

Message From The Executive Director



Beki Hunt
Executive Director

Summer is in full bloom and as always we've been full to the brim with babies. So far this busy season we've had close to 1000 animals of many different species come to us for help. From everyday urban wild animals like skunks, crows, and chickadees, to the not-so-common, such as the endangered ferruginous hawk, blue heron, and saw-whet owl. Seeing all these wild animals come to us for help has reminded me just how fortunate all of us at Calgary Wildlife are to be able to help wildlife in need, but also what an invaluable service we provide. Calgary Wildlife has been helping injured and orphaned wildlife for 30 years now, and to recognize that milestone, we are launching the Wild Hearts Club. We look forward to seeing you join this exclusive group to help us celebrate our 30th anniversary of providing expert, compassionate, care to wildlife in need.

Thank you for your ongoing support over the past 30 years. We look forward to continuing to offer our services to wildlife and compassionate Calgarians for another 30 years to come.

News

Alberta's largest flight pen is here!

Our giant flight pen has been fortified and is ready for use complete with its own running stream! This project was started last year, but we couldn't get it done before the weather shifted. So as soon as the weather warmed up this year, the running stream was finished off. To be able to fully assess our largest raptor patients' ability to fly, swoop, dive, and hunt, we need enough space for their giant wing spans. The running stream will help our patients practice their hunting abilities, so they will be set up for successful release back to the wild.

Thank you to the Calgary Foundation and Marilyn & Mark Brown Family Fund via the Calgary Foundation for supporting this project and wildlife rehabilitation!





Calgary Wildlife ❤️ Bowest Appliances!

Last month our heavily used patient fridge kicked the bucket and our team was struggling without one. Luckily, **Bowest Appliances** stepped up and donated the exact type we needed! We are so grateful to the team at Bowest for their generosity and speed in getting us what we needed!

Wonderful Waldorf!

Shout out to the teachers, parents, and grade three class at the **Waldorf school** for making this amazing shed and donating it to Calgary Wildlife! We'll be using it as a housing extension for our education ambassador Marmalade so she'll have somewhere bigger to hide away in the summer as well as a cozy hibernation area in the winter!



Bobbi Update

It's been around six months since we trapped Bobbi the bobcat from Chaparral and got her into care. After numerous surgeries and assessments, we are happy to say she's been moved out to a larger space for extensive observation of her hunting and climbing abilities.

[Read her full story on our blog here.](#)

30 for 30 and the Wild Hearts Club

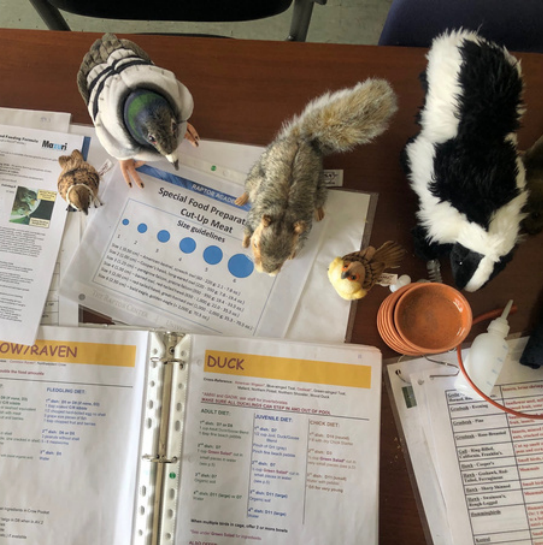
To help celebrate our 30 years, sign up as a \$30 monthly donor for our 30th anniversary and become part of the **Wild Hearts Club!** As part of this exclusive club, you'll be sent regular messages and behind-the-scenes videos & photos only for club members! You'll also be given special Wild Hearts Club merchandise offers and much more!

For the price of four Starbucks coffees a month, you'll become part of the club, helping more injured and orphaned wildlife in need.



