Fall Newsletter

CALGARY WILDLIFE

Message From The Executive Director

As we settle into fall, I'm reflecting on another incredibly busy summer at Calgary Wildlife. Between July and September, our dedicated wildlife hotline received 4,452 calls from the public –a 17% increase over the same period in 2025.

During those three months, our team also admitted 1,056 wild patients representing 106 different species, with overall patient numbers remaining in line with last year.

These numbers highlight an important part of the work our hotline team does every day. While we are here to help injured and orphaned wildlife get the care they need, many calls involve healthy animals simply exhibiting natural behaviours. Through education and guidance, our team can help members of the public understand when an animal truly needs intervention–and when the best thing we can do is leave wildlife in the wild. Seeing hotline calls increase while patient admissions remain relatively steady shows the important role this service plays in preventing unnecessary wildlife admissions.

The incredible variety of species we see also speaks to the knowledge, adaptability and compassion of our skilled team, who are equipped to provide expert care and guidance for wildlife across Calgary and southern Alberta.

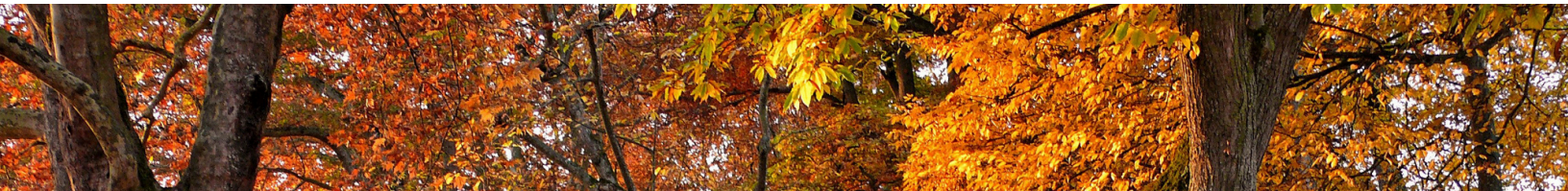
As patient numbers begin to slow with the cooler weather, there is still plenty happening at Calgary Wildlife. Our education and outreach team continues to connect with communities across Calgary, while behind the scenes we're preparing for a busy final few months of the year and our upcoming year-end campaign.

None of this work would be possible without our dedicated staff, volunteers, donors, partners and supporters. Thank you for continuing to be part of Calgary Wildlife and for helping us provide expert, compassionate care for wildlife while building a community where people and wildlife can coexist.

Warmly,



Beki Hunt
Executive Director



News

Modern Niagara Community Day

We are incredibly fortunate to have the team at **Modern Niagara** choose Calgary Wildlife for their annual Community Day each September. This year, they helped us tackle an impressive list of projects, including painting, pond building, compost and rain barrel construction, and even building a brand-new vestibule!

Having a skilled team willing to roll up their sleeves and lend their expertise makes an enormous difference to our small staff and volunteer team. **We are so grateful** to Modern Niagara for their continued support of our mission and for another very productive Community Day.





Talking Skunks with QR Mornings

We were thrilled to join **QR Mornings** to chat about all things skunk! Needless to say, all of us at Calgary Wildlife are big fans of this often misunderstood urban neighbour, and we're on a mission to **get more Calgarians onto Team Skunk**.

Have a listen to our conversation here!

Would you like to hear more from Calgary Wildlife on the radio, busting urban wildlife myths and answering your wildlife questions? Tell us what you'd like to hear about through our **anonymous survey here**.

Something New is Coming!

We've been slowly expanding our Calgary Wildlife merchandise over the past few years, and we're very excited to share a tiny sneak peek of something new coming soon!

We can't reveal too much just yet, so keep an eye on our social media channels and **online shop** for the official drop before the end of the year.



News

New Collaboration Alert



We were thrilled to work with the incredibly talented artists and muralists **Rawry & Pohly** on a brand-new collection of Calgary Wildlife stickers.

We love seeing local artists bring their creativity to our wild neighbours, and we're so grateful to Rawry & Pohly for lending their talents in support of Calgary Wildlife's mission.

Check out more of their work at **rawryandpohly.com**



Staff and Volunteer Social

Another quarterly staff and volunteer social passed by in the blink of an eye! This summer, our team headed to the **Inglewood Bird Sanctuary** for an afternoon spent learning, wildlife watching, eating and enjoying some time together outside of our usual day-to-day work.

