Hope for Wildlife's Annual Newsletter News of 2021



VET IN THE WILD

Our animal hospital at Hope for Wildlife is fully certified by the Nova Scotia Veterinary Medical Association. Patients from as small as a mouse to as large as an eagle may be treated with anaesthetic, have X-rays, be treated for pain, and even have surgery when needed.

Our current vet, Dr Hazel Eaglesome arrived in August 2021 and has already seen a staggering array of patients.

Anatomy and physiology are vastly different between most patients, so each require specialized care. Sedative doses for a bird might have a skunk not waking for a week, and deer can't have some antibiotics that are suitable for raccoons. As for the reptiles, they don't heal as fast as birds and mammals, and require longer ongoing care. When a patient arrives at Hope for Wildlife, our medical team assesses the need to see the veterinarian and alerts the hospital. After receiving veterinary care, the patient is moved to our Intensive Care Unit (ICU), where the medical team provides ongoing care, administers medication, and makes sure the patient gets appropriate nutrition. The veterinarian then follows the patients' progress and directs any changes needed. The patient is then ready to leave medical care and heads to the rehabilitation team to be prepared for release!

REFLECTIONS THAT CAN KILL

When birds see a reflection in your windows or other clear panes of glass, they do not understand that it is simply a reflection. Window strike birds account for hundreds of patients and emergency calls each year at Hope for Wildlife. It is estimated that more than 40 million birds die in Canada each year from hitting windows. (FLAP Canada has many great resources regarding bird window strikes at www.flap.org)

While some birds that hit windows may survive, many will need care from a wildlife rehabilitator.

To help combat this issue, Hope for Wildlife is happy to sell Window Gems. Window gems are beautiful, prismatic window clings that break up the reflection of the glass, alerting birds that there is an obstacle, and giving them time to change course.

You can purchase window gems, and several other products to alert birds to window strike danger at our at our gift shop in Seaforth, and online at www.hopeforwildlife.net/gift-shop, with 100% of our profits helping support our mission, and each sale helping our birds.



Volunteer Spotlight-Kristy and Charmaine's Story

Charmaine and Kristy have been volunteering as drivers for the Cape Breton area for more than a year now; which means they transport wildlife across the province when a caller is unable to bring the animal to Hope for Wildlife.

> Dispatch at Hope for Wildlife receives emergency calls, and determines what animals need to be seen by a vet; those that do are sent to the drivers to arrange pick up. Almost all calls that are dispatched are due to negative human-wildlife interaction.

Charmaine and Kristy got to experience what it's like at the rehab centre once an animal is dropped off. Our team always takes the time to teach volunteer drivers what happens at the rehab once a patient arrives. It is important for them to see the rehabilitation side of the organization so they see their hard work in action.

In 2021, we have had almost 7000 animals come to the rehab for help, the most we've had in one year so far! We are always looking for volunteers to transport animals across the province to Hope for Wildlife. If this is a commitment you are interested in, please sign up at www.hopeforwildlife.net/volunteering.

VALLEY DROP OFF 1668 Deep Hollow Road, White Rock

We've had a hugely successful launch here with a diverse range of over 1100 animals having passed through. From Beavers to Blue Jays, team member Ashley has worked hard to give each and every animal a fighting

The Valley location is equipped to triage all kinds of injured and orphaned wildlife. Here we can begin the first steps to any animal's rehabilitation process by examining and providing initial treatment, such as stabilization, re-hydration, wound care, and pain management much sooner than ever before. This significantly increases the animal's chances of survival as they are treated quicker and have a much more comfortable journey to our main site on the Eastern Shore. We want to say a big thank you to all our volunteers who have helped make this launch such a success. From feeding and cleaning up after

animals on-site, to driving many hours to pick up wildlife from all corners of the valley, we couldn't have done it without you. Another thank you to the community here as everyone has been so kind, welcoming, and grateful, quickly making us feel at home here. We look forward to running this location for many years to come!

TREATING HEAD TRAUMA IN FAWNS

As metropolitan areas grow, more and more roads are being constructed through previously quiet wildlife habitats. We have seen the impacts of these developments more than ever this year, with many of our fawns winding up at our facility due to motor vehicle collisions; either orphaned after losing a mother, or severely injured themselves. A particularly difficult ailment to treat in these fawns is head trauma, or the swelling of the brain after a hard impact.

Luckily for some of these injured fawns, our medical team is able to quickly and carefully intervene to reduce the swelling, and they make it through the long recovery - once again up and running in our large deer field, preparing to be released as a herd in the fall. However, they would like to remind us all to please slow down on the roads - especially at dawn and dusk.

For more information on reducing wildlife collisions visit www.watchforwildlife.ca

BOARDING UP ANIMALS

Each year in Nova Scotia, hundreds of buildings are put out of use for various reasons. This lack of human activity creates an ideal environment for all kinds of wildlife to call home. Many different species including birds, bats, raccoons, foxes, and even stray cats quickly move in seeking shelter. Property owners often board up these buildings and properties for safety reasons, this can trap those animals inside. Once trapped, the animals are unable to escape to seek food and water, or are separated from their family unit, and the result is often devastating.

If boarding up is absolutely necessary, be sure there are no animals living inside prior to properly boarding up doors, windows, chimneys, cracks, and crevices. Perform regular inspections to ensure no animals have gotten in afterwards. Should you notice animals have entered after boarding up and/or before demolition of any building, please reach out to a wildlife rehabilitator for assistance.

Hope for Wildlife receives approximately fifty calls per year from property owners facing these very issues. With permission to enter the property, we can make every effort to safely remove and provide medical treatment to the animal if necessary.

YES! I would like to support Hope for Wildlife. Contact information: I would like to make a donation: Name_ O\$10 O\$25 O\$50 OOther \$_ Address___ AND / OR Province ____ City_ I would like to sponsor a species for one year: Postal code O \$125 - Sponsors receive a personalized Certificate of Sponsorship, a fact Email_ sheet, a Hope for Wildlife bumper sticker, and a story of an animal from the selected species (please choose): O Canada Goose O Raccoon O Please add me to your mailing list. O Red Fox O Rald Fagle Payment information: O Porcupine O Barred Owl O Cash or cheque (made payable to Hope for Wildlife) is enclosed. O Snowshoe Hare O Seal OWhite Tailed Deer OBobcat O Please charge my credit card: O Visa O Mastercard If the sponsorship is a gift, please provide: Card number. Recipient's name Expiry_ _/_ _ Signature _ Recipient's mailing address O Please mail me a tax-deductible receipt. Registered Charity #885062448RR0001