Summer Staff Training

This year we launched an in-depth wildlife rehabilitation training for our new summer staff, to better prepare them for the intensity of the summer months at Calgary Wildlife. Some of the topics that were covered were wildlife rehabilitation ethics, stress in captive care, anatomy & nutrition, physical exams, zoonosis, and biosecurity. Staff were given hands on practice on how to perform exams with cadavers, sent on "find the dangers" hunt in a "dangers enclosure", as well as practice proper handling of wildlife with wild animal teaching dolls!



New Veggie Patch

As a way to try to combat the rising cost of food for our patients, our volunteers have built a new vegetable garden where we can grow leafy greens for our patients and permanent residents. Huge thank you to our volunteers **Jim, Jennifer, and Alexandria** for taking on this project!



Patient News - Ferruginous Hawks



In June, 2023, three nestling **ferruginous hawks** (*Buteo regalis*) were admitted to us at Calgary Wildlife. Their mother was found deceased, suspected to have been electrocuted by an electrical tower. After arriving at Calgary Wildlife, the nestlings were examined and were found to be moderately dehydrated. All three nestlings were started on fluid therapy treatment to combat their hydration deficit and stabilize them. Due to the current avian influenza outbreak, they were placed in quarantine to be monitored closely for any onset of symptoms that could indicate an avian influenza infection.

Bloodwork was performed in house, and, after an assessment by our veterinarian, the nestlings were determined to be in good health. They are ravenous eaters and very quickly took to eating independently in captive care.

In Alberta, ferruginous hawks are considered an **endangered species** under the Alberta Wildlife Act. This is primarily due to habitat loss and fragmentation. Once these nestlings have finished growing and are exhibiting all the skills they need in order to thrive in the wild, they will be released back into their native habitat.

Ferruginous hawks are the **largest species** of Buteo raptor in North America, and primarily hunt small rodents. Prior to releasing any juvenile bird of prey, we ensure their flight and hunting abilities are tested and assessed to ensure they can survive on their own.





The Role of Wildlife Rehabilitation

Wildlife rehabilitation plays a vital role in rescuing and caring for orphaned or injured animals, providing them with the necessary support for survival and eventual release into their natural habitats. One common scenario we encounter at Calgary Wildlife, is the taking of baby animals from the wild, when they have been separated from their mothers due to various circumstances.

The decision to take baby animals from the wild for rehabilitation is typically driven by the vulnerability of the babies, and the immediate need for care. Some common situations include cases where the mother is deceased or injured. In other cases, well-meaning individuals may unintentionally cause an animal to become orphaned due to interference by trying to help.

There have been a few cases recently highlighted on social media of such scenarios. In the States, a buffalo calf was removed from a river from its herd in a national park by a well-meaning individual, with the intention of 'rescuing' the animal. The calf unfortunately died when it couldn't be re-united with the mother and herd. In our own backyard, we recently observed a scenario near Cochrane where a moose calf had been separated from its mother after she jumped a fence because people were trying to photograph the pair. Many people stopped to take photos with some well-intentioned public even trying to chase the calf and mother back towards each other. This type of situation is very stressful for both mother and baby and can unintentionally lead to the death of the animals through capture myopathy or animals running into traffic. Thankfully a bystander contacted Calgary Wildlife and together with Fish and Wildlife we were able to dissipate the crowd and reunite mother with baby.

Wildlife rehabilitators can't replace the essential needs the natural mother can provide to its young.

It is always our priority to ensure the animal is truly orphaned and there is no other option for survival before coming to our center for the following reasons;

- **Interference with Natural Behavior:** Removing babies from the wild disrupts their natural upbringing and socialization with their own species. The lack of exposure to their natural environment and their own species may impact their ability to learn essential survival skills and adapt to their specific ecological niche.



