



OHS HUMANE EDUCATION

NEWSLETTER

Promoting Education in Animal Well-Being



OCTOBER 2023

ANIMAL NEWS

A CLOSER LOOK

OCTOBER IS SQUIRREL AWARENESS MONTH

What and why Squirrel Awareness? Those little critters are everywhere and dig up the lawn! But wait! Squirrels support our environment by planting trees! How?

[Link to the original Squirrel Lovers Club for Squirrel Awareness](#)

- Over 280 species of squirrels have been seen all over the world except for Antarctica and Australia.
- Squirrels are mammals and classified as rodents, like mice and rats.
- Chipmunks are small squirrels with a stripe down their back.
- Squirrels live in trees and burrows.
- Like some other rodents, a squirrel's front teeth may keep growing unless they have hard objects to chew.
- Squirrels may discover food buried beneath a foot of snow and eat mostly nuts, fruit and seeds, but may also eat bird eggs and insects. They can eat about 1.5 their weight in pounds of food each week. When squirrels bury food, they are able to find almost 80% of it by smell; however, the rest of it is either stolen by wily animals watching them hide it (like crows) or...**yes, the seeds grow into trees and help with reforestation.**
- Squirrels are born blind and the babies are called kittens.
- Squirrels can jump up to 20 feet and can safely fall about 200 feet without injury.
- Flying squirrels don't really fly, but they can glide between trees up to almost 300 feet.

[Link to Squirrel Live Cam in Washington, DC](#)

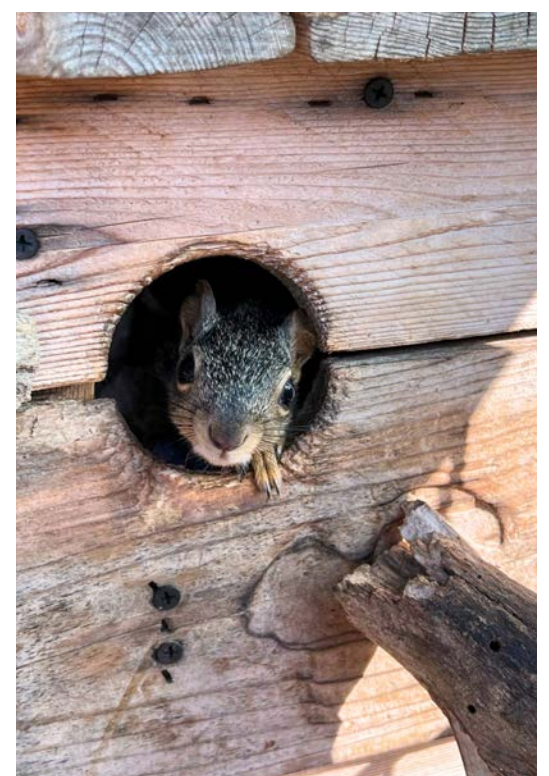


In the last 5 years, the OHS Wildlife Rehabilitation Center has helped over 280 squirrels in need of medical care. The three types of squirrels most commonly seen and treated are Fox Squirrels, Eastern Gray Squirrels, and California Ground Squirrels.

The young Fox Squirrel kittens in these photos were rescued and brought to the center when their mother was found deceased. Each weighed only a couple of ounces and was covered with fleas. They are currently being cared for by trained rehabilitators, will learn how to live in the wild, and will be gradually released to a squirrel's typical habitat.

OCTOBER Animal Holidays

Bat Appreciation Month
 National Animal Safety and Protection Month
 Squirrel Awareness Month
 World Animal Month
 National Wolf Awareness Week-10/15-21
 International Raccoon Appreciation Day-10/1
 World Farm Animals Day- 10/2
 World Animal Day-10/4
 National Badger Day-10/6
 National Salmon Day-10/8
 International Sloth Day-10/20
 Reptile Awareness Day-10/21



AWARENESS FUN FOR ELEMENTARY STUDENTS

CAN YOU DESIGN A SQUIRREL PROOF BIRD FEEDER?

Although feeding wildlife is generally discouraged as unnecessary, and in some states even illegal, many people put up bird feeders to help migrating birds during various times of the year. However, squirrels are often quite talented at raiding the feeders. What are some ideas to keep squirrels out of these commonly seen bird feeders?

REMEMBER THAT SQUIRRELS ARE EXPERTS AT CLIMBING, JUMPING, AND FALLING!

