



# January Newsletter

## Message From The Executive Director

### **It was one heck of a year, wasn't it?**

From dealing with the emergence of Highly Pathogenic Avian Influenza in Alberta to the continuance of COVID-19 to the increase in prices of nearly everything, our busy staff and volunteers most definitely deserve a big pat on the back! Although the year was a challenging one, we continued to keep our chins up and were fortunate enough to have also had many successes and improvements to our site last year. We will continue to look toward a brighter future and strive to make continual improvements to our current programs, expand our facility, and broaden our relationships with community stakeholders. From the bottom of my heart, a giant thank you to all of our donors, volunteers, members, and supporters who have helped Calgary Wildlife over the past year.

From myself and the whole Calgary Wildlife team, we wish you and your loved ones a prosperous year to come.



**Beki Hunt**  
Executive Director

**Without further ado,** we are pleased to introduce our newest member of the Calgary Wildlife Education team, Marmalade the Marmot!

Marmalade was brought to us over a year ago, after being found as a tiny baby in a car wash. She hibernated with us over the winter and we'd planned to release her in the Spring of 2022. Unfortunately, she didn't fully recover from her trauma and wouldn't have been able to thrive in the wild. Luckily, she has a lovely temperament and is going to be recruited into our education program this year. If you'd like to support Marmalade's care, [please consider becoming her one-time or monthly sponsor.](#)



[Watch her gallop!](#)

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### Alberta's Largest Flight Pen

We are excited to announce, thanks to The Calgary Foundation, that Calgary Wildlife now has the largest working flight pen in the province!



Over the summer and fall months, the flight pen was fortified and the ceiling was closed in, meaning we will now be able to start using the flight pen to assess our birds of prey patients' flying abilities before release. Although we pushed hard to have the whole project done by year-end, the weather wasn't on our side and the final touches of adding ponds will come in the spring. A huge thank you to The Calgary Foundation and everyone who helped make this project happen so quickly.

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### We are also thrilled to announce

that our brand-new isolation trailer is finished and up and running. The space is set up to house animals needing to be in isolation before moving to the main clinic as well as to carry out onsite lab tests. Having a dedicated isolation area is

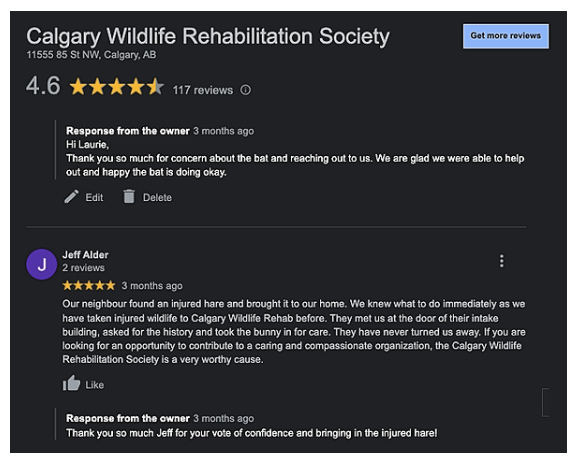
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crucial to preventing the spread of viruses and it will aid us in getting faster test results which allows for faster treatments. Thank you to everyone who was part of this amazing process!



**Our new website** is up and running, and with it comes our new [Calgary Wildlife Blog](#)! On the blog, you'll be able read about Calgary Wildlife news, including our new monthly animal feature, patient spotlights, and our recently developed educational comic strips! Take a minute to have a look and share it with all your wildlife-loving friends!

**We always love to get positive feedback** from the community. Knowing we were able to help an animal in distress and caring Calgarians always puts a smile on our faces..."Our neighbour found an injured hare and brought it to our home. We knew what to do immediately as we have taken injured wildlife to Calgary Wildlife Rehab before. They met us at the door..."



**Another 2022 project** recently completed are our new net bottoms for waterfowl. These are used in wildlife rehab to protect their webbed feet from developing pressure sores from hard



floors. The net bottoms mimic a spongy surface, similar to what one would find on the edges of marshes and wetlands. A huge thank you to **The Harry and Martha Cohen Foundation** for supporting this project.

