



Fall Newsletter

CALGARY WILDLIFE



Message From The Executive Director

With the changing of the season upon us, so is the change in focus on site at Calgary Wildlife. With autumn here, our team has been very busy releasing all of our bird patients who leave the area for the winter in time for migration. So far this year we've seen hundreds of migratory birds come through our doors and 1852 total patients so far. It's because of our supporters that we can continue caring for all the animals that come to us for help. We at Calgary Wildlife cannot thank you enough for your continued support.

As you likely already know, we are entering a post-COVID recession, which is significantly impacting nonprofits across the country. Unfortunately, Calgary Wildlife is no exception and we want to be transparent and honest with you; we are seeing a considerable increase in costs which is making it difficult to continue serving our community.

Despite the recession, our services are just as important as ever and over the coming year we plan to:

- Streamline our processes with a new admissions trailer.
- Continue to expand our urban wildlife education programs.
- Build strong connections with stakeholders in our communities.

We understand that this is a challenging time for everyone and we are actively looking for ways that we can maximize donation revenue and cut costs so that we are investing as much as possible into our mission goals, but we need your help.

Please keep your eyes peeled for communications about our year-end holiday campaign, which includes an exciting new addition. I don't want to spill the beans quite yet, but as a teaser...please mark November 28th in your calendar for an in-person event.

Donate Today



Beki Hunt
Executive Director

NEW
NEW
NEW
NEW

A New Addition is Coming Soon!

We are thrilled to be adding a new trailer for patient admissions next to our isolation trailer for a more streamlined process. Having this trailer will be a game changer for us as it will be easier for the public during drop-offs, give our team more workspace, and most importantly make the admissions process less stressful for the animals coming into care. We couldn't have gotten this trailer so quickly without all those who helped; ATCO, the Rainkie family, and all the GoFundMe donors. We can't wait to share the next update with you!

Calgary Ward 11 Team Visit

It was only a few decades ago that urban wildlife only really impacted the far outer wards of the City, but in 2023 every ward in the City shares space with urban wildlife. We were very pleased to have **Councillor Kourtney Penner and the Ward 11 team** on-site to walk them through our processes; from our admission process to patient board SOPs, to illustrate all the different types of urban wildlife we treat daily. We are happy to see the genuine interest from city councillors in urban wildlife and how we can all work together to prevent human-wildlife conflict.



In honour of



Donation Dedication E-Cards

In case you missed it, we have a new donation feature on our website. You are now able to donate in honour of that special someone in your life, and an e-card will be sent straight to their inbox!

Whether you're donating to celebrate a loved one's birthday or graduation, or donating in memory of someone who had a passion for wildlife, the e-cards are customizable for your situation.

Our Ollie

We sadly had to say goodbye to one of our education ambassadors in September, Olliver the striped skunk, who died peacefully after a brief illness.

Ollie was with us for many years and helped people better understand the real benefits of having skunks around, and just how quirky they truly are. In his final days, Ollie was pampered and given all the quail eggs he wanted, one of his favourite snacks.

[See Ollie's video here.](#)



Patient News - American Badger



On September 6th, our team received a call about an American Badger (*Taxidea taxus*) who had been found injured on the side of the road near Carolside, Alberta. The badger was transported to the Calgary Wildlife Rehabilitation Society where a physical intake examination was performed. Upon admission, the badger was in rough shape; he was depressed, very thin, severely dehydrated, had a heavy load of fleas and ticks, and had sustained a fracture to his right hind leg.

Our team quickly got to work stabilizing him. He received fluid therapy to combat his hydration deficit, pain medication to help manage the pain he was in from his fracture, and was treated for the ectoparasites (fleas and ticks) found. His fractured leg was bandaged to prevent the bones from moving while he was recovering. A small meal was offered to start re-introducing him to food, which he readily accepted. He quickly became a voracious eater in care and started putting on some much-needed weight.

On September 11th, his condition had stabilized enough for him to undergo a procedure to align his fractured tibia. Our veterinary team surgically fixated his tibia with a metal plate and pins to ensure the bone healed in alignment. He recovered well from the surgery and was soon able to be moved to a larger enclosure.

American badgers are nocturnal carnivores that dig burrows in pursuit of small rodents. They are mostly inactive during the winter, spending the majority of the winter months in these dens. As the location of this badger's burrows is unknown, and the ground will be frozen by the time he has fully recovered, he will be overwintered at the Calgary Wildlife Rehabilitation Society, and released in the spring of 2024.

