson's Caves Branch***

***YOLO***

***San Pedro Town Council***

***Tropic Air***

***Tom Cawthorn Photography***

***Pampered Paws***

***Aquarius Hair Salon***

***Chuck and Robbies***

***Jyoto***

***The Phoenix***

***Margaret Hulse***

***Wine De Vine***

***Coleen Creeden***

***San Pedro Yoga***

***Secret Beach Bar & Grill***

***Iguana Juan's***

***Cool Beans***

***Recino's Imports***

***Cork and Cooperage***

***Patty Flipper***

***Caye Coffee***

***Kiki's San Pedro Social Club***

***The Chocolate Shop***

***Toast***

# Support our Mission

Your donation makes our wildlife and environmental conservation work possible. With your help we can continue to provide rescue services, excellent specialized veterinary care, rehabilitation, housing, transportation, education and outreach. Give wildlife a second chance at freedom and the community a better understanding of how to harmoniously live and grow with nature by becoming one of our supporters.

[AcesWildlifeRescue.org/donate](https://AcesWildlifeRescue.org/donate)



**Aces Wildlife Rescue Acct # 2110007416**