### Workplace Giving Made Easy!

We've partnered with Double The Donation, an organization that finds any and all companies that match their employees' donations and makes the application process easy!

[Click here to see if your company matches donations!](#)

### Double Your Donation



WILL YOUR COMPANY  
**MATCH YOUR DONATION?**

Find Out Instantly!



Our 2023 calendars are now **20% off!** We've only got a handful left, so [get yours while supplies last!](#)



## Calgary Wildlife 2022 Recap



1200+ students, adults,  
and seniors reached

35 educational talks given



1053 bird patients admitted

561 mammal patients admitted



1619 patients admitted

8200+ hotline calls



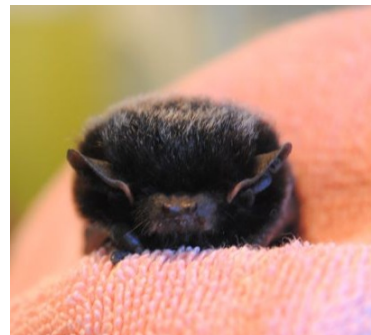
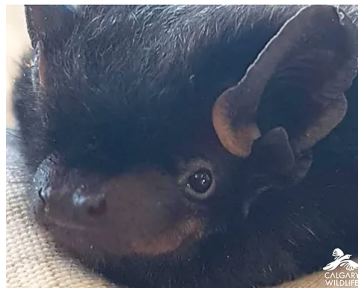
Finally, it's with a heavy heart we have to announce the passing of one of our education ambassadors, Echo the Silver-Haired Bat. Echo passed away on Monday, January 9th, 2023.

Echo was part of the Calgary Wildlife family since 2019 when he came to us with an injury that prevented him from flying. It was quickly realized he had a lovely temperament and was recruited to our education program to help dispel the many bat myths out there. Echo's favourite things to do were nap and chow down on juicy mealworms. Thank you to anyone who donated to Echo's care over the years. He will be greatly missed by the whole Calgary Wildlife team.



♥ Rest In Peace ♥

Echo the Silver-Haired Bat



## Patient News

On October 25th of last year, Calgary Wildlife

admitted a common muskrat (*Ondatra zibethicus*) into care after he had been caught by a dog. Our team quickly got to work stabilizing him and examining his injuries. The muskrat had sustained multiple puncture wounds and lacerations, as well as injuries to his eye from the incident.



His wounds were cleaned and treated, and he was started on medications to help manage pain and to prevent infection. At this stage in treatment, he was housed in an indoor enclosure on cage rest to keep his wounds clean. With careful monitoring, and regular examinations, his wounds healed quickly, and his eye healed up nicely.



Once his wounds had fully healed, and he was medically cleared by our veterinarian, he was moved to an aquatic enclosure to mimic his natural habitat, and provide him with the opportunity to swim and exhibit natural behaviours whilst housed in captivity.

In the winter months, muskrats require established lodges, or 'push-ups', that were built in the autumn for shelter and protection from potential predators. These lodges provide a safe, sheltered area with easy access to water where an individual muskrat will overwinter.



As this muskrat was displaced from his natural territory and does not have an established lodge to return to, he will be housed in captive care here at Calgary Wildlife overwinter to set him up for the best chance at success in the wild when he can be released in the spring. Muskrats primarily feed on

plants, but can also be seen eating a variety of small fish and frogs. This common muskrat is a very eager eater and readily eats all plant materials and small fish offered.

