

### 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-thescenes jobs keep this organization going and we couldn't do it without you!



#### 2022 Wildlife Admissions



208
TOTAL WILDLIFE
ADMISSIONS







- 23 Crocodiles
- 21 Snakes
- 17 Turtles
  - 6 Iguanas



- ? 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



- 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

DECREASE IN INTAKES
RESULTING FROM
WILDLIFE CRIME

25%

increase in intakes over 2021



### Financials

#### **INCOME**

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

In-kind donations \$4772.88



#### **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

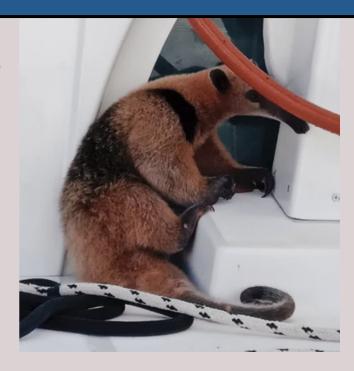
Total Expenses \$298,693.15



<sup>\*</sup>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.

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 most successful our fundraiser to date at Wayo's Beach Bar. The attendence, 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.



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.





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 lanfall 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.



"Fighting Extinction After Dark", Aces' crocodile documentary about 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.



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 lifesaving 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.



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.

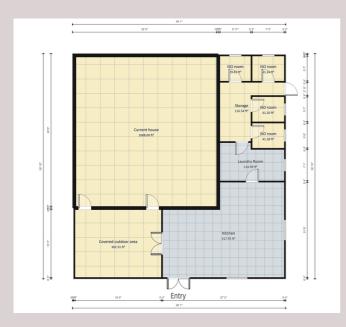


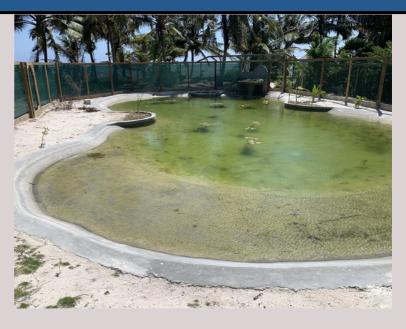


## **Upcoming Projects 2023**

### 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

Belize Wildlife and Referral Clinic

**SAGA Humane Society** 

The Belize Zoo
Ralph Gregory
ECI Development
Global Conservation Force
The Truck Stop
Nauti Crab
Gypsy

Crocs 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







Aces Wildlife Rescue Acct # 2110007416