These socials are a wonderful opportunity to strengthen connections between our staff and volunteers while spending time in nature and appreciating the wildlife we all work so hard to support.

We learned, we saw, we ate–and we had a great time doing it!

New Treatment For Our Patients and Residents!



We were thrilled to receive **a generous grant from Calgary Foundation** to purchase two important pieces of medical equipment: **a therapeutic laser** to support faster healing and a brand-new **diagnostic ultrasound**.

These tools will enhance the care we can provide our wild patients, supporting their recovery and helping reduce the amount of time they need to spend in rehabilitation before returning to the wild.

News



Community Engagement for the Win!

We've also been busy out in the community this summer, **attending 16 public events** at locations including Bow Habitat Station, the Calgary Zoo, cSPACE, Inglewood Sunfest, Renfrew Neighbour Day and Lilac Festival.

These events give us valuable opportunities to connect with Calgarians and share practical information about positive human-wildlife coexistence. The more people understand about our wild neighbours and how to interact with them safely and respectfully, the better we can help wildlife thrive alongside us in the city.







Chop Value YYC x Calgary Wildlife

We're thrilled to announce our second collaboration with **ChopValue YYC**, which kicked off on **World Animal Day**.

The **Wild Canada Wall Art Collection** includes the beaver, wolf, bear, and moose and were chosen as quintessentially Canadian animals as a celebration of the wild spaces and species that make our country so special.

These unique pieces are also a great way to shop Canadian and support local. No two pieces are exactly alike as each tile's structure is slightly different. They're perfect gifts for any time of the year, but make sure to get yours before the this **collab ends on December 15th!**

https://www.calgarywildlife.org/chop-value-yyc-collaboration



Patient Spotlight

Purple Martin - Patient 1821 of 2026



This patient arrived at our centre after being found unable to fly. During the initial veterinary assessment, the bird was found to have pain and swelling around the right wing, as well as several missing primary flight feathers. Radiographs revealed what appeared to be a fracture of the ulna (a bone within the wing), complicated by signs of a possible bone infection at the fracture site.

Treatment began with antibiotics to address the suspected infection and pain medication to keep the bird comfortable. A wing wrap was applied to help stabilize the fracture, and the patient was settled into a bird cage with low perching to support its recovery.



Purple martins are incredible long-distance migrants. Twice a year, they travel thousands of kilometres between their breeding grounds in North America and their wintering grounds in South America. These journeys can cover approximately 8,000–11,000 kilometres, an extraordinary feat for a bird weighing just 53–56 grams on average! Their migrations take weeks to months to complete, making healthy, functional wings essential to their survival.

Another unique challenge when caring for purple martins is their diet. These birds feed on large flying insects, so they don't naturally recognize dishes of mealworms as a food source. It took plenty of patience and tweezer-feeding to encourage this patient to eat. Thankfully, with time and persistence, the martin learned to recognize the mealworms as food and began eating independently.

After several weeks of medication, cage rest, and physiotherapy, the wing wrap was removed, and we began encouraging the bird to fly once a day. Initially reluctant to take flight, the martin gradually began making attempts with daily encouragement. As its strength and confidence improved, it was moved to a larger indoor enclosure where

it could safely practice flying under the watchful eyes of our staff. It is now managing short, low flights.

Unfortunately, this patient arrived late in the season, in August, and its recovery from the fracture and suspected bone infection took long enough that it missed the opportunity to migrate south for the winter. While the additional time will allow its primary flight feathers to grow back, it also means this patient will need to overwinter with us.

Overwintering a patient is relatively uncommon at our centre, but sometimes it is necessary to give an animal the best chance of returning to the wild. This purple martin will spend the winter in a large indoor enclosure where it can continue to build its strength and practise flying. **Our goal is to have it fully recovered and flight-ready for release in the spring, when purple martins return to the Calgary area in 2027.**







How Wildlife Prepares for Winter

As Calgary moves through fall and temperatures begin to drop, wildlife is already preparing for the winter ahead. Soon, it can seem as though wildlife has disappeared. In reality, animals are still here, although they may be using very different strategies to survive the cold, snow and limited food.

