



the Wildside Monthly

June 2023



Hope for Wildlife's Monthly Newsletter

"We believe that by connecting people to the natural world, we can foster a sense of responsibility and stewardship for our shared environment"



This Month

Orphaned Raccoons

Hope for Wildlife receives the first baby raccoons of the year.

Wildlife Releases

We will share with you more releases and videos.

Beaver in the Dam

A call about a beaver stuck in a dam - and not the dam you would expect.

Yellow-Bellied Sapsucker

Getting some much needed rest after striking a window

Hope for Wildlife
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Nova Scotia B0J 2L0
Emergencies and Inquiries
Call or Text 902-407-9453

Welcome to Hope for Wildlife's monthly newsletter.

We at Hope for Wildlife are thrilled to present our monthly newsletter to you. We want to assure you that by receiving this newsletter, we will never share your email with any other organization.

Hope for Wildlife takes great joy in the work we do and we would love to share with you our experiences, stories, and dreams.

Our Mission:

"Connecting people to wildlife in a positive way through knowledge and understanding, Hope for Wildlife believes that education through rehabilitation is the key to a sustainable future."

Our goal is to cultivate a profound admiration for the natural world, and we aim to achieve this by sharing our narratives and encounters. Our aspiration is to encourage a deeper understanding and compassion for all living beings. We recognize that without your support, Hope for Wildlife would not be able to carry out its mission. Therefore, we express our heartfelt gratitude for your contribution.

Hope Swinimer

Thank You!

Where you can Find Us!

www.hopeforwildlife.net

www.facebook.com/hopeforwildlife

www.instagram.com/hopeforwildlife

Our First Orphaned Baby Raccoons of the Year have Arrived



Everyone knows that springtime is nature's main baby season and right now babies are being born to all kinds of animals. It is this time of year that we need to have a little more patience and compassion than normal as mom raises her young.

Wildlife often comes into our yards to give birth for the same reason we choose to live there. It often has food, dry and quiet shelter in an area that's not in the open, and fewer predators - they see the area as safe for their little ones, just like we do. Usually they don't stay long, most birds are grown up and out of the nest within a matter of weeks, and mammals like these raccoon kits are following mom out of the den after 8 or 9 weeks. It's a good time of year to be extra cautious closing up attics or buildings, mowing long grass, or leaving pets outside unattended - checking the area first can help them!

After they have left you can secure the area and remove any food sources that may attract them in the future. Also, never trap and/or relocate an animal, especially this time of year - it will almost certainly separate the mother from her young.

If you have any concerns or have additional questions, you can always call your local wildlife rehabilitation centre for advice!

In the News

Crown drops case against Hope Swinimer:

A court case regarding an injured coyote accepted at Hope for Wildlife has been dropped by the crown due to a lack of evidence. A fine of \$180 was issued to Hope Swinimer for an incident that occurred on January 11th, 2022.

To read more click on the link below:

[See Story](#)



ANNUAL OPEN HOUSE

Mark the Date!

Our next open house

August 26th 2023 from 12:00PM to 4:00PM!

Hope for Wildlife's Annual Open House is our biggest fundraiser each year, attracting thousands of visitors from all over Canada.

Get a once-a-year "behind-the-scenes" look at our wildlife rescue and rehabilitation facility with tours of our medical facilities, access to our bird and mammal nurseries, our recovery units, the marine unit, and our giant flight cages!

There will also be wildlife displays and demonstrations, activities for the kids, live music, barbeque, a silent auction, as well as local exhibitors, crafts, and food! It is a fun-filled day for the whole family.

Come on out to Hope for Wildlife

If the family is looking for something fun to do?

Hope for Wildlife is open for education tours from 12PM to 3PM on Saturday! We have lots of education animals to see, fun and educational exhibits, and lots to learn about some of the animals that we share our world with.

Now featuring our brand-new, life-sized eagle nest!



It's A Tight Squeeze!



