

River Otters of South Florida

ROSF



Otter Information

South Florida Otter News

Introduction to the South Florida Otter News

The primary intention of the South Florida Otter News (“News”) is to provide a biannual report of information about otter happenings in south Florida to (1) volunteers assisting with river otter research and education programming directed by Victor L. Camp, Courtesy Faculty/Otter Research with The Water School, Department of Ecology & Environmental Studies at Florida Gulf Coast University (FGCU); (2) faculty and students in The Water School and other related academic units at FGCU; and (3) personal colleagues and friends of Victor L. Camp. A secondary intent of the “News” is to provide this report of information as a supplement to the Otter Information Section of the River Otters of South Florida website.

The volunteers assisting with river otter research and education programming initiatives, of the River Otters of South Florida website, are currently being recruited to help form a not-for-profit organization that can aid in the training and management of these volunteers. This organization will be The River Otters of South Florida Association (ROSFA). Volunteers from ROSFA will manage the publication of the South Florida Otter News as well as assist with the annual review and updating of the ROSF website.

Shown below is the first issue of the South Florida Otter News and is provided as the example of the design, layout, and the type of content for the “News”.

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South Florida Otter News

www.riverotterssouthfl.com

Volume 1 Issue 1, 1 August 2021

About the South Florida Otter News

The *South Florida Otter News* is intended to contain a variety of “Interesting Stories about Otters from South Florida” and may, periodically, include otter stories from other places in Florida. This may include information

about river otters (*Lontra canadensis*) acquired from newspaper articles, TV productions, word-of-mouth stories, descriptions of interesting and sometimes amusing otter behavior, Florida Zoos and Aquariums, and otter sightings of particular interest such as seeing otter pups, observations of locations where recent otterroadway mortalities have occurred in the state of Florida, and information on otter attacks of people and pets in Florida. Information on otter rescue, rehabilitation, and release may also be included. The *South Florida Otter News* will also include “News on Otter Species in Florida Zoos and Aquariums” and information on “Recent South Florida Otter Research”.

This 1 August 2021 edition is the first edition of the “South Florida Otter News”. It has yet to be determined whether editions will be produced quarterly or biannually.

Victor L. Camp, Editor
1 August 2021

Interesting Stories about Otters in South Florida

ABC 7 Orphaned otter pup taken to Sanibel wildlife hospital By Erin O'Brien

11:39 PM EST, Thu February 11, 2021

SANIBEL, Fla. — Baby otter season is ramping up in Southwest Florida.

Staff at the Clinic for the Rehabilitation of Wildlife, located on Sanibel, have treated many baby birds of prey recently. Now, they have an orphan otter pup that was recently admitted to the animal hospital.

The pup is thought to be about four weeks old and was found all alone on the road in LaBelle. It arrived to CROW thin and dehydrated, but otherwise healthy.

North American otter pups stay with their mother for about seven to eight months or more

News4Jax (Channel 14)

Published: March 17, 2021, 2:18 P.M.

By Carianne Luter, Social Media Producer

Otterly adorable:



City worker rescues young otter from storm drain

ATLANTIC BEACH, Fla. – A city worker in Atlantic Beach helped rescue a young otter after it became stuck in a storm drain.

Monica Maldonado McCowan shared this photo of her brother, Emilio, holding the fuzzy creature near Atlantic Beach Elementary School. Another woman heard the distressed animal chirping and called the city.

We're told the otter pup was brought to a wildlife sanctuary to be taken care of.

He is a true hometown hero!



Kudos to my brother Emilio, with the City of Atlantic Beach, for rescuing a baby otter from a storm drain!

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WATCH: Three orphaned river otters enjoy beach day planned by CROW staff

by **Sarah Glenn**

[10:22 PM EDT, Fri June 25, 2021](#)



SANIBEL ISLAND, Fla.— [The Clinic for the Rehabilitation of Wildlife \(CROW\)](#) on Sanibel Island is currently caring for three orphaned river otters.

According to CROW, environmental enrichment is essential to the otter’s development. The staff provides them with different activities to help keep them busy while also teaching them about new sights, smells, and objects



The CROW rehabilitators put together a “beach day” for the curious otters, complete with buckets of sand, seashells, coconuts, plants, food items frozen in blocks of ice, and beach toys.

NOTE TO FRIENDS AT C.R.O.W.: Please excuse the reorientation of the photos associated with the content.

There was not enough text space to include your article content at 100%. Thank you for your understanding.

(Victor L. Camp, Editor)

Three orphaned otters returned to the wild at River Park

By Katelyn Massarelli

Posted by



ABC7 Fort Myers
(July 14, 2021)



SANIBEL, Fla. – Three orphaned North American river otters returned to the wild after being raised at a Sanibel wildlife hospital. The Clinic for the Rehabilitation of Wildlife (CROW) said the otters were released at River Park in Bonita Springs.

The orphaned otters have been in CROW's care since they were just a few weeks old. The wildlife hospital said the first otter pup, a healthy young male, was admitted on Feb. 10 after it was found on the side of the road in LaBelle.



A few days later on Feb. 12, a young female otter was transferred to CROW after previously being admitted to the Peace River Wildlife Center in Punta Gorda. Officials said the female otter battled pneumonia but quickly recovered under medical care before joining the male.



In early, March the third otter, a young female, was found alone in a drainage ditch and admitted to the Tampa Bay Raptor Center, CROW said. She was in good health when she was transferred to crow on March 10 to be raised with the other two otters.

The three otter pups quickly bonded, CROW veterinarians said.



River otters are very social creatures and otter pups typically remain with their mother throughout their first year of life, CROW said. Growing up with siblings is vital to their learning and development of important survival skills needed for life in the wild. The otters' development of hunting ability was aided by volunteer anglers who donated time to catch live fish

Notes: by Victor L. Camp, Editor. South Florida Otter News 1). All photos and text are identical to the original publication by Katelyn Massarelli; 2.) Font and layout of photos and text were changed to match the format of the South Florida Otter News; 3.) This is a subsequent article to "Three orphaned river otters enjoy beach day planned by CROW staff" written by Sarah Glenn on June 25, 2021 (above).

Another recently rehabilitated otter released back to the wild by the Clinic for Wildlife Rehabilitation (CROW)

According to a CROW senior staff member a female otter was returned to the wild on July 21, 2021. The otter entered the clinic on July 12, 2021 and underwent rehabilitation after having apparently been struck by a vehicle in the Cape Coral area of Florida. The otter was released into the Imperial River at River Park, Bonita Springs, Florida. This is the same release location as the “Three orphaned otters...” noted above.
(07/28/21)

News on Otters in Florida Zoos and Aquariums