



Winter Newsletter

CALGARY WILDLIFE



Message From The Executive Director



Beki Hunt
Executive Director

What a way to welcome in a new year, with record low temperatures! Although it wasn't nearly as cold, 2023 was still quite an eventful year for us. From addressing ongoing cases of avian influenza in Alberta to grappling with the surge in prices across various fronts, our hardworking staff and volunteers truly deserve a round of applause!

Despite the hurdles, we maintained our resilience and were fortunate to witness numerous accomplishments and enhancements to our operations. In 2023 alone, we admitted 2154 patients, highlighting the scale of our commitment, and fielded 8405 hotline calls, showcasing our dedication to serving the community. Furthermore, through our education programs, we successfully reached over 3000 Calgarians, fostering awareness and understanding about living in harmony with wildlife.

As we look ahead, our focus remains on fostering a brighter future by continually refining our existing programs, expanding our facility, and deepening our connections with community stakeholders. On behalf of the whole Calgary Wildlife team, I extend a profound thank you to all our donors, volunteers, members, and supporters who stood by Calgary Wildlife throughout the past year. Here's to a bright 2024!

News

Our New Admissions Trailer!

In our last newsletter, we spilt the beans about our new admissions trailer. We can now share a sneak peak of our new space that is on its way to being finished. The walls are up and painted, thanks to our wonderful volunteer Tim Bell, and we've even got some interior designers who volunteered to help us design the space! Huge shout-out to **Come On In Company** for helping us get our new spaces as perfect as possible! Stay tuned for our final update in our next newsletter.





Calgary Wildlife Teams Up with Willow Creek Organic Grain Company for a Good Cause

Are you a fan of organic food? Then you'll be thrilled to hear about **Willow Creek Organic Grain Company**. This Alberta-based company specializes in organic food manufacturing and distribution, and is committed to promoting healthy living and giving back to the community. By shopping at their online store, you can help support wildlife rehabilitation – **at least 15% of your purchase will be donated** to **Calgary Wildlife** when you choose us at checkout.



But wait, there's more! If you choose to purchase a Kickstarter product ([learn more here](#)), 30% of your order will come back to support Calgary Wildlife. It's a win-win-win situation – your body will thank you for choosing organic foods, wildlife will receive vital support, and you'll be helping a local business that truly cares about the community.

Visit [Willow Creek Organic Grain Company](http://WillowCreekOrganicGrainCompany.com) today to learn more and start shopping.

If you have any questions about your order, don't hesitate to reach out to their team at support@willowcreekorganics.com

Check Out the Supply Drive

One of our wonderful supporters is putting together a **supply drive** for us between **January 19th and February 4th** at the **Ranchlands Community Association**! They'll be collecting gently used household items, pet supplies, cleaning products, medical and office supplies. If you've got any items on the list to donate, now's the time! Huge shout out to **Allison Rhodes** for organizing this for us!

ITEMS NEEDED:

- Brooms, dustpans, mops
- Bleach
- Laundry detergent (he, unscented)
- Dish soap (unscented)
- Scrubbing brushes & gloves
- Hand soap, disposable gloves
- First Aid supplies (human)
- Paper towel
- Spray bottles (empty)
- L & XL garbage bags
- Pee pads, bird feeders
- Plastic, metal, ceramic pet dishes
- Tupperware containers (square)
- Measuring spoons & cups
- Whisks (small)
- Locker mirrors
- Feeding syringes (1-100 cc) & nipples
- Pet carriers (small and medium)

ITEMS NEEDED:

- Long handled tweezers
- Digital scale (20-40kg, high accuracy)
- Vet wrap (1"-5") & gauze
- Sterile water jugs
- Digital thermometers
- Disposable exam/isolation gowns
- Isopropyl alcohol (70%)
- Syringes (0.5-20 cc)
- Pediatric stethoscope
- Non-stick gauze pads
- Medical tape (paper/cloth)
- Unpasteurized Makuna honey
- Surgical face masks
- Printer ink (Ink Cartridges Compatible with Canon PG-245XL CL-246XL PG-243 CL-244 For Canon Pixma MX492 MX490 MG3022 MG9900 MG2592 TR4520 T5329 T5205 MG2420 MG2520 MG2922 IP2820 Printer Ink (1 Black) Tri-Color)
- Printer paper (A4)
- Dry erase markers
- Duct & masking tape
- Canadian stamps

LOCAL WILDLIFE REHAB Supply Drive
 BENEFITING CALGARY WILDLIFE
 Expert Compassionate Care


LOCATION: RANGLANDS COMMUNITY CENTER
 7713 Ranchview Dr NW, Calgary

DATES: FRI. JAN. 19, 2024 - SUN. FEB. 4, 2024
 Mon-Fri: 10:00am - 3:00pm (lobby)
 Sat: 12:00pm - 2:00pm (parking lot)
 Sun: 2:00pm - 4:00pm (parking lot)

DONATE TO HELP SAVE THE WILD ANIMALS!