Entanglement is a constant danger for all kinds of wildlife. We received a call that a raccoon was in a tree with a jar stuck on its head. Too frightened to know what to do, it stayed there for almost two days. Fortunately, with the caller's help we were able to get a ladder up to the raccoon and pop the jar off of it's head. Eventually, the raccoon made its way down - if it was a female with spring babies we can guess where it was headed!

It is a common occurrence for wildlife to become entangled in man-made materials like wire, rope, nets, jars, rings, and plastics. They often twist and turn as they try to free themselves, which further increases pressure on the limb or neck, causing serious or deadly harm. We can help by ensuring our garbage and recyclables are secured safely when they are place outside.

50/50 Cash Raffle



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FUNDRAISER!
Help support our Wildlife Rescue

**Hope for Wildlife's 50/50 Raffle-
Open to all Nova Scotian's**

**Tickets go on sale June 1st until
June 17th.**

Get your tickets [HERE!](#)

LOCK, STOCK AND BEAVER

Recently we received word that there was a beaver trapped in a canal lock system and he couldn't get out!

There are a myriad of ways that we effect the natural world around us, and often the impact on wildlife is unexpected. Due to a recent lack of rain, low water levels had dried up the water running through the locks, and this poor beaver found himself stuck in only a foot of water - frightened and trying to hide as best he could in the corner of a place he couldn't get out of.

A huge team effort by Liz, Greg, Maya, Carol, and Angela found themselves scaling the ladders down to him and hoisting him up and out to safety. After an examination showed no injuries or other causes of concern, he was released into a nearby pond up river.



RELEASE STORIES

The trees look good over in that direction...



This porcupine is making sure that her first day back in the wild starts off in the right direction! She arrived at Hope for Wildlife in November of last year with a bad case of sarcoptic mange covering her face, neck, and stomach. Her eyes were very crusty and she had lice on her face. After spending the winter healing up with us and having all of her fur and quills grow back, she's finally able to get back to doing all the things porcupines do - like climbing trees.

Another success story!

We first posted about this Great Horned Owl back in January. He was found emaciated and dehydrated with a swollen and cloudy eye full of puss. We don't know what caused the infection, but he was clearly struggling because of it. Once we started treatment, the eye improved every day. Soon he was strong enough to go into one of our large outdoor aviaries in order to gain his strength back.



It's been a long rehab for him, but finally he has regained enough flight strength that he is capable of flying and hunting as usual! See for yourself on the link below!

[Watch the Porcupine Release](#)

[Watch the Great Horned Owl Release](#)

Release Day!



These two foxes have spent the last few months with us recovering from some injuries. One had a bad case of mange, and the other suffered a broken pelvis, probably from being hit by a car.

As always, it's great to have a happy ending!



[Watch the Fox Release Here](#)

Hope for Wildlife relies on our donors in order for us to do everything we do. Please consider making a donation today. You can make a one time donation or become a monthly donor.

Just visit [Canada Helps](#) today!

Connecting people to wildlife in a positive way through knowledge and understanding. Hope for Wildlife believes that education through rehabilitation is the key to a sustainable future.

(PLEASE NOTE: A tax receipt will be issued immediately to the email address you supply; please check your Junk/Spam folder if you do not receive it in your Inbox.)

Since 1997, Hope for Wildlife has rescued, rehabilitated, and released over 80,000 injured and orphaned wild animals representing over 250 species.

In addition to the ongoing provision of care we offer, Hope for Wildlife aims to connect people to wildlife in a positive way through knowledge and understanding. Every year, we assist over 40,000 calls, texts, and emails, welcome thousands of visitors to our facilities for tours, give hundreds of offsite educational presentations to community and school groups, and collect a wide range of data from animals treated at our rehabilitation center.

HOPE
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WILDLIFE

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FR:

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A RIVER OTTERCY

Our river otter with the severe head trauma has gone home!

After 64 days in care and multiple tricky surgeries to repair his damaged scalp and to make sure his eyelid would close properly, the tough and feisty river otter was finally cleared for release. He moved fast, but photographer Simon d'Entremont was able to get this beautiful shot of him just before he went for his first freedom swim.

