

# CELEBRATE NATIONAL WILDLIFE DAY WITH 5 CENTRAL TEXAS WILDLIFE CONSERVATION NONPROFITS

THESE HILL COUNTRY-BASED ORGANIZATIONS ARE DOING THEIR PART TO PROTECT  
OUR ECOSYSTEM

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PHOTO COURTESY ANIMAL WILDLIFE RESCUE/  
FACEBOOK

According to the Texas Almanac, the Lone Star State is home to more than 140 species of animals. Here in Austin, we're familiar with the snakes, raccoons, and squirrels, but many other species lurk among the trees unseen to humans. This year, [National Wildlife Day](#) shares the calendar with Labor Day, so in celebration of the critters that have lived here longer than many of us, we've put together a list of local wildlife organizations dedicated to helping our not-so-human neighbors.

These organizations are all not-for-profit, so if you feel so inclined to help but don't possess the knowledge or time to personally volunteer, monetary donations are a great way to propel these causes forward and ensure comprehensive protection.

## **Austin Wildlife Rescue**

Located a few miles outside of downtown, [Austin Wildlife Rescue](#) rehabilitates sick or injured animals before releasing them back into their natural habitats. They're who you would call if, let's say, you find an abandoned baby skunk or see someone run into a deer. They also work to educate the public and reduce harmful encounters between humans and animals through various community outreach programs and strive to further decrease the number of animals impacted by human actions. Professional staff train volunteers that answer the phones, so if you want to help out area animals but feel unqualified to do so, this is a great place to start.

## **The Global Wildlife Conservation**

The [Global Wildlife Conservation](#), although a trans-continental organization, is based here in Texas's capital city. GWC works to maintain the earth's biodiversity by implementing programs that aim to save endangered species. Working with more 100 species in 40 countries, the Austin-based charity believes saving animals endangered by human action will help save the environment, and in turn, the planet. From programs that combat poaching to those that reduce the frequency of a deadly amphibian disease, GWC teams up with specialists and organizations across the globe to right the wrongs of human development.

## The Bill Hicks Foundation for Wildlife

[The Bill Hicks Foundation for Wildlife's](#) philosophy is that humans owe assistance to the creatures that inhabited the Austin area before an ever-increasing human population moved in and endangered the animals that have long called this place home. This organization, named after the late comic Bill Hicks and dedicated to his love for helping animals, is run entirely by volunteers and focuses efforts mostly on small mammals. Those taking care of the animals typically have full-time jobs as well, but through tireless dedication they also manage to rehabilitate Austin's wildlife and preserve our ecosystem.

## Austin Area Wildlife Rehabilitation

[Austin Area Wildlife Rehabilitation](#) volunteers takes sick, injured, or orphaned animals into their home and give the proper treatment and care necessary for rehabilitation. They're also the people to call if you have a question about wildlife that's either acting strange or being disruptive, and provide veterinary care when necessary. Their only source of funding comes from tax-exemptible donations from the public; you can choose to either donate directly or set the organization as your "charity of choice" on Amazon to do your part.

## Wildlife Rescue and Rehabilitation

Out of respect to the larger community we're all part of, [Wildlife Rescue and Rehabilitation](#) focuses their efforts on providing care to wildlife animals in need. Whether it's through a rehabilitate and release program or providing a home on their 212 acre-sanctuary that's roamed by various primates, large felines, and farm animals, the organization does all they can to care for the sick, injured, and abused. They have two locations: one in San Antonio, and one in Kendalia. There's also an [advocacy toolbox](#) on their website to help you navigate the world of animal protection and rights.

*Note: We recommend you give these organizations a call or check their websites rather than just dropping by the office. Many are run strictly by volunteers who administer care in their personal home.*