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Phillie Phanatic Wishes Wildlife Clinic Happy Birthday

The Phillie Phanatic joined over 125 other well-wishers at a 25th birthday party for the wildlife clinic at the Schuylkill Center for Environmental Education on Saturday, September 22, 2012. The free, family-friendly event also featured live animal shows, crafts for children, and a photographic exhibition about the clinic in the Schuylkill Center's new art gallery.

Following an education program with live animal ambassadors from the clinic, the Phanatic made a dramatic appearance to the tune of "Wild Thing" and did the honors by wheeling out a giant birthday cake.



The Phanatic mingled with the crowd – many of whom were sporting Phillies garb – and gave people plenty of time for photos. At one point, the furry green mascot appeared to get a little clumsy and hurt himself bumping into a wall. Fortunately, the Center's director of wildlife rehabilitation, Rick Schubert, was on hand to patch him up with medical gauze, much to the delight of the audience.

After the Phanatic's show, the audience enjoyed the delicious birthday cake – courtesy of the Night Kitchen Bakery in Chestnut Hill – more animal programs, and a tour of the Center.

The Schuylkill Center's wildlife clinic is the only fully licensed wildlife rehabilitation facility in the four-county area, and the care for animals in need is free. Since its opening in 1987, the clinic has

cared for over 80,000 injured and orphaned animals, successfully returning the majority of those animals to the wild.

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Founded in 1965, the Schuylkill Center for Environmental Education (SCEE) is one of the first urban environmental education centers in the country. It encompasses over 340 acres of privately held land in the Roxborough neighborhood of Philadelphia. SCEE's mission is to promote the preservation and improvement of our natural environment through education, outreach and the conservation of its land.

Photo: Rick Schubert treats the Phanatic's "injury"

(credit: Schuylkill Center for Environmental Education)

For more information, photos or interviews please contact:

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