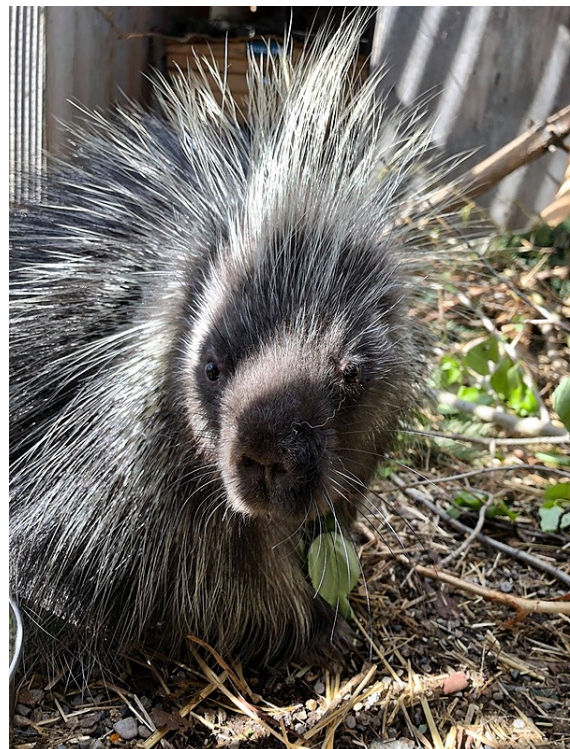
## Education

### North American Porcupines

When most people think of urban wildlife the porcupine is usually not the first species that comes to mind. Porcupines are timid and elusive animals making sightings rare but they are well-established within the city. They are typically nocturnal and will rest in trees during the day out of sight. Although the translation of their name from Latin means "quill pig", porcupines are rodents that feed on plants, leaves, and tree bark. Wildlife folklore has contributed to the belief that porcupines can shoot their quills. This is false. The highest density of a porcupine's quills is concentrated on the tail. When a porcupine feels threatened they will give multiple signals such as vocalizations, teeth chattering, raising guard hairs, and displaying the quills on their back. If the threat has not retreated after the warning they will resort to swinging their tail to defend themselves. The quills will then become dislodged upon contact. However, the quills of the North American Porcupine are medicated with an antibiotic. This is believed to have evolved as a strategy against self-quilling. Porcupines give birth in the spring to a 'porcupette'. The young stay with their mother throughout the summer before dispersing. At Calgary Wildlife we typically see a few orphaned porcupettes every summer and multiple adult porcupines throughout the year. Many cases are due to dog attacks or starvation/dehydration due to relocation.

**There are numerous steps we can take to help minimize conflict with porcupines and coexist with them in our shared urban habitat:**

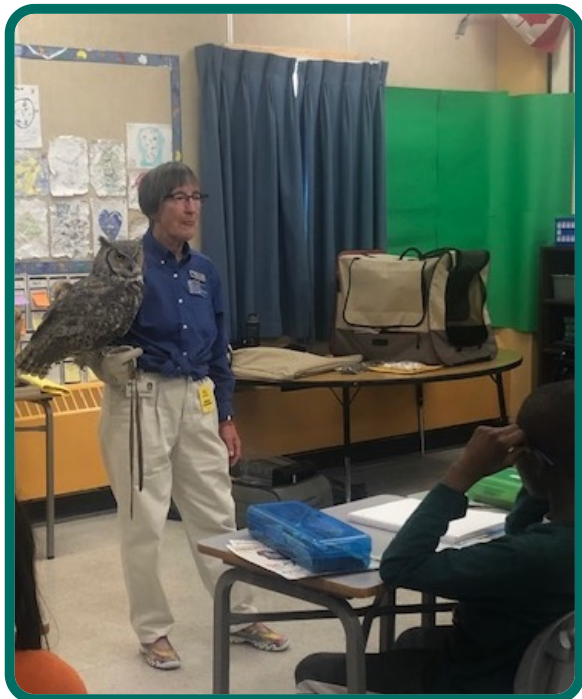
- Fence off valuable orchards, gardens, and anything else that may be susceptible to porcupine damage. To protect individual trees, wrap the trunks in aluminum flashing.
- Keep all your tools and leather goods locked away in a shed or garage.
- Keep your dog on a leash when walking outdoors, especially if you suspect that there's a porcupine in the area to protect the porcupine and your dog.



- Keep cats from free roaming, especially during baby season.
- For persistent porcupines that are attracted to salt on vehicles, put out a salt lick to deter them from your vehicle if you don't have a garage.
- Do not trap and relocate. Many animals have established territories and food sources. Trapping and

relocating wildlife removes them from their familiar food sources and greatly reduces their chance of survival. It also creates an open space for other animals to move in.

In Calgary, we are fortunate to share our spaces with so many different types of urban wildlife. To prevent human-wildlife conflict, some simple steps we can all take are to learn about the wildlife's ways of communicating and ensure we are doing the right things to prevent wildlife from being attracted to the city.