[Get updates on this lucky_guy here.](#)

The conservation status of this species of badger is listed as an area of special concern, one level away from threatened. Badgers are very important to the ecosystem of the prairies, as their burrows are used by other animals, namely some endangered species; the burrowing owl and the swift fox.



Alberta Bats

A patio umbrella opens and a small fuzzy black sock falls out. But it's not a sock, it's a bat! It flaps into flight and tucks itself back into the folds of the umbrella. Bats generally prefer roosting sites in trees or rock crevices but will sometimes end up as little stowaways under the fabric of patio umbrellas, edges of campers, and inside hanging laundry.

Bats are picky about their roosting sites. Unlike birds, they do not have strong pectoral muscles. They rely instead on an initial drop from their perch to gain enough speed for launch into flight. A functional bat box needs to be erected at least twelve feet up, with an uncluttered "runway" for bats to travel. A bat on the ground will need to crawl up a tree or other object to gain enough height for flight.

Bats are unique as they are the only true flying mammals. Pups are born nearly hairless and stay warm by cozying under the flaps of their mother's wings. Bat reproduction is slow, as often only one pup is born a year. Like all mammals, the pup relies on its mother's milk for the first few weeks of life. A mother bat will forage at night for food.

During flight, a bat's heart rate can rise as much as one thousand beats per minute. Bats use echolocation to hunt their food. The Little Brown Bat—weighing little more than a loonie—eats on average one thousand insects an hour and a nursing mother can eat over four thousand a night! Bats provide a pest control service worth billions of dollars to the North American agriculture sector!



Alberta is home to nine species of bats.

They have different strategies to cope with the cold and lack of food (bugs) in the winter.

Three of these species, the Hoary bat, the Eastern Red Bat, and the Silver-haired Bat migrate south during the winter. This can be a risky journey, especially when they fly past wind turbines that can have a vacuum effect which can be lethal for bats and birds alike.

The remaining six bat species in Alberta include the big brown bat and five species of myotis hibernate. Hibernating bats lower their heart rate and survive on fat reserve for six to nine months. It is important not to disturb sleeping bats as waking them wastes energy which can result in starvation.

A particular risk to hibernating bats is white-nose syndrome, it is a fungal growth which irritates bats and causes them to wake during hibernation. This does not affect humans, but has been causing some bat populations to decline..



How can we help bats?

- Protect bat roosts that might include snags or trees, old sheds and barns, bat boxes and rock crevices and caves.
- Help preserve wetlands which provide bat food!
- Don't disturb hibernating bats!
- Help create a safe place for bats by putting up a bat box!
- Encourage bat-friendly farming with reduced pesticides.
- Turn off outside lights during migration season to help bats make a successful journey.
- See injured or orphaned wildlife? Contact Calgary Wildlife at 403-214-1312



Education



Connects with K-6 science curriculum

Fun song with each animal!

Urban wildlife journal included!

Get Wild Wise with

Wild Wise Series

We are thrilled to announce our Wild Wise series, focusing on urban wildlife, is fully open for bookings. Each class comes with an urban wildlife booklet and sticker for every student, as well as a fun song and dance. The curriculum teaches children about the benefits that urban wildlife provide to our cities and ecosystems as well as squashing common wildlife myths.

By completing the Wild Wise program, Calgary kids will learn how to co-exist with urban wildlife, growing into wildlife-loving young adults, ensuring Calgary's future is one of compassion and tolerance for urban wildlife.

Check out the full series here:

<https://www.calgarywildlife.org/education-programs-wildwise>

Owl Pellets Program

Although our education ambassador, Opehlia, has retired, we are still offering our owl pellet program for schools and community groups. The program includes videos, pictures, and biofacts to teach about owl physiology, behaviour, and silent flight. Students also dissect owl pellets to look for bones and recreate a skeleton!

Book today! <https://www.calgarywildlife.org/education>



Volunteer Spotlight: Andrena



Q & A with Andrena

How long have you been with Calgary Wildlife?

I have been volunteering weekly at Calgary Wildlife since June 2022 but in that short space of time, it has made a huge impact on my life. It is incredible the work that is done and I love being involved and gaining better knowledge about wildlife in general. My grandkids love hearing the stories about all the different animals that I encounter each week and I hope I am inspiring the future generation of volunteers.

