

# April Newsletter

CALGARY WILDLIFE

## Message From The Executive Director



*Beki*

Beki Hunt  
Executive Director

I can't believe it's already April! Although this winter seemed to have dragged on and on and on...suddenly we're into the second quarter of the year. For us at Calgary Wildlife, the first three months of 2023 have been, well, snowy! Very very snowy. But, with the snow slowly melting, we are starting to get ready for our busy spring/summer season. We are looking forward to making full use of the new W.D Tidball Isolation Trailer this summer and still have some exciting projects to finish off before the snow returns at year-end. We are looking forward to the return of robin redbreasts and bumble bees, and all the new beginnings that come along with spring. As always, keep an eye on your inboxes for important updates and news.

## News

### A New Partnership

We are very excited to be partnering with the instructors and students at the **Graphic Communications & Print Technology (GCPT)** School for Advanced Digital Technology at **SAIT** on our new Wild Wise education booklets, stickers, and fliers. We can't wait to see Calgary's kids making use of our guided nature walks with their teachers and parents, helping them to be more aware of the life around them and making them **Wild Wise!**



### Did You Know?

Last summer we set up a new hotline system, which gives callers tips and advice on dealing with injured wildlife, as well as a lot of fun facts! A huge thank you to **Hunt Voice Over** for donating their time and skills to wildlife rehab and education. If you haven't heard it yet, have a listen on our FAQ page at the bottom under **Wildlife Fun Facts and Useful Info**, you may even learn something new!

## Community Newsletters

Over the past few months, our education team has been busy not only developing our new Wild Wise education series but also creating clever comics that could be seen in your community newsletters! Make sure to have a look in your own community's online and print versions for Calgary Wildlife content!



## Bow Habitat is back!

We're starting to finally see community events starting up again, which means you'll be seeing more of Calgary Wildlife out in the community. Starting with **Bow Habitat Station!** We'll be taking part in their monthly themed event handing out Calgary Wildlife info and stickers, talking about urban wildlife, and even selling some of our new merch! Last month's theme was Fantastic Forests! Keep an eye on the socials for upcoming Bow Habit Events.

## Bobbi the Bobcat

In case you missed it, "Bobbi" the bobcat from Chaparral has been in our care since our Director of Wildlife Care and Services trapped her in mid-January. The **amount of media coverage** she has gotten is truly amazing. Have a look at our **full blog update** from day one to the present about Bobbi. In our patient stories section of our website, you'll find in-depth stories about patients and their releases.



## Thank You APPLE EXPERT!

We've received a huge technology upgrade of four donated Apple laptops and four donated iPads!

Thanks to the generosity of Haider and the team at **APPLE EXPERT**, our team will be able to work faster, be more productive, and get great photos and videos of all our patients and education ambassadors to share with our supporters and stakeholders.

# Strategy Planning

A candid moment after a long day of strategy planning with the Board of Directors and senior management staff. From the President: "We had an exciting roundtable about where Calgary Wildlife has been and where it is going. There was consensus that there is room for Calgary Wildlife to grow and evolve and that there are exciting developments on the horizon".



## Patient News - A Northern Goshawk



Vienna suited up in full PPE in our new W.D Tidball Isolation Trailer.

**Near the end of November 2022**, a northern goshawk (*Accipiter gentilis*) was brought to us after being found on the ground, unable to fly. Our team performed an examination and found that the raptor had sustained a soft-tissue injury to his left shoulder. He received medication to manage his pain and any swelling in the shoulder and had a wing wrap applied to stabilize the joint. His wing wrap was changed and physiotherapy was performed regularly to maintain good blood flow and range of motion in his wing.

After 2 weeks of stabilization and cage rest, his wing wrap was removed and he was cleared to start the rehabilitation phase of his treatment. In the early stages of treatment, he was kept in quarantine due to the current outbreak of avian influenza. During that time, our team monitored him closely for the development of any symptoms that may have been indicative of avian influenza and ensured that he was not exposed to any potential contaminants that could spread the disease. Once his quarantine period finished, he was moved to an outdoor enclosure to start some limited self-physiotherapy to regain the full range of motion in his left shoulder.