PRESENTED BY WANDS FOR WILDLIFE

More News



Wednesday's Wildlife: Calgary Coyotes

It's dusk and a grey shadow flits across a green space in your neighbourhood. Its tail is pointed down as it runs. Just before it...

51 views 0 comments 2 ❤️



January is WEASEL month

January is WEASEL MONTH here at Calgary Wildlife. Weasels belong to the Mustelidae family. Their relatives include badgers, otters,...

22 views 0 comments 1 ❤️



Wednesday's Wildlife: Calgary Corvids

Black-billed magpies are one member of the corvid family that live in Calgary. This family includes species such as jays, the Clark's...

11 views 0 comments 1 ❤️



Patient Update: Swainson's Hawk

Swainson's hawk surgery and recovery after getting hit by a vehicle.

37 views 0 comments 2 ❤️



Patient Update: Ferruginous Hawks

Every patient Calgary Wildlife accepts is a unique and special case, but three of the patients we took in this summer were particularly...

58 views 0 comments 1 ❤️



Patient Update: Great Blue Heron

A noteworthy patient at Calgary Wildlife this summer was a great blue heron that spent over 50 days in care. The heron was found in...

73 views 0 comments 1 ❤️

Check Out Our Blog!

We have been working hard on our blog, here at Calgary Wildlife. Check it out on our website and check back often, we are posting new things all the time.

- Looking for updates on patients and releases?
- Looking to learn more about our local native species?
- Do you simply dislike social media and steer clear of Facebook and Instagram?

Then the Calgary Wildlife blog is the place for you to get all of your wildlife information in one easy and organized place. Find it under the News and Events section of our website.

[Go to the Calgary Wildlife blog here](#)

Patient News - Snowy Owl



On December 29th, 2023 a **Snowy Owl** (*Bubo scandiacus*) was admitted to us after becoming entangled in a barbed wire fence in rural Alberta. Upon admission to our facility, the owl was assessed by our team to determine the severity of his injuries. A section of barbed wire was still embedded in his wing, but luckily there were no broken bones.

Our veterinarian performed a procedure to remove the barbed wire and clean the wound, and the owl was started on medications to help manage his pain and prevent the onset of infection. The snowy owl was set up in a quarantine enclosure to be monitored closely for any signs of illness or infectious disease while his wound healed. He was assessed daily by our team to ensure that his wound was healing appropriately. After initial stabilization, the wound was sutured closed by our veterinarian.

Once the owl finishes his quarantine period and his wound has healed, he will be moved to an outdoor enclosure to start conditioning and building back his muscles. These outdoor enclosures will also be used by our team to assess the owl's flight and prey catching abilities.

Snowy owls are found in wide-open spaces, like the tundra, where they hunt small mammals and birds. During the winter months, they can often be found sitting on fence posts surveying the area for potential prey. Their excellent sight and hearing, paired with silent flight allows them to easily locate and catch prey in the snow.

Snowy owls inhabit northern Canada year-round. Some snowy owls migrate further south during the winter months, returning to the Arctic during the breeding season, while others will remain in the Arctic throughout the year. When a large number of snowy owls migrate, it is referred to as an irruption.