- **Stress and Dependency:** Baby animals are highly dependent on their mothers for nourishment, protection, and learning. Separating them from their mothers and exposing them to human care may result in stress, imprinting, and a diminished ability to fend for themselves once released.
- **Wildlife Population Impact:** The removal of babies from the wild can have population-level consequences, especially if the practice is not carefully regulated. Overreliance on taking babies for rehabilitation purposes may impact the overall genetic diversity and reproductive success of the species, potentially leading to long-term negative effects on wild populations.
- **Resource Allocation:** The care and rehabilitation of orphaned wildlife require substantial resources, including financial support, expert personnel, and appropriate facilities. The decision to prioritize the care of baby animals may divert resources away from other critical patients. It takes a commitment of feeding babies around the clock and adds an additional stress to staff already working long hours to feed mammal babies every two hours through out the night and feed baby birds every fifteen minutes from dawn to dusk.

Here are some simple steps you can take to help ensure wild babies stay with their parent(s).

- **Keep pets on a leash** and cats indoors or in a contained catio.
- **Do not trap and relocate animals.** If you hire a pest control company, please ensure they are following humane practices and will not do any removal during baby seasons for specific species.
- **Do not remove nests.** Most species of bird will fully fledge in about two weeks. Projects can be temporarily delayed until the birds have fledged. Many species of birds, including robins, are protected under the Migratory Birds Act and the nest, eggs, and baby birds cannot be interfered with until the nest is empty under federal law. Please call Calgary Wildlife before removing a nest or babies from a nest.



If you find an animal that you believe to be injured, please contact Calgary Wildlife (or trained wildlife professionals in your area) before removing the animal or attempting to reunite it with its family.

Our trained staff will be able to assess each case individually, based on the specific circumstances and potential for successful rehabilitation, and provide you with the best advice for each animal.

HELLO!



Let's be good neighbours.

Wild Wise

Our Wild Wise series will be launching all five animals in the series (skunk, beaver, magpie, porcupine, and bat) complete with urban wildlife books and stickers this fall. We look forward to teaching young Calgarians the importance of living in harmony with all our urban neighbours.

Check out the full series here:

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

Ophelia, Teacher Extraordinaire

Ophelia our great horned owl education ambassador, attended her last public teaching event at the Mayor's Expo in June. After 15+ years of teaching children and adults alike, Ophelia will be retiring, to live out her golden years perching around and eating all the mice she wants! Huge thank you to volunteers Gayleen and Susanne for being her constant handlers as well as all those who have cared for Ophelia over the past 15 years.



Volunteer Spotlight: Judy



Q & A with Judy

How long have you been with Calgary Wildlife?

I've been volunteering with Calgary Wildlife for about 15 years. My husband, Dave, was a rescue and education volunteer. I started going along with him on some of his rescues when he needed a second pair of hands, like when a Great Horned Owl was tangled in a barbed wire fence. Dave was diagnosed with ALS in Nov. 2012 and by the following spring he was unable to lift Ophelia the Great Horned Owl, Calgary Wildlife's education ambassador, so I became his "owl wrangler".

Q & A with Judy continued...

What roles have you had as a volunteer?

After Dave passed away in Sept of 2013, I wanted to keep volunteering at Calgary Wildlife, partly to honour his memory and partly because it is a cause I very much believe in. Over the years I've helped out in an education capacity at International Migratory Bird Day and the Mayor's Environmental Expo, hauled bales of straw, bags of poultry starter, and loads of branches on site, and helped with many wildlife releases. This spring I started doing the donated produce pickup at Blush Lane Organic Market.

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

I believe that Calgary Wildlife's most important work is two fold, and it's hard to separate the two. The first is to help the animals that have been injured or orphaned, mostly due to human influences. The other side of this is to educate people in the City of Calgary about how to live in harmony with their wild neighbours and do as little harm to them as possible.