Once improvement was noted in his range of motion, he was cleared to move to a flight pen to start conditioning his muscles prior to release. As northern goshawks normally hunt other birds "on-the-wing", meaning they catch their prey in flight, it was very important that he was able to make sharp turns, and exhibit tight maneuvering before release. Our team exercised him daily to help build up his flight muscles and fine-tune his flying ability after recovering from his injury. After 121 days in care, he was exhibiting excellent flight; his stamina, maneuvering, and lift in flight were at the levels required for him to survive and catch prey in the wild.

**On March 2nd, 2023, he was released back into familiar territory, giving him the best chance to survive in the wild.**





## Wild Kitty in the City

We are all familiar with the plight that most of the 38 species of wild cats are facing around the globe due to human-wildlife conflict and habitat loss. In contrast, the bobcat's story has been one of adaptation and survival. Natural selection has promoted the bobcat to develop the trait of becoming smaller in size, therefore it's able to adapt and take advantage of smaller prey. This makes it easier for the bobcat to adapt and thrive in a variety of environments, like our own urban backyards in Calgary. With sightings of bobcats becoming more frequent in Calgary, here at Calgary Wildlife we are receiving more and more bobcat-related questions... such as:

### **"Why does the bobcat have a short tail?"**

During evolution, the short tail was most likely a result of a genetic mutation that evolved to the species we know today with a six to seven inch tail.

### **"Why do bobcats have hair on the tips of the ears?"**

The tufts of hair on the tips of the ears are believed to act as antennae to help with sound frequencies.

### **General bobcat facts:**

Bobcats weigh approximately 11-30 pounds, are approximately 2.5-3.5 feet long and they can live from 10-12 years in the wild.

There are 12 subspecies of bobcats across North America. The species of bobcat found in Alberta is *Lynx rufus pallescens*.

Bobcats share many of the same physical traits and behaviours as our domestic felines. They share extraordinary vision and smell and heightened sensitivity to movement.

During prey capture, their whiskers are used like a net over their prey to detect movement.

Another thing wild and domestic cats have in common is the activity they enjoy most....doing nothing at all!

The majority of a bobcat's time is spent either sleeping or resting. Unlike some domestic cats, however, bobcats are only driven to hunt by hunger.

Bobcats are crepuscular and peak activity is a few hours before and after sunrise and sunset. This coincides with the hours their prey typically keep.

The bobcat's diet mainly consists of grey squirrels, rabbits, and hares, but they will sometimes feast on the occasional deer fawn or doe that is in a poor condition.

Like the lynx, bobcats are closely linked to prey and are often an indicator of how well prey species are doing in specific areas. Bobcats hunt in their home range moving in a zig-zag pattern across their territory. They don't like deep snow and will often use fences to traverse their range.

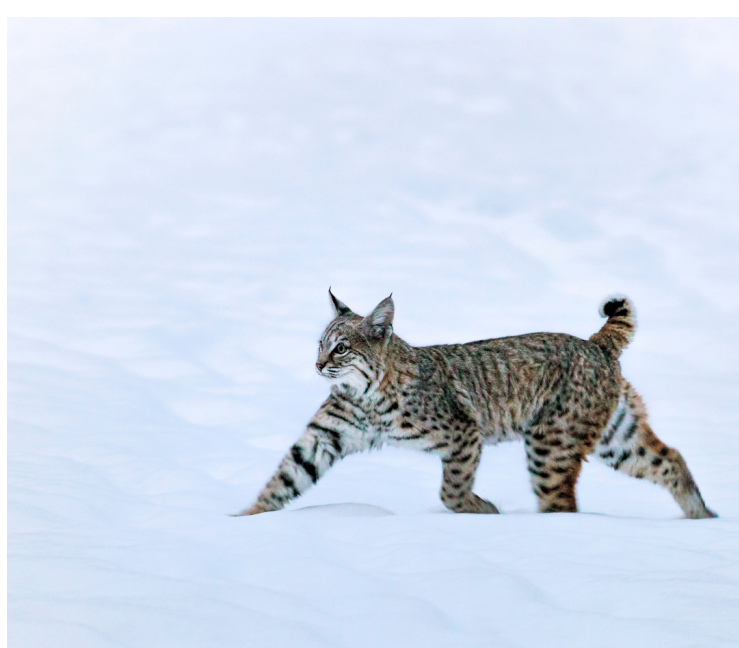
Males can move up to 4.5 KM per day, while females move much less at 1.5 KM per day. This smaller territory has much to do with maintaining ranges for having kittens.