Volunteer Spotlight: Andrena

Q & A with Andrena cont...

What roles have you had as a volunteer?

I have been fortunate to be able to help the staff in the nursery during the busy baby bird season. It is such an amazing experience. I get to see tiny chickadees, sparrows, robins, northern flickers, pigeons, waxwings, swallows, & warblers to name a few. This year I was privileged to assist in the feeding of a hummingbird which is an experience I won't forget. My other duties which are less exciting but equally as important are cleaning the enclosures & cages and helping out with the laundry & washing up.

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

The biggest surprise about volunteering at Calgary Wildlife is how amazing and knowledgeable the staff are, and to see their dedication to helping injured and orphaned animals get back to full health, and ready for release is truly inspiring. In spring and summer, the centre can be at capacity, with many of the baby birds needing to be fed every 15-30 minutes and wounded animals needing special care. Staff need to care for and feed these babies around the clock, and often work longer than their shifts and miss their breaks to ensure each animal gets the attention they deserve. Through all of this, staff still take the time to show us volunteers what they are doing with the animals, explaining and demonstrating what is required to get them fit and able to be released.

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

Volunteering at Calgary Wildlife is such a rewarding experience and there is a job for anyone who wants to help. It is often hard work but worth the effort to see first-hand all the sick, injured, or orphaned animals being nursed back to health and released knowing you have played a small part in that. There is no better experience than getting up close and personal with many of the patients, most of whom you would never encounter in your day-to-day life. There are so many varieties of tasks that need to be carried out on-site every day that being part of the volunteer gang really does help and make a difference. This allows the staff to concentrate on patient treatment and animal welfare, which is vital.

What is your favourite wild animal and why?

This is a hard one to answer as I love them all but if I had to pick I think I would have to go with squirrels, baby porcupines, and Richardson's ground squirrels. My love for squirrels came from my time in Ontario. Coming from Scotland, I had never seen black squirrels before and suddenly my garden had black, grey, and red squirrels cheekily stealing the bird food from the feeders in ingenious ways. Now at Calgary Wildlife, I get to see them grow from a few weeks old to their time of release which is very satisfying as they are funny, mischievous, noisy rascals.

Events (Past)



Alberta Biodiversity Festival at Bow Habitat Station

We were thrilled to attend the kick-off to the Alberta Biodiversity Festival to teach attendees about the benefits urban wildlife provides to our ecosystems. We met lots of very engaged children and adults alike!

Events (Upcoming)

World Animal Day - October 4, 2023

World Animal Day (WAD) unites the animal welfare movement, mobilizing it into a global force to make the world a better place for all animals. This year's theme is "**Great or Small, Love Them All**", the 2023 World Animal Day theme brings to light the importance of all beings, great and small, allowing the opportunity for even the most overlooked animals to be appreciated for what, and who they are.

To celebrate WAD here at Calgary Wildlife, we are asking you to submit your most memorable wildlife stories to us via email (admin@calgarywildlife.org) or as a comment on our upcoming WAD social media posts on October 4th. A handful will be chosen to be featured in our [wrap-up blog post celebrating all animals](#) and the impact they have on our lives.



Friday
Oct. 22nd 10-3



Calgary Wildlife
is at Bow Habitat!



Our Online Events Page

Check out the events page on our website for a complete and up to date listing of all future events.

<https://www.calgarywildlife.org/events>

Next in line is Creatures of the Night, at Bow Habitat Station!

Year-End Holiday Events

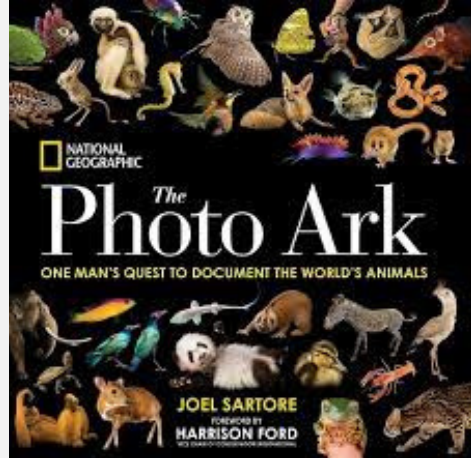
That time of year is approaching quickly and we have some exciting things in the works. We've got a silent auction that's bursting with goodies to make your heart sing - whether you're on the hunt for that perfect present or just want to spoil yourself a little (and why not, you deserve it!)

