



Rehabilitation through Education



SWEET PEA – A THREE LEGGED FOX

In spring of 2002, a young female fox was regularly observed at the Martinique Beach on Nova Scotia's Eastern Shore. Local residents, believing her to be orphaned, began feeding the skinny young pup. Later that summer a call was placed to the Hope for Wildlife Society that the fox was injured following an attack by a dog. A live trap succeeded in catching the fox and she was taken to the Hope for Wildlife Society's rehabilitation center.

Veterinarians at the Dartmouth Veterinary Hospital treated her for spinal cord injuries and she returned to the wildlife center to rehabilitate. She was small and malnourished, and further veterinary tests showed that she had rickets, caused by an inadequate amount of vitamin D. Her rickets led her to break her hind leg the following spring. Unfortunately, it was determined that the best course of action to take was to amputate her leg, leaving her with only 3 legs. Little Sweet Pea returned to the center to recover from the surgery.

Sweet Pea, with only 3 legs, is not eligible for release back into the wild. Her friendly demeanour around people makes her a great candidate for involvement in the Society's education mission. She is also a foster mom for injured and orphaned fox pups that are admitted into the center. Sweet Pea's gentle temperament is endearing to all that visit the Hope for Wildlife Society center.