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

I grew up on a farm in BC. The woodlot, which backed onto a mountainside was divided from the main part of the farm by a country road. I was about 10, walking home from a friend's place, almost at the back gate to our field, when I happened to look up, and there was a black bear, standing on its hind legs, looking at me. Despite the fact that a ditch, a fence, and a bunch of bushes separated us, I thought it was going to eat me. I thought it was huge. Later encounters with other bears tell me it probably wasn't, but I didn't think, I just ran. No idea how I got over the gate, but I made it across the pasture in record time. Fortunately, the bear didn't follow. Bears were quite common in that area, but they weren't habituated to human food, so the poor bear was probably as scared as I was. And that was my first bear encounter!

What is your favourite wild animal and why?

*Skunks!
Because they are soft and cute, great at pest control and they are so misunderstood!*

Events (Past)



Teaching Calgarians About Urban Wildlife

We've had a busy few months attending public education events at **Bow Habitat Station, Telus Spark, and City Hall for the Mayor's Environment Expo**. At these events, we provide Calgarians with tips about the simple things they can do to help the urban wildlife we share our spaces with. Such as using window tape to prevent bird strikes, easy ways to live in harmony with animals such as skunks, as well as simple steps to take before throwing out garbage and recycling which can be a danger, and even fatal, to many wild animals. We met a lot of Calgarians young and old, passionate about wildlife, like this young lady who was so happy to talk to us about the American Robin, her favourite bird! She may just be a future wildlife biologist in the making!



Interested in joining our public education tabling team?

Apply today as an education volunteer!

Baby Shower Success

Thanks to everyone who tuned in and donated to our 2023 baby shower. This year we featured a porcupette, baby skunks, three ferruginous hawk siblings, american robins (both nestlings and fledglings), a magpie, a chipmunk and two deer fawns. This year we were able to raise \$19,792.81 to be put toward feeding our hungry, hungry babies!

If you missed the lives, **you can watch them on our YouTube channel here.**

Baby Shower for Orphaned Wildlife!

Now Available on our **YOUTUBE Channel**

See wild babies live and up close!



Events (Upcoming)



August 2nd at Crowfoot Library: So Stinkin Cute

Calgary Wildlife will be presenting Wild Wise programming to 6-8 year-olds at the Crowfoot Library August 2nd. Ollie, our striped skunk ambassador, will be joining us at the end of the So Stinkin' Cute program.

Register for free today on the library website.

<https://calgarylibrary.ca/events-and-programs/programs/skunks-so-stinkin-cute/>

September 16th at Bow Habitat: Alberta Biodiversity festival

Calgary Wildlife will be participating in Bow Habitat's Alberta Biodiversity Festival Saturday September 16th. The festival will highlight "the biodiversity in our province and the actions we can take to protect our diverse ecosystems." Come down to Bow Habitat and see Calgary Wildlife's interactive table, along with other organizations showcasing their contributions to protecting, enhancing or providing education on Alberta's biodiversity.

<https://bowhabitat.alberta.ca/whats-on/alberta-biodiversity-festival.aspx>



Thank You



Giant Thank You

A giant thank you to sister and brother duo **Hannah and Noah** for raising money for wildlife rehabilitation! At their school fair, they sold homemade fudge and handmade painted rocks, and raised \$150 for wildlife rehabilitation! It just goes to show that helping animals in need can be done at any age!

Under 18 but still want to help out? Check out our tips here:

<https://www.calgarywildlife.org/youth-volunteer>

Shout Out

A big shout out to **Price Waterhouse Coopers** for helping us with our spring clean-up this year and getting our whole site ready for our busy summer season!



Ways to Help



Your Membership
Helps Save Wildlife

Sign Up as a Member!

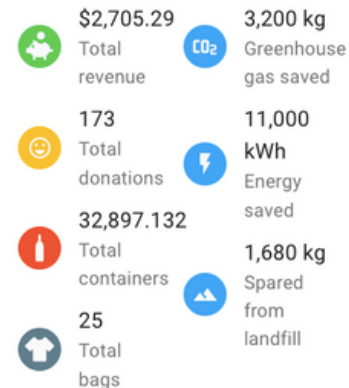
Annual membership fee is only \$25, which is put toward feeding and caring for our patients, rehabilitating and releasing them, as well as providing urban wildlife education to the public. Calgary Wildlife members will be invited to attend our Annual General Meeting in May, where we update members on the past year's news.