Our education team has been busy over the past few months getting back in the swing of visiting schools and community groups with our education ambassadors Ophelia and Lito. We've also been busy developing a brand new series of programs entitled Wild Wise. **The Wild Wise Series** focuses on understanding wild animal behaviours, their adaptations & needs, as well as positive community connections, as a way of reducing human-wildlife conflict.

Our first series is called **So Stinkin' Cute**, and it's all about the often-misunderstood skunk. All of our programs can be adapted for any age group.

[Please visit our website for more information and to book online.](#)



Introducing our new monthly wildlife comic strip!

Every month we'll have a new urban wildlife strip that is educational and witty. Make sure to [pop by our blog monthly!](#)





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## Yip the Dishes.



Unsecure food waste attracts wildlife. Keep clever coyotes hunting in the wild by ensuring garbage, compost, and recycling are in secure bins.



[www.calgarywildlife.org](http://www.calgarywildlife.org)

## Volunteer Spotlight- Nathalie Martel

**How long have you been volunteering with Calgary Wildlife? And what roles have you had?**

I have been with Calgary Wildlife for 5 years, as both wildlife clinic support volunteer and rescue driver volunteer.

I have been involved in rehabilitation, rescue, and education for 16 years.



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

Attending to injured, distressed, and orphaned wildlife is our responsibility. The majority of all injuries sustained by wildlife are human-caused, therefore it is our social responsibility to assist them in getting better and back to the wild. Wildlife rehabilitation organizations play a central and very critical role in educating the public about people's impact on the wildlife that resides around them and fostering a desire for co-existence and a sense of stewardship toward our wild friends. Only increased awareness can make people care about the wild animals with whom they share their communities and become aware of the role they can play in safeguarding them.

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

I spent over an hour untangling a baby skunk who had gotten his whole body wrapped in gardening plastic netting. He had a deep cut to his neck that exposed his inner tendons and ligaments. He was extremely patient as I worked to cut out this stubborn netting, and once free and the wound treated, I got to release him. He stood still looking at me for a short period, non-threatening and calm. He walked away toward what I presumed was his den, but turned around and looked at me again before disappearing. He never ran like wild animals tend to do once freed. It was very rewarding to exchange looks of compassion with a little being I was able to help. The homeowner tore down his netting, never to use dangerous materials again. It was a good lesson learned for the humans too. He witnessed all of this and was thrilled to be part of the process, and to make him appreciate the impact he has on his wild neighbours.

**Favourite wild animal and why?**

I am partial to skunks and porcupines, but I love all animals. In my eyes, every single creature deserves safety and compassion. No one critter is more important than any other, as we all have a critical role to play within our ecosystems. To me, they are all special in their own unique way.

### **Interested in volunteering?**

We are currently recruiting education volunteers who have experience handling raptors and giving educational presentations to join our education team.

[Please apply on our website](#) and make sure to clearly list your animal handling experience.

## Events

### **Eye For The Wild 2023**

Coming soon....Our annual amateur wildlife photography contest, Eye For The Wild! The contest will launch on World Wildlife Day (March 3rd), stay tuned for details to come!

Would your company like to sponsor this year's event?

Please email [admin@calgarywildlife.org](mailto:admin@calgarywildlife.org) for more info!



## Thank You



### **Modern Niagara**

#### **Corporate Volunteers**

A huge thank you to Modern Niagara for spending a day with us in September. After a full day on site, our main clinic, bat cave, and new isolation had new coats of paint and the site looked better than we could have hoped for!

## Holiday Auction Sponsors

A big shout out to all of our holiday auction sponsors, who helped us raise nearly \$4000!

Please make sure to support those local businesses giving back to charity;

[Pomeroy Kananaskis Mountain Lodge](#), [Darin Ruff Real Estate](#), [Kamala & Kyle Photography](#), [Cyndi Thompson Art](#), [The Grinning Goat Boutique](#), [Aspen Crossing](#), [Mark's Parts](#), [Back To Nature Apparel](#), [The Honey Pot](#), [Patagonia YYC](#), [The Healthy Path](#), [Blok's Menswear](#), [Orchard YYC](#), [Stumpcraft](#), [Bunny Love By Judy](#), [Calgary Plants](#), [Drawings Without Borders](#), [Nature's Essential Garden](#), [Ten Foot Henry](#), [Kama](#), [Leopold's Tavern](#), and [Vine Arts](#).