For some birds, the answer is migration. The majority of Alberta's bird species are migratory, travelling south to wintering grounds in the United States, Mexico, Central America or South America. Others, however, remain in Alberta year-round. Black-capped chickadees, corvids (crows, magpies, ravens), some owls and other winter residents rely on food caches, sheltered roosts, specialised feathers and energy-saving behaviours to withstand freezing temperatures.

Migration is also a major reason Calgary residents will see fewer birds as winter approaches. Fall migration can begin as early as late summer and continue through fall, with birds moving in response to food availability, weather and seasonal conditions. With the exit of some species, other species that breed farther north, such as Snowy Owls, may arrive in Alberta for the winter.

Birds are not the only animals preparing for winter. Some mammals will remain active beneath the snowpack, where it can provide insulation and shelter. Others enter hibernation, a deep sleep-like state, or torpor, a state of low mental and physical activity, usually in a tired state. Richardson's ground squirrels, for example, spend winter in underground chambers, lowering their body temperature, heart rate and breathing to conserve energy. Alberta's resident bat species also hibernate during the cold months, while several other bat species migrate south in fall. Skunks, which enter a state of torpor, may even wake up and become more alert when the weather warms due to Chinooks.

Some animals don't migrate or hibernate, instead staying awake and active through the harsh winter months. Porcupines are one example, and are a very important part of the winter landscape. As tree foragers, porcupines drop twigs, branches, or buds into the snow, which can serve as food for herbivores such as hares and deer who cannot reach high branches.

Porcupines usually pick one or two trees to strip of their bark during the winter, which often causes the trees to die. This may seem like a negative, but a standing dead tree, called a "snag" or "wildlife tree", becomes a biodiversity hotspot in the summer,





supporting countless species as many animals make their home on the porcupine's winter tree.

How Calgarians can help

As wildlife begins preparing for colder weather, give animals space.

Fall is a critical foraging period for many species as they take advantage of the last available food before migrating, entering hibernation or facing the leaner winter months. Give animals plenty of room while they are feeding, as approaching them or causing them to flee can interrupt this important opportunity to build up the energy reserves they need for the months ahead.

Be mindful of where animals may go to stay warm as temperatures drop.

Check your car engine before driving (some animals will get inside to stay warm), leave leaf piles and natural litter so that animals can hibernate and stay warm, and make sure to learn to coexist with animals like skunks and not move them out of their den into the harsh winter. An animal that is difficult to spot may not be in trouble; it may simply be conserving energy or sheltering from the weather. Avoid disturbing hibernating animals, dens and other natural shelters.

Don't feed animals in any capacity.

While bird feeders might seem kind and a way to give birds food in the winter, they can spread disease when birds are already vulnerable due to cold stress. Instead, heated bird baths are more helpful, as they allow birds to get water and clean themselves – just be sure to replace the water daily.

Winter wildlife may soon become quieter and harder to see, but Calgary remains part of a living landscape. **A little awareness this fall can help the animals sharing our city prepare for and make it through the season.**

Winter Wildlife Track Challenge!

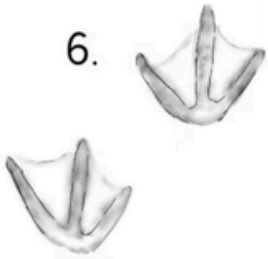
Can you match the tracks with the wildlife below?



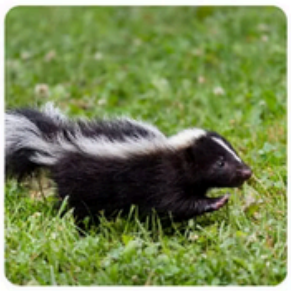













Answers: 1. Coyote 2. White-tailed Deer 3. Black-billed Magpie 4. Striped Skunk 5. Red Squirrel 6. Canada Goose 7. White-tailed Prairie Hare 8. North American Porcupine

Volunteer Spotlight: Julia



Q & A with Julia

How long have you been with Calgary Wildlife?

I have been with Calgary Wildlife for three and a half years.

What roles have you had as a volunteer?

I have volunteered for both the Education and Events Team and Clinic Support.

In your opinion, what is the most important work that Calgary Wildlife does?

Educating people on how to coexist with wildlife. Especially animals they may seem as pests.

All animals have their own role.

What is your favourite animal and why?

For domestic animals, I love cats, but my favourite wild animal is a Magpie. Their wings are gorgeous!