Sign up today! <https://www.calgarywildlife.org/member>

Donate your bottles, electronics, and old clothing!

Skip the Depot is a very convenient way to get rid of your bottles, cans, old electronics and clothing, without having to go to the depot AND the proceeds come to us! All you need to do is download the app, book a pickup and choose Calgary Wildlife as your done! It's as simple as 1-2-3!

https://skipthedepot.com/bottle-depot-pickup-promotion/?gclid=CjwKCAjwzJmlBhBBEiwAEJyLu4KGeEfexEw60V_n6JPkC9e0vsAfTGml2uD_OVJMIbo3hGJnBkrGSqRoCH2QQAvD_BwE



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 with questions.

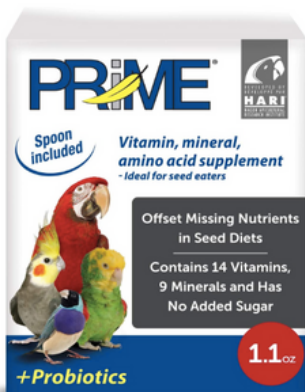


Nets - We need five.

We use these nets when catching up our patients to either move them to different enclosures or getting them ready for release. The rubber nets are ideal as they won't break and fray like the non-rubber ones do. View them on our shopping list [here](#).

Heating Pads- We need five.

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



Bird Vitamins - We need ten.

Given to our avian patients to ensure they are healthy and strong, thus allowing them to return to the wild sooner than later. View them on our shopping list [here](#).

Patient Gallery



Saw-Whet Owl
Released after 23 days in care



Porcupine
Currently in care



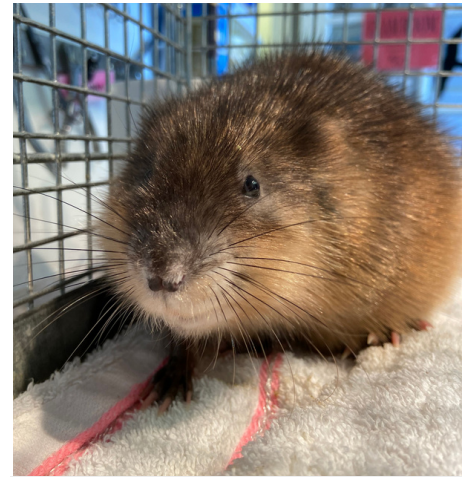
Silver Haired Bat
Currently in care



Raven
Released after 76 days in care



Great Horned Owls
Currently in care



Muskrat
Released after 183 days in care



Canada Geese
Released after 37 days in care



Ferruginous Hawks
Currently in care

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, All Things Jill, Andrew Frank Serbin Foundation at Ottawa Community Foundation, Atco Epic, Bowest Appliances Inc, Blush Lane, Carmen Richardson, Carol Yanke, Catherine Freeman, Garry Nielsen, Gravity Electrical, Jemm Tree Services, Jennifer Hogan, Kim St Peter, Lauren & Connie, Mark Congram & Lorie Anne Woloschuk, Maura Hamill, National Wildlife Rehabilitation Foundation, Nielsen Family Wildlife Foundation, Oliver Family Foundation, Quinn Beck, Robert Perrin, Royal Canadian Legion, Spearhead Fund at Calgary Foundation, Steve Paterson, Stephen Hardy, Susan Holt, Susan Harrison, Teine Energy, Tim Mumford, Titan Tree Services, Tracy Hotchkiss, Tundra Tree Care, Waldorf School, and finally thank you to all our hard working staff and board members!

For Your Viewing Pleasure



Last month Calgary Wildlife went viral on TikTok and Instagram, with over 36 million views, for a video one of our wildlife rehabbers, Vienna, made about a Northern Saw-Whet Owl's ear. If you haven't seen it already, check it out here:

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