It never stops being a wonderful experience to see an injured animal get a second chance, and it is the perfect reminder of the importance of our conservation efforts and the impact we can make when we all work together to protect and preserve our wildlife.



Grouchy Groundhog !



This grouchy-looking groundhog is grouchy-looking for a good reason. He was admitted after suffering head trauma from being hit by a car. We are sure he's eager to get back to doing what he does best: diggin'.

Groundhog burrows can be quite large, having multiple entrances and chambers, and they move a lot of dirt to make their homes. This makes groundhogs important members of their ecosystem, as their old burrows can also provide homes for other animals such as skunks, rabbits, and snakes. They also help to aerate the soil and distribute seeds in the area.

This Yellow-bellied Sapsucker is recovering from injuries sustained after flying into a window.

For birds, glass windows are not always transparent. They can reflect trees or sky and they look like inviting places to fly into. Even at night, nocturnal birds and migrants (including a lot of songbirds) can fly into lighted windows. The sheer number of window strikes is so great, their toll on birds is huge. Often birds are not as lucky as our sapsucker friend here.

Fun fact: The holes in trees that sapsuckers make to get that sweet sap also provides food for other birds - like hummingbirds!

You can help birds see your windows as a barrier by putting patterns on the outside of the glass, hanging ribbons or lengths of string, drawing patterns on them, or using specially made window markers such as the ones we sell in our gift shop:



Learning to fox!



These two fox pups are in an isolation room in our intensive care unit, and we were able to get some video of them playing when we were about to clean their room up!

At about six or seven weeks of age, fox pups will emerge from the den for short periods and will spend much of their time play fighting, which helps not only to reaffirm their place in the hierarchy, but also develops their hunting skills and their muscle tone, which will be crucial for them later in life. At the same time, foxes will groom each other, which helps to reinforce their social bonds.



This nestling bird is a Common Grackle. Found all alone with no mother, the tiny 67 gram (2.3 oz) bird was brought to us for care. Fortunately, while the little one was very cold our examination didn't find any obvious injuries.

The nestling period for a grackle is about 15 days, after which it will leave the nest and spend some time on the ground as a fledgling gaining strength, growing out flight feathers, and learning to fly.

Grackles have figured out a way to eat all kinds of harder foods - they soften them up in water! This practice is actually pretty common for lots of species of birds.

Common Grackle

Remembering World Endangered Species Day Friday May 19th 2023

On this World Endangered Species Day, we celebrate the recent release of the most rare patient we have ever had: the endangered Blanding's Turtle. There are so few Blanding's in our province that this is the only one we have seen in our 26 years of operation.

After being severely injured from being hit by a car, "Dora" the Blanding's Turtle required 327 days of medical care and recovery before being able to go home. In order to protect this rare species, the location of its release needs to remain undisclosed.

Turtles are ancient reptiles, having survived on Earth for over 200 million years, adapting to many diverse habitats and weathering the tests of time. Of the 356 known species of turtles, 161 of them are listed as threatened by the International Union for Conservation of Nature and 51 of them are considered critically endangered.



Waterside development encroaches upon their nesting sites, disrupting the delicate balance of their life cycle and forcing them to trek long distances to find places to lay their eggs - putting them in harms way. Pollution from plastic debris to chemical contaminants infiltrate their habitats, leading to dire consequences for their health and reproductive abilities. Climate change exacerbates the challenges they face, as rising temperatures affect nesting areas and disrupt their adapted habitats, making their already treacherous journey even more perilous.

Amongst the conservation efforts worldwide, rehabilitation facilities help to nurse injured turtles back to health, giving them a second chance at life in the wild.

On this World Endangered Species Day, spread the word about these animals so we can secure a future where these remarkable reptiles continue to grace our precious planet.

ALL WRAPPED UP

With the arrival of spring comes the main baby season for wildlife, and it's helpful to remember that if you discover babies in your yard, the situation is always temporary! With a little privacy and protection, they will move on before you know it.