Do you have an anecdote about a wild animal encounter that really moved you?

I am like a moth to a light. Any animal I see captures my full attention and has th epower to move me.

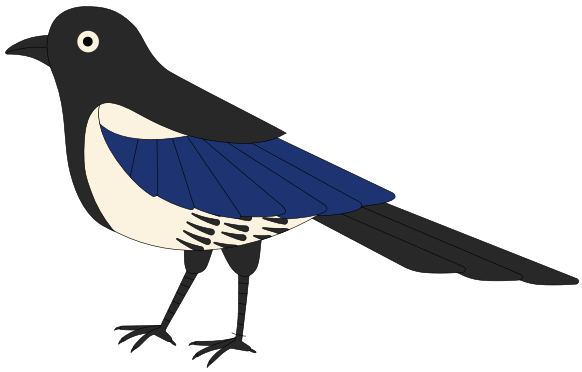
What has been the biggest surprise about volunteering with Calgary Wildlife?

How many different animals come through the centre every year. Also how knowledgeable kids are about wildlife.

If you could encourage someone else to volunteer at Calgary Wildlife, what would you say?

I love the hands-on aspect of volunteering here, no matter what role you take on, you have a direct impact on the lives of others.

Rescuing, cleaning, food prep, education all provide animals with love and care needed for them to thrive.



Upcoming Events

The holidays will be coming up soon, so why not get your loved one something wildlife themed? We'll be attending some amazing local markets, and will even have brand new merch on offer! Come say hi, play some wildlife games and get some swag that supports wildlife rehabilitation in southern Alberta.

Check out our events page for more upcoming events **https://www.calgarywildlife.org/events**



Bowness Christmas Market

Kick off the holiday season with Calgary Wildlife at the Bowness Christmas Market! 🎄 With over 80 local vendors, handmade gifts, and plenty of festive fun, it's the perfect place to kick off your Christmas shopping! Stop by our booth to shop wildlife-themed merchandise and find unique gifts that support injured and orphaned wildlife.

Airdrie Christmas Crawl

Join Calgary Wildlife for some festive fun at the Annual Airdrie Christmas Crawl! 🎄 With two locations packed with local vendors, exciting giveaways, games, and holiday cheer, it's the perfect opportunity to get a head start on your Christmas shopping! Find us at École Edwards School, where there will be plenty of activities for the kids, along with our wildlife-themed merchandise and unique gifts that support injured and orphaned wildlife.





Saskatoon Farm Christmas Market

Experience the magic of Christmas with Calgary Wildlife at The Saskatoon Farm's 10th Annual Christmas Market! 🎄✨ Wander through a winter wonderland filled with twinkling lights, festive decorations, delicious treats, and over 300 vendors offering unique, locally made gifts. Find us in the Grande Greenhouse, where we'll have plenty of wildlife-themed merchandise and gifts that give back to injured and orphaned wildlife!

Year End Holiday Campaign



Our year end holiday campaign will be kicking off in November with lots of ways to support wildlife rehabilitation and human-wildlife coexistence programming.

From our 50/50 raffle with an early bird prize, to our Holiday Auction, to taking part in Giving Tuesday, every contribution helps us continue the important work we do for wildlife and our communities. Keep your eyes on your inbox for the launch next month!



Ways to Help

Many Ways to Give

Do you own a business and want to make a meaningful difference for wildlife while showing your customers what matters to you? **Consider joining 1% for the Planet** and choosing Calgary Wildlife as one of the organizations you support.

It's a simple way to demonstrate your commitment to wildlife and your community while connecting your business with customers who value companies that give back.

Donate Securities

Did you know donating publicly traded securities or mutual fund shares can be one of the most tax-efficient ways to support Calgary Wildlife?

When eligible securities are donated directly to a registered charity, the capital gain is generally exempt from tax, allowing more of your gift to go toward helping wildlife.

We partner with CanadaHelps to make the process simple and straightforward.



Wild Hearts Club

Do you love videos of wild patients being cared for? What about knowing you're helping wildlife year round as well as organization stability? If you said yes to any of those, then the Wild Hearts Club is for you! Sign up today and you'll receive a behind the scenes video tour straight to your inbox and quarterly videos just for our group of donors.

https://www.calgarywildlife.org/donate-monthly-wild-hearts-club

Wishlist

We're trying our best to buy Canadian and support local. Our **Amazon wishlist** can be used for reference as many of the items can be purchased from local vendors.