Breeding typically occurs from February to April, with kittens being born approximately 2 months later. Litters consist of 3 kittens but mortality is typically high. Kittens emerge from the den at five weeks old and are nursed until 8 weeks. Mom restricts hunting to around the den within a kilometer.

At three to five months the kittens start to accompany mom on her hunting trips. Female bobcats have been known to move their den sites before rearing is complete if it has been disturbed and may move their dens as much as once a week.

Bobcats stay with mom into winter and disperse at about six to ten months of age to find a suitable home range. This is a vulnerable time for bobcats and mortality rates increase. Studies have indicated that bobcat populations could become unstable if the female population rate drops below 52%. This has encouraged many states and one province to increase protections for the bobcat.

*We are very fortunate to be able to share our backyards with this wonderful creature that helps keep the balance in our ecosystem which we all share.*





## Wild Wise

Our second animal in the Wild Wise series is the busy beaver! With each Wild Wise series, the children will have the opportunity to learn about the animals with their senses, and the beaver series will surely stimulate the kids' sense of hearing and sight. Check out this educational beaver rap!

The teachers and kids are loving getting Wild Wise with us!

*"This program was the perfect balance of information, interactive activities, movement, and artifacts. Our students were engaged from beginning to end and learned a great deal about how to be "wild-wise" in the city. The resources that were left to continue our learning were also a bonus, and weeks later our students continue to ask to do the "skunk dance song". Who knew learning about skunks could be so much fun?!"*

- Teacher Feedback

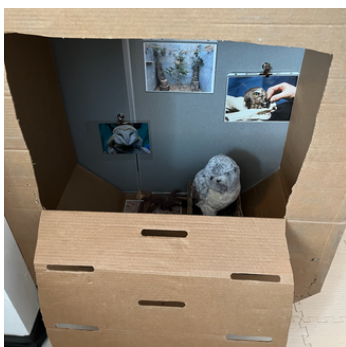
Click to watch a clip of the Beaver rap!

## Creative Kindy Kids

We were blown away when we saw the "Calgary Wildlife" stations the kindergarten kids at Auburn Bay School made with their teachers before we came to present "Owls All Around" with our owl ambassador, Ophelia. The children were fully engaged and concerned for the welfare of animals! Thank you to all the teachers and kids at Auburn Bay for being wildlife warriors!

*"Calgary Wildlife, came to our Kindergarten classroom for the 'Owls All Around' program and brought in Miss Ophelia (Great horned Owl). The educator was so good with the kids and delivered information in an informative and engaging manner. The biofacts that were brought in were a hit with kids. They loved feeling the goose vs owl wings, the owl talons, and seeing the bones from an owl pellet."*

- Teacher Feedback



Hospital cages full of patients with species appropriate food and weighing and exam tables.

## Q & A with Gayleen

### **How long have you been volunteering with Calgary Wildlife? What roles have you had?**

I have been a volunteer at Calgary Wildlife for more than 11 years. Education has been my major focus however I have also volunteered in many other roles including animal care, pickup and releases, grocery pickup, and as President of the Board of Directors.

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

Although caring for injured and orphaned wildlife is Calgary Wildlife's major role, I think that public education is also critical. I like how Richard Louv phrases it:

*"We cannot protect something we do not love, we cannot love what we do not know, and we cannot know what we do not see. And touch. And hear."*

Education programs provide an opportunity for people to learn about some of the fascinating animals that live around Calgary.

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

An experience that really impacted me occurred in Zimbabwe a number of years ago. While watching elephants, hippos and other wildlife from a boat I noticed a strange repetitive movement on the shore. When our guide motored closer we saw that a Pied Kingfisher was trying to fly but it was repeatedly jerked back to the ground. The guide and I went to investigate and found the bird was tangled in a short leash of fishing line. I gently held the bird while our guide carefully removed the fishing line. The bird appeared unhurt and I released it.

I was thrilled to see the bird fly off, able to have another chance at life.