And hold onto your holiday hats, because this year we've got a real treat: an original, signed and framed photograph by the one and only Joel Sartore, the photography genius behind the Nat Geo Photo Ark.

Learn more about Photo Ark here

<https://www.nationalgeographic.org/society/our-programs/photo-ark/>

Make sure to save the date for our newest in-person event taking place on **November 28th, 2023!** (details to come).



Thank You

A Giant Thank You!

Giant shout out to our friends at **Modern Niagara** for choosing us as their community partner again this year.

In half a day, this super team was able to paint our enclosures, sand and stain our decks, and get a new enclosure build started!

Thank you Modern Niagara for all of your help.





A Great Big Thank You!

We had a rough few months with a number of our appliances dying on us. Recently one of our dryers died. Luckily **SMS Appliances** reached out to us and donated a refurbished model to us.

Thank you SMS Appliances!

Ways to Help

Sign Up as a Monthly Donor!

Joining us as a monthly donor not only allows us to better plan and budget but also gets you into the **Wild Hearts Club**. Club members get special benefits, such as behind-the-scenes videos and Wild Hearts Club member communications.

Sign up today! **[Donate-monthly-wild-hearts-club](#)**



Social Media Helps!

Psst! Want to be a superhero and help us spread the word? Here's a secret for you: Liking, following, and commenting on our social media posts gives us a boost in the algorithm, helping us get more visibility and support.

So, let's join forces! Simply take a quick moment to follow us on your fave social media platforms, and share and comment on our posts. Together we can make a difference and it only takes a few minutes.

Check out our social media links at the end of the newsletter and join the team today!



Book Us to Come Speak!

Join us in spreading our message of coexisting with urban wildlife and promoting ways to prevent them from getting injured or orphaned. Book an About Calgary Wildlife presentation for your school, place of work, or club to learn all about what we do at Calgary Wildlife, how you can help urban wildlife, and some real case studies of patients we've successfully rehabbed and released.

Book today: **<https://www.calgarywildlife.org/education-form>**



Our Wish List

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.



Walkie Talkies

For the safety of our staff and volunteers, everyone on site is required to carry a walkie talkie around with them.

View them on our shopping list [here](#).

Heating Pads - We need several

These are used to keep patients warm at all times. It's crucial these pads **DON'T HAVE** auto-shutoff (which many do) to ensure our patients' body temperatures remain at a constant level. This is extra important as we enter the colder months of the year.

View them on our shopping list [here](#).



Gram scales

We use our digital gram scales to weigh our smallest of patients. A few have broken on us recently due to frequent use and we need new ones very badly.

View them on our shopping list [here](#).

Patient Gallery



Swainson's Hawk
Currently in care



Eastern Red Bat
Currently in care



Merlin
Currently in care



Swallows
Released after 22 days in care



Bullsnake
Currently in care



Great Blue Heron
Released after 51 days in care



Badger
Currently in care



Kestrel
Currently in care

Special Thank You's

Our Donors

A special thank you to our Wild Hearts Club members and 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.

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

Alberta Infrastructure, The City of Calgary, The Calgary Foundation, ATCO, ATCO Epic, Bowest Appliances, Brendon Turner, Carol Yanke, Canadian Red Cross, Government of Canada (Canada Summer Jobs), Eric S. Margolis Family Foundation, GLJ Ltd., John Bowlen Legacy Flow Through Fund 1 @ Calgary Foundation, Janet Elizabeth Annesley, J. E. Hodgson Family Fund via Calgary Foundation, Jim Rainkie, Longshore Resources, Maura Hamill, Matthews Family Foundation, Mark Congram & Lorie Anne Woloschuk, Maura Hamill, Nielsen Family Wildlife Fund, Perlette Fund, Oliver Family Foundation, Olympia Charitable Foundation, Spearhead Fund via Calgary Foundation, Susan Holt, Steve Paterson, Tsuu T'ina Hospitality LTD Partnership, Technology Expert Inc, Virginia Kelly, and finally thank you to all our hard-working staff and board of directors!

For Your Viewing Pleasure



Nope, that's not a Cheetoh being eaten by this adorable bat patient, it's just a juicy worm. Check out this video of some of the patients we've seen and released this year:

<https://www.tiktok.com/@calgarywildlife/video/7243617379253554438>

