

Submitter: Erin Sackett
On Behalf Of:
Committee: Senate Committee On Natural Resources and
Wildfire
Measure, Appointment or Topic: SB1131

Chintimini is the only wildlife rehabilitation center serving mid-Oregon which takes any wildlife. There are others, but they are specialized - some just takes songbirds, and some only take raptors. Chintimini does it all. As a result, people with injured wildlife often come from an hour away (or more) to get the animal care.

For example - Cascades Raptor Center, in Eugene, only rehabilitates and cares for raptors. A turkey was brought to Cascades Raptor Center for care after being smashed in the face with a brick several times. As a former volunteer of both Cascades and Chintimini, I was requested to drive the bird from Eugene to Chintimini. I've met people and animals who have been driven several hours to get to care at Chintimini.

My point is that Chintimini does not just serve Corvallis residents - Chintimini cares for wildlife animals in a several hour radius around Corvallis. There are just two other wildlife rehabilitation centers who provide the same extensive service that they do - one in Grants Pass, and one in Portland.

They do incredible work on a shoestring budget. Many of the people who drop off animals for care do not then donate. Some do, but most don't. Chintimini is supported by their stellar reputation with other organizations and the local government in order to do the work they do. They are one of the organizations Corvallis residents are and should be most proud of.

Past sentimentalities, Chintimini also provides an extremely valued service as a local ecology and wildlife disease watchdog. Where fish and wildlife may get reports of sick wildlife from occasional citizens who know what and where to report it, Chintimini sees a very representative sample of wildlife ailments and populations because everyone with a sick animal either calls them to inquire about it or brings it to them. As a result, Chintimini is a very reliable indicator for local wildlife health and research. With avian influenza, Chintimini provided more data on the spread and severity than fish and wildlife could. The two organizations work well together and provide a strong, invisible benefit to human and ecosystem health.

Any funding that is allocated to Chintimini will be incredibly well spent, and will return to the community many times over in the service it provides.