### **What is your favourite wild animal and why?**

*I don't have a favourite animal. Every creature that I learn about becomes my latest favourite!*

# Events



## EYE FOR THE WILD 2023

CALGARY WILDLIFE'S 5TH ANNUAL AMATEUR PHOTOGRAPHY CONTEST



Contest Start Date: March 3rd, 2023 (World Wildlife Day)  
Photo Entry Deadline: April 15th, 2023  
\$10 entry fee per photo (all funds raised directly support the animals)  
Prizes for 1st, 2nd, 3rd, 4th place and Public's Choice

Official Sponsor:



Sponsored by:



FIND DETAILS AND ENTER AT:  
[WWW.CALGARYWILDLIFE.ORG/EYE-FOR-THE-WILD](http://WWW.CALGARYWILDLIFE.ORG/EYE-FOR-THE-WILD)

## Eye For The Wild

Our fifth annual [Eye For the Wild photography contest](#) is open for entries until April 15th. We've got some great prizes this year donated by Vistek Calgary, Donna Mac, Pandora's Gallery, and My Fave Straps.

Make sure to get your stunning shots in by April 15th to be in the running to be featured in our 2024 calendar!

## Servus Calgary Marathon 2023

We are excited to be taking part in this year's Servus Calgary Marathon as an Official Charity. In 2022 the Servus Calgary Marathon raised a whopping \$400,000 for 73 local charities!

Sign up today for one of the many runs, from the Ultra Marathon, to the Family Walk & Run, to the Virtual Run, and you'll be supporting Calgary Wildlife. Challenge yourself to beat your own best record, to take part in your first run, or to conquer your co-workers in a corporate team challenge. What an easy way to support Wildlife Rehabilitation!

The marathon is on Sunday, May 28th, with the virtual run going straight through until Sunday, June 25th. [Sign up via this link](#) and a donation from the Calgary Marathon will be made directly to us.



## Bow Habitat's "What up With?" Series

The goal of this series is to foster an awareness and an appreciation of Alberta's air, land, water and biodiversity among Albertans and visitors. Each month has a specific theme that connects back to Alberta's environment and the people that live within it.

- April 14th, the theme is "[Horns and Hooves](#)".
- [May 5th](#), the theme is "[Plants and Pollinators](#)".

Both events are at [Bow Habitat Station](#) and run from 10am-3pm. Make sure to mark your calendar and come down and say hello!



# Events

## The Mayor's Environment Expo

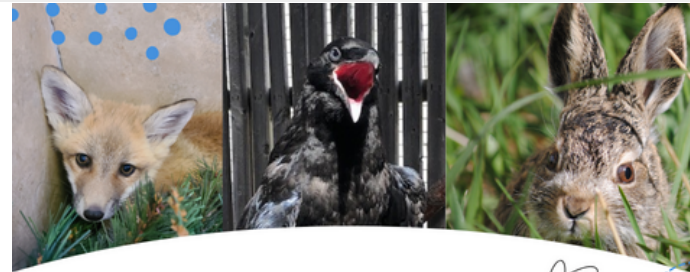
On June 6th and 7th we'll be attending the **Mayor's Environment Expo** at City Hall as presenters, with our education ambassadors Ophelia and Oliver, as well as educators behind our interactive table.

The goal of the expo is to empower and educate Calgary's youth to practice and promote environmental actions, shaping a healthier and greener city for tomorrow.



## Baby Shower Month 2023

Spring has sprung ( almost ) which means baby season is right around the corner. The spring and summer months are our busiest months, when we take in the majority of patients as well as see costs to care for all our patients go through the roof. We'll be holding our annual baby shower in June, where you'll get to see babies up close, ask questions of our wildlife rehabbers, and help us fundraise to cover some of the summer costs.

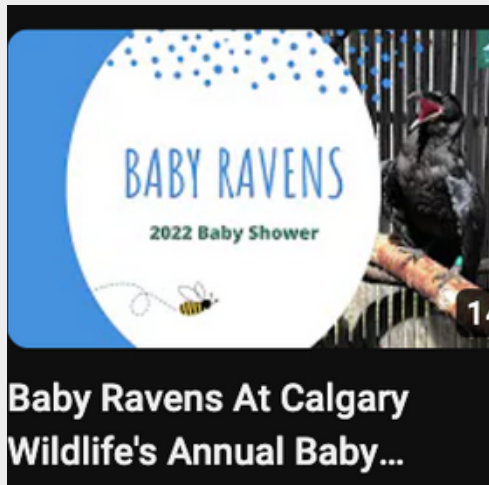


JOIN US IN JUNE, IT'S...



**BABY SHOWER MONTH**  
**AT CALGARY WILDLIFE**

Keep your eyes open for more information in the coming months. If you missed it last year, you can still watch on our YouTube channel and check out last year's feature babies, hares, ravens, skunks, flickers, and fawns.