PA Speaker

Our education and outreach team do a lot of talking, spreading coexistence strategies! To help save our voices, this speaker would be great to ensure our messages are still being heard!

View it on our shopping list **here.**



Mountain Ash Berries

'Tis the season for cut Mountain Ash Berries for our songbird and small mammal patients. Those can be dropped off at our wildlife admissions trailer 7 days a week from 9am-5pm.



Small Sized Carriers

We can always use more small carriers for our smallest of patients. Used for pick ups and releases.

View them on our shopping list **here.**



All the Batteries

Batteries are needed at all times for many different things!

View them on our shopping list **here.**



Kitchen Scales

Kitchen scales...from weighing patients to food prep- we use these daily and need many!

View them on our shopping list **here.**

If you'd like to donate a product to us, or hold a fundraising event to purchase a more expensive item, take a look at some of the items on our wishlist. **Please reach out to admin@calgarywildlife.org with questions.**

Patient Gallery



Yellow-throated Vireo
4 Days in care



Western Tiger Salamander
Currently in care



Northern Waterthrush
7 Days in care



Sora
14 Days in care



Northern Saw-whet Owl
14 Days in care



Mountain Cottontail
Currently in care



Merlin
Currently in care



Cedar Waxwing
27 Days in care



Brewer's Blackbird
20 Days in care



Blue Jay
33 Days in care



American Robin
Currently in care



American Robin
42 Days in care

Special Thank Yous

Our Donors

A special thank you to our **Wild Hearts Club** members for helping injured and orphaned wildlife every month. Thank you also to all of our one-time donors. It's because of your continued support we are able to treat and rehabilitate injured and orphaned wildlife, as well as deliver important education programs across the City to help prevent human-wildlife conflict. Interested in joining the Wild Hearts Club? **Learn more here.**

Our Volunteers

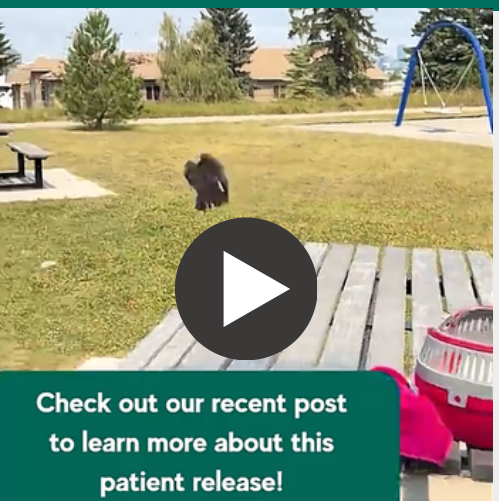
A giant thank you to all our fantastic volunteers! From our social media volunteers, to our pick up drivers, to our maintenance, wildlife clinic support, and education volunteers, because of you Calgary Wildlife is able to help more wildlife in need. We couldn't do what we do without your support.

Special Thanks To

The City of Calgary, The Rotary Club of Calgary Downtown, Alberta Infrastructure, Calgary Foundation
MinuteMan Press (52 Avenue NE location), ChopValue YYC, Calgary Urban Species Response Team
VCA CARE, Francis and Marjorie Lefaivre Fund c/o Calgary Foundation, Dan M Primeau
Estate of Susan Jubelius, Galvin Family Fund c/o Calgary Foundation
Dianne & Robert Leonhardt @ the Drummond Leonhardt Family Fund, Teresa Maynes
Graydon and Dorothy Morrison Fund, All Things Jill
Andrew Frank Serbin Foundation- Ottawa Community Foundation, Canada Gives, Cory Neufeld,
Erik Johnson, Estate of Susan Jubelius, GLJ Ltd., Graydon and Dorothy Morrison Fund,
High River Fish and Game Association, J. E. Hodgson Family Fund via Calgary Foundation,
Jim Peter Rainkie, Kimberly Verrier, Lauren Knowles, Olympia Charitable Foundation, Sponsor Energy,
Stanley Brodylo Fund, Tasha Moritz, TD Securities, Teine Energy Ltd.
Teresa Maynes, Vincci Wu

and finally thank you to all our hard-working staff and board of directors!

For Your Viewing Pleasure



Blink, and you'll miss it, a patient release

For your viewing pleasure