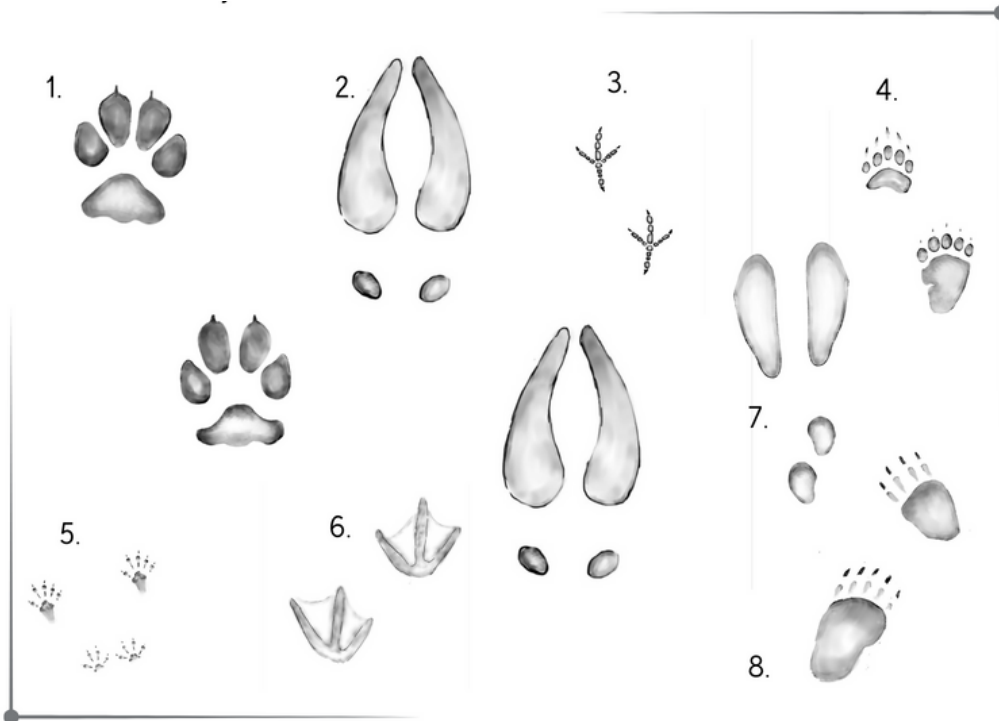
Active Winter Wildlife

It's early in the morning, and the snow is untouched—or not quite. Someone or something has already traversed the fresh blanket of white and left little divots behind, making a trail. Who is it? What are they doing?

Calgary is home to many wildlife species that are not only present during winter but also active! Some of these animals seek out the food they stash in the summer and fall, and some continue to forage and hunt throughout the winter months.

Try the Winter Wildlife Track Challenge and see which tracks you can match to our wildlife. Use these tracks to help decipher the snow prints in your yard or nearby park, and identify recent wildlife visitors!

Winter Wildlife Track Challenge: Can you match the tracks with the animal below?



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

Ready, set, go!

Take on the challenge

A great way to get outdoors and enjoy the snow, fresh air and wilderness



Coyote Activity in the Winter

January through February is mating season for coyotes, and they are very active during this time. Coyotes have one mating season per year and have monogamous or long-term pair bonds with one single mate. They form these bonds through a period of courtship involving play behaviours and vocalizations such as howling.

The denning season starts around March and is a particularly stressful time for coyotes as they locate a den and get ready to birth their pups. After approximately two months, the female will give birth. Both parents participate in rearing their pups. Coyotes have complex extended family structures and sometimes other relatives will help in the raising and protection of the pups. Coyotes develop territories which they monitor for intruders.

Sometimes they will 'escort' other animals or people away from their family which can be misinterpreted as stalking.



North American Porcupine Activity in the Winter

Porcupines are generally solitary but will sometimes den together in a crevice (hollow log or rock) during harsh winter conditions. They are generally active at night, emerging from their den to feed.

Unlike their more well-known cousins (the African crested porcupine), North American Porcupines are tree climbers and much of their winter is spent feeding on tree bark. Marks from their foraging are distinct: they leave behind paired scrapes from their front rodent teeth from eating the outer layer of bark off a tree. Some of their favourite tree species include spruce, hemlock and birch in the winter. As winter nears to an end, porcupines are often depleted of salt after surviving the winter months on a low-sodium diet.

This means they will seek out sodium and minerals anywhere they can find it, from the sides of roads to animal droppings, to plywood that's been treated with glue!



Volunteer Spotlight: Shauna M



Q & A with Shauna

What roles have you had as a volunteer?

I have primarily been a part of pick-up driving but recently joined the education and outreach team.

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

That's tough because there is so much value in all that we do. Ultimately, I believe the most important work we do is giving second chances to animals through our care and rehabilitation. By doing this we not only significantly change the outcome of an animal's future but also give hope to the public. In a world that isn't always the most humane, we are righting what's wrong when it comes to our impact on the natural world.

What is your favourite wild animal and why?

I feel like this somewhat changes throughout the year and who is the best behaved in the car (Ravens are just so mischievous, even when injured). I have a soft spot for Canadian geese. I love their attitude around protecting their loved ones, no bigger fight than a mama goose protecting her babies. Having the opportunity to help these birds, they are just so beautiful and powerful, it's hard not to fall in love.

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

Several years ago I was called to a school to pick up a seagull who was injured and sitting in the parking lot. I called the person who reported the bird to us to get the exact location of the bird and he was the sweetest man who deeply cared for this animal. He gave the location and told me he'd left things there for the bird if it needed. Upon arriving this little gull had what looked like a buffet of seeds and fresh water in a dish. I wrapped him in a towel and as I lowered him into the box, he looked at me with what I felt was gratitude and it went right to my soul. It was a look I still remember vividly today. The caring gentleman texted me a message thanking us for what we do and that we are angels on earth.