## Ways To Help

**Interested in helping but unsure how?**

**Why not consider some of the following;**

### [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.

### [Donate Securities](#)

Securities donations are an exciting way for you to increase your gift to charity while decreasing tax. The **Canada Revenue Agency does not** apply capital gains tax on donations of appreciated publicly traded securities. You can benefit tremendously from this added incentive to reduce the real cost of your charitable giving or increase the amount of your donation without increasing the cost.

[Learn more here](#)

### [Share and Follow Our Socials](#)

It seems like a small thing, but helping us get the word out about what we do at Calgary Wildlife is a huge help! You can do that by sharing and liking all of our social media accounts, sharing our newsletters with your family and friends, and of course the good old fashioned way, word of mouth! Every little bit helps us get more visibility and support.

**Donate your bottles via SkipTheDepot!** If you don't know about [Skip The Depot](#), it's a door-to-door bottle collection service that makes





 **SKIP THE DEPOT**

Download the app and start donating to us today!

refundable recycling and fundraising easier than 1,2,3!

Getting started is simple.

1. Download the app or visit the website and book a pickup
2. <https://app.skipthedepot.com/calgarywildlife>
3. Place your bags outside
4. Donate to us!

## Calgary Wildlife Wishlist

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  
[items on our wishlist.](#)



[Suitcases for our education department](#)

At each presentation we go to, our educators have to lug around a lot of materials to make the presentations engaging. Our current suitcases are on their last legs and we are in dire need of some new ones.



[GoPro for patient treatment & documentation](#)

Having a couple GoPro cameras would be a huge asset as we'd be able to film patient treatments & releases as well as enrichment with our education ambassadors with the GoPro head strap device. Having videos like these for our social media channels would help get accurate wildlife messaging out there.

[Storage Shed](#)

Something we never seem to have enough of is storage space. Having a few more on site sheds would allow us to better organize our back up food, blankets, and equipment, which in turn would save our rehabbers and volunteers a ton of time.

Please email [admin@calgarywildlife.org](mailto:admin@calgarywildlife.org) with any questions about our wishlist items.

## Special Thank Yous

### ▮ Donors ▮

A special thank you to our monthly donors and everyone who has chosen to donate to help injured and orphaned wildlife. Because of your continued support we were able to help the more than 1600 patients that came through our doors in 2022!

### ▮ 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.

### ▮ Special Thanks To ▮

Alberta Infrastructure - ATCO Epic  
The Calgary Foundation - The City of Calgary  
AA Rentals and Supplies - Arete Initiative Incorporated  
Back To Nature Photography - Barb Stefanich  
Barbara Heuchert - Bryon Chomey  
Calgary Sod Masters - Carolyn Simpson  
Catherine Smith-Muir  
Dan Primeau - David Locksmith  
Doug Hansen - E. Matthew Caddel  
Edward Halt - Fred Koepke

Georgina Sawyer Memorial Foundation  
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Joe and Diana Horler  
Judy Weaver - Ken Mitchel  
Kimberly Verrier - Lauren Detheridge  
Laura Howden - Lorna Beairsto  
Laura L'Heureux - Louise Parker-Cloutier  
M A Stanfield - Marianne Burgess  
Nadine Burwash - Norton Rose Fullbright Canada  
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Patricia Robertson - Patricia Watson  
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SAIT  
(Graphic Communications and Print Technology)  
Saho Higuchi - Sharon & Mel Freeman  
Steve Paterson - Susan J. Skeet  
Szikora Family Fund at Calgary Foundation  
Taylor Chambers - Teine Energy  
Tristram Mallett - Zealandia Holding Company

**...and finally thank you to all our hard working staff  
and board members!**

For Your Viewing Pleasure



[P.S...Remember to vote for us weekly](#)  
[at My Giving Circle to help us win grants!](#)

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