Sometimes it can be easy to tell if a baby animal needs help, like this tiny fox pup that recently arrived at Hope for Wildlife alone, injured, dehydrated, and cold.

Generally, it's common to see baby wild animals outside as they learn to survive in the world. They may seem like they need our help, but unless the animal is truly orphaned or injured, there is no need to rescue them.

For example, fox pups often come out of their den while their parents are out hunting for food, and they play like puppies until they're old enough to go on hunting trips. If they seem energetic and healthy, they are fine. If there are obvious injuries, or they are crying and wandering around, shivering, lethargic, or you know the parents are dead, those are signs that it needs help. If your cat or dog has brought you one, then it

definitely needs help - even if there are no apparent injuries - puncture wounds can be very hard to see!

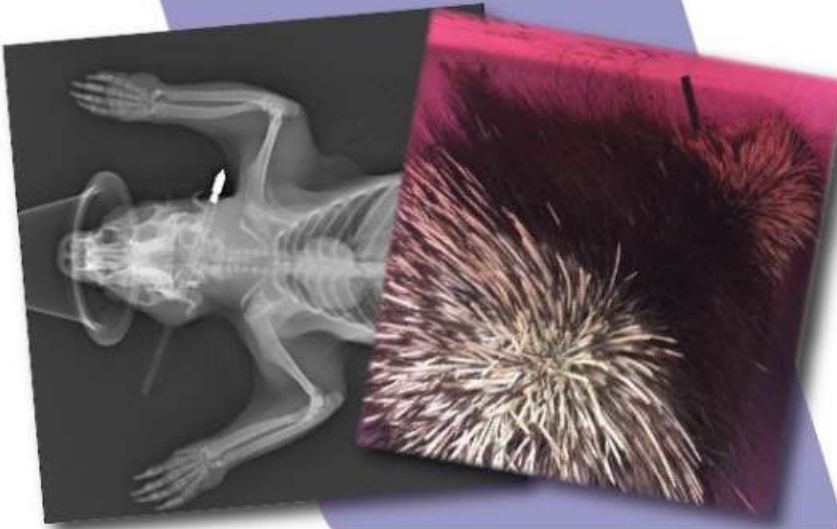
If you have any suspicions that an animal needs help, you can always call your local wildlife rehabilitator for advice.

Getting to the Point

A couple of days ago we received a call that there was a porcupine wandering about with an arrow through its neck. It isn't uncommon for us to care for wildlife that has been shot with pellets or bullets from guns or slingshots, and occasionally even arrows.

Their injuries can range from flesh wounds to broken bones, or internal damage to organs. The stress and anxiety caused from the injuries do not help, and even infection can be a serious problem.

This porcupine was lucky - the arrow passed through soft tissue only and did not cause any immediately serious injuries. We are hopeful that he will recover fully!



You can visit our website to see all the ways you can help us achieve our mission, click the image below!



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Slumber Party



A lazy weekend morning!

These two red fox pups are not siblings, but they have formed quite the bond in rehab together. Like many animals, red foxes are social creatures and they learn important skills and behaviours from interacting with their siblings and other members of their species.

When raised together, they will engage in play and other interactions that will help them develop their social and communication skills. They will practice important behaviours such as hunting, grooming, and establishing hierarchies within their social group. All of this will be beneficial for their long-term survival and reproductive success.

Graduation Day!

A few weeks ago we posted about an immature bald eagle that was brought in with a fracture in her left wing that she received after being hit by a truck. Since then we have removed the pin from her wing that was holding the bone in place to heal, and she's received weeks of recovery time and physiotherapy. Finally, she's well enough for the final stage of her rehab - she's graduated to our large



flight cage to practice flying, get stronger, and hopefully show us that's she's capable of doing all the things eagles need to do in the wild.

Did you know that bald eagles are not born with their white head? It actually takes about five years for the head to turn white. They are born with fully brown feathers and their plumage changes as they age. Looking at our patient's plumage here we could estimate she's between two and three years of age.