At that time in my life when things weren't the best, that little bird changed everything for me. It's not the most exciting story or adventurous, but it's the one that I hold dear.

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

The impact one animal call can make on someone's day. I feel like half the jobs of pick-up driving or attending events are listening to stories of a little bird or rabbit that someone called us to help with. What seems like another call to pick up an animal in a box is someone's exciting story that they will tell for years to come. It really changed my perspective when doing pick-ups. It may be my fifth call of the day, but that call means a whole lot to the caller and I try to respect that and make it positive.

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

There will be days when this absolutely sucks. Sometimes the animal may not make it. But, at the end of most shifts, there's a feeling of purpose that is hard to explain. The road to recovery is just starting for these animals and being able to take part in saving a life, it's all worth it.

Events (Upcoming)

'Wonderful Water' Table at Bow Habitat

Calgary Wildlife will be back at **Bow Habitat on March 22nd from 10am-3pm**. Come on down and check out our 'Wonderful Water' table, pick up some Calgary Wildlife merch, and say hello to our team!

Check out our [events page](#) for more information.



World Wildlife Day- March 3rd

World Wildlife Day is less than 2 months away! Keep your eyes peeled on our socials and in your inboxes leading up to this important day for some notes from us, not to mention the official **kick off** of our annual **Eye For The Wild** photography competition.

Check out previous years' winners here: [Eye for the Wild](#)

Ways to Help



Sponsor Energy Gives Back

Did you know that Sponsor Energy is the fastest-growing Alberta-based energy retailer? Did you know they offer competitive rates and great customer service? Did you also know, that if you switch from your current provider, they will donate to Calgary Wildlife? With the high cost of energy, why not consider switching to save a bit of money AND know your switch means a donation to wildlife rehabilitation?

[See Sponsor Energy for more information](#)

Donate your bottles, electronics, and old clothing!

Do you still have your holiday bottles and cans to get rid of? Why not download the Skip The Depot app and have them come pick up right from your door? They will donate the refund back to us! Just make sure you choose Calgary Wildlife at checkout. Skip The Depot also accepts old clothes and electronics, saving them from the landfill!

[Donate with Skip the Depot to Calgary Wildlife](#)



Donate with
SkipTheDepot



Wild Hearts Club

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 now and check your inbox for your first club surprise!

By committing to donate monthly, you'll become part of this exclusive club, helping more injured and orphaned wildlife in need.

[Join the Wild Hearts club here](#)

Join Today!

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.



Hand brushes and Dustpans

"If you've got time to lean, you've got time to clean". There's ALWAYS something to clean and sweep on site, and these get used up very quickly. The more we have, the cleaner we'll be!

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

Nets - We need five.

These are used regularly to catch up patients for treatments or to get ready for release. The nets we use need to be large, sturdy and have a long handle to work safely for wildlife.

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



Straw - We need lots.

In the cold months, straw helps to keep our patients warm and cozy, and we go through a lot! The bigger the bale the better, especially during these months of deep freezes.

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

Patient Gallery



Snowy Owl
Currently in care



Porcupine
Currently in care



Pileated Woodpecker
40 days in care



Northern Bobwhite
22 days in care



Northern Saw-whet Owl
12 days in care



Swainson's Hawk
41 days in care



Mountain Cottontail
25 days in care



Ferruginous Hawks
52 days 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. 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

Alberta Infrastructure, The City of Calgary, The Calgary Foundation, Bent Nielsen, C97.9 Radio, Calgary Costco NW, Cindy Schnee, Dan Primeau, Electronics Recycling Association, Erin Van Wijk Georgina Sawyer Memorial Foundation, Government of Canada's Community Services Recovery Fund, H. William MacGillivray, Heather Edwards, Jack Cates, Janet Elizabeth Annesley, Kimberly Verrier, Longshore Resources, M A Stanfield, Margery Kaytor, Nickle Family Foundation Nielsen Family Wildlife Fund, Olympia Charitable Foundation, Peter Sikora, RBC Foundation Sally Leitl, Sherling Animal Welfare Fund, Sponsor Energy, Steve Paterson. Tail Blazers Legacy, The HOP Foundation, The Wild Bird Store, and finally thank you to all our hard-working staff and board of directors!

For Your Viewing Pleasure



Check out Wildlife Rehabilitator Barbie!

She comes complete with skunk spray and formula/milk glitter, which gets everywhere, just like the real thing!

Social life sold separately!

[Check out the video here](#)

