

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

Surprise Birth at Calgary Wildlife: Silver-Haired Bat Gives Birth to Two Pups

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Calgary Wildlife Rehabilitation Society is thrilled to announce the unexpected birth of two silver-haired bat pups in their care. The mother, who was admitted with a small hole in one of her wings, gave birth after being in care for just over a month. These surprising patient additions highlight the importance of the ongoing efforts in wildlife rehabilitation.

Silver-haired bats (*Lasionycteris noctivagans*) are currently listed as endangered in Canada, making this birth particularly significant. These remarkable creatures play a crucial role in the ecosystem by controlling insect populations, dispersing seeds, and pollinating plants in southern regions, thereby maintaining the health and balance of the natural environment. Bats are known to consume vast quantities of insects, including many agricultural pests, which helps reduce the need for chemical pesticides and supports healthier crop production.

“The birth of these pups while in captive care is a testament to the specialized care we are able to provide our bat patients as well as the resilience of wildlife and the critical role that rehabilitation centres can play in their recovery”, said Melanie Whalen, Director of Wildlife Care and Services at Calgary Wildlife. “This surprise came at the perfect time, as our new outdoor bat flight pen is now complete and ready for use. It will provide the ideal environment for the mother and her pups to strengthen their wings and prepare for their return to the wild.”

The forty-foot outdoor bat flight pen is the latest addition to Calgary Wildlife's comprehensive bat rehabilitation facility joining its primary bat hospital, aptly named "The Bat Cave". This new structure will offer recovering bats ample space to fly and echolocate, ensuring they are fit and healthy for release. The Bat Cave and flight pen are designed to simulate natural conditions, providing the bats with the necessary environment to hone their hunting and flying skills.

“Mother bat and her pups should be ready to rejoin their natural habitat in time for their fall migration,” added Whalen. “As with all our patients, we are committed to giving them the best possible care to ensure their successful reintegration into the wild and perform detailed assessments prior to release to ensure they are set up for success.”

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The Calgary Wildlife Rehabilitation Society (Calgary Wildlife) is a registered charitable organization that was established in 1993. Calgary Wildlife provides expert compassionate care to injured and orphaned wildlife in and around the City of Calgary. As an accredited veterinary hospital (ABVMA), Calgary Wildlife is open 365 days a year and is the only wildlife rehabilitation centre located within the city. Calgary Wildlife also provides valuable outreach

and educational services to the community. For more information, please visit www.calgarywildlife.org