Click to watch last year's baby shower!

# Thank You



## Giant Thank You

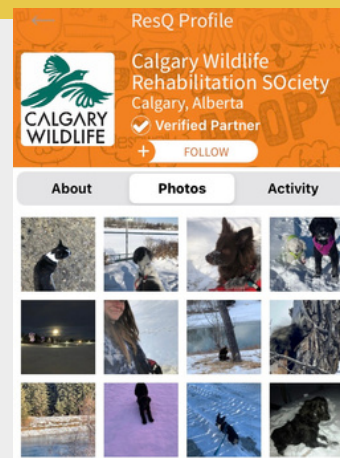
A great big thank you to **Arborist By Nature** for consistently donating their tree chippings to us to use on site as well as for our patient and permanent resident use!



# Ways to Help

## ResQwalk for Calgary Wildlife

Did you know that by downloading an app and walking, you could help raise funds for wildlife rehabilitation? That's right, ResQwalk is a free mobile app that enables you to raise resources for animal welfare organizations, simply by walking! At the end of every month, the ResQpool is proportionally distributed amongst the animal welfare organizations on the app! [Android download](#) [Apple download](#)



### Help Wildlife In Need

Thank you for choosing to donate to help wildlife in need. Together we can make a real difference for the wildlife that make their homes in and around Calgary.

#### Frequency

One-Time Monthly

#### Amount (CAD)

\$10 \$15 \$20 \$Other

Dedication

See if your employer matches donations!  
 Add \$0.64 to help cover the processing fees

Donate

## Become a Monthly Donor

Becoming a monthly donor is a win-win for both of us. For yourself, you can feel confident knowing you're helping wildlife every month, it's automatic so you don't need to worry about forgetting to donate, and of course, you get a tax receipt for all your donations. For us, it helps us be able to set more predictable budgets, forecast cash flow more effectively, and feel confident that our monthly donations will be enough to cover all our animal care costs. **Please consider signing up today.**

## Double the Donation

Did you know that many companies match their employees' donations to charity? Does yours? [Find out easily here](#) to possibly double your donation's impact!

Double Your Donation



WILL YOUR COMPANY MATCH YOUR DONATION?

Find Out Instantly!



## Ideas for kids

Although we require our volunteers to be 18 years of age or older, we don't want to kids to miss out on the opportunity to support wildlife!

**We've put together a list of ideas** to get the little ones in your life started being wildlife warriors!

## 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](mailto:admin@calgarywildlife.org) with questions.



## Rubber Feed Bowls

Heavy duty rubber feed bowls that are crack, freeze, and crush proof. Can be used all year round for our patients and permanent residents.

**Miller Manufacturing HP-2 4-Quart Rubber Feed Pans**

## Rubber Boots

We are in need of 48 pairs of boots for when foot baths will be back in place to prevent the spread of Avian Influenza during the spring and summer months. More info in our Amazon Wish List.

**Litfun Women's Mid Calf Rain Boots Waterproof Lightweight Garden Shoes by Litfun (Apparel)**



## GoPro

A GoPro camera would be a huge asset as we'd be able to film patient treatments & releases as well as enrichment with our education ambassadors. Having videos like these for our social media channels would help get accurate wildlife messaging to the public.

**GoPro Hero 11 Creator Edition**

# Special Thank You



## Our Donors



A special thank you to our one time donors and monthly 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.

Allison Seto, APPLE EXPERT, Arborist By Nature, Bema Enterprises LTD, Brian McDonald, Darryl MacDonald, Donna Mac, Donna Mallmes, Elyse Bouvier, Francesco Mele, Grateful Heart Foundation, Graphic Communications & Print Technology (GCPT) School for Advanced Digital Technology at SAIT, Grey Eagle at Tsuu T'ina Hospitality, Hunt Voice Over, J.E Hodgson Family Fund, Longshore Resources, Matthews Family Foundation, My Fave Straps, Pandora's Gallery, Susan Wight, Spearhead Fund, TPH&Co Canada, Quickcat Bobcat, Vistek Calgary, and finally thank you to all our hard working staff and board members!

## For Your Viewing Pleasure



### Check out this video!

And please remember to [vote for us weekly at My Giving Circle](#) and follow us on all our socials.

