



Research is one of Hope for Wildlife's three goals. Brandon Nilsen is a fourth year Biology co-op student at Acadia University working with Dr. Russell Easy. They are working on a project that aims to identify and quantify environmental stressors in Nova Scotia's white-tail deer population. Part of the project goal is being able to better understand how environmental factors impact our deer population.

They needed to obtain a small hair sample as a baseline for their research, and we were thrilled to help with our herd of 13 white-tail deer.



This Northern gannet arrived weak and in need of rehab. His appetite was peaked when some wonderful volunteers brought some fresh squid for our patients—the gannet was enthusiastic about his meal, and feeling artistic, seemed to use the ink from the squid to decorate his unit and feathers!

We are so lucky to have dedicated volunteers who continuously strive to enhance the lives of our rehab patients. The enrichment the gannet received from such a delicious meal was not only nutritious, but offered mental and emotional benefits for the patient during his time with us.

My First Rescue

On my way to work one morning, I received a text from Hope asking if I could pick up an animal at a location that was right on my way to the farm. No problem. In my mind, I pictured a relay . . . they happen all the time. One person finds an injured animal and meets up with someone else who can bring it in all the way.

When I got to the location there was a man standing behind his car next to a crate. I introduced myself and began to pick up the crate, when all of a sudden the kind man said: "He isn't in there yet." To my surprise, the man handed me a pair of gloves and said: "The fox is over there, and Hope said you would know what to do."

"The fox is
over there,
and Hope said
you would know
what to do."



This spring at Hope for Wildlife, we received 34 injured and orphaned skunk kits, and 13 red fox pups. That's a record number!

The foxes brought two rarities: they were our first orphaned species of the year, and one of them was an injured silver fox. A silver fox is indeed a red fox, in the melanistic form. Melanism is an over-development of dark-coloured pigment. All of our skunks and foxes, whether silver or red in colour, were successfully rehabilitated and returned back to the wild where they belong!

I was hired as an administrative assistant, so this was a bit of a shock to me, but this poor animal was in need and I was the only one available at the time, so I put on the gloves, picked up the blanket, and proceeded to look for the injured fox. I had never done anything like that before, but I threw a blanket over him and within two tries had him in a box and on the way to get help. A very rewarding day indeed!



Hope for Wildlife has the pleasure of hosting interns from all over the world who stay with us for 8 to 10 weeks while they learn and work at our facility. One of our interns took this picture of a harbour seal we named BB Chubs because he was the first animal she worked extensively with and who became a big part of her time at Hope for Wildlife—a time she says she will cherish forever!

Our internship program is not only vital to our work as a rescue and rehab facility, but has also proven to be a wonderful teaching tool and life experience for students who not only gain valuable experience with wildlife, but also make friends and memories that last a lifetime.

What Surprised Me Most

When I first joined Hope for Wildlife in April of this year, I had an idea in my head of what to expect because I had watched the show and had been to an Open House. I envisioned a large organization, but instead what I found was a small group of very dedicated people making a really big difference! What surprised me the most is that despite having a well-developed infrastructure, Hope for Wildlife has remained very humble at its core. I couldn't believe it when I found out that my position had only existed since April 2015.

"I envisioned a large organization, but instead what I found was a small group of very dedicated people making a really big difference!"

Hope for Wildlife has grown exponentially. As we are becoming more well-known, our daily calls from the public have increased, and the number of animals that arrive in need of help is constantly on the rise. We are struggling to find the funds to keep up with the changes. We need all the help we can get to continue to bring medical and rehab assistance to wildlife in need and to continue to implement new community programs as well as to improve on the ones already in place.



Every year, Hope for Wildlife takes on the challenge of giving many animals a second chance, but there are some animals that we very rarely see. This southern flying squirrel is only the second one that has come to us in 20 years! Seeing southern flying squirrels in the wild is quite rare because they are nocturnal and require a specific habitat.



Our first beaver kit arrived on May 20 at a whopping 500 grams—the kit was no more than two days old!

Beavers are unique when it comes to rehabilitation as they require a constant source of nurturing in order to

thrive. Because kits require so much hands on attention, they are assigned a surrogate mother to build and maintain a family bond . . . that is why we were fortunate to receive a second kit on May 29 to complete this family unit. This new little family will remain at Hope for Wildlife for two years until the beavers are mature enough to be released into their own personal, quiet, suitable habitat. They will be released using a soft release method to ensure their successful integration back into the wild. The young kits have grown and learned so much this summer: swimming, diving, and now building! They will have plenty of time to improve their skills while they are here at Hope for Wildlife.



One of our goals at Hope for Wildlife is to inspire children to reconnect with their natural world and learn about wildlife.

These children at Settlers Green Public School in Mississauga, Ontario, were so inspired by what we do that they sponsored a seal pup and a bobcat, and by selling popcorn raised \$835.00. This is one example of the difference children can make. We are fortunate to have had many children raise funds for us in many different ways, from donating birthday money to lemonade stands and everything in between. We are so very grateful to each and every one of you who have been inspired by what we do. It is your support that allows us to keep going. Thank you!

YES! I would like to support Hope for Wildlife.

I would like to make a donation:

\$10 \$25 \$50 Other \$ _____

and / or

I would like to sponsor a category of animal at Hope for Wildlife for one year. Sponsors receive a certificate, info sheet, photo, and animal story from the selected category (please choose):

\$75/year: duck/goose songbird reptile/amphibian
 sea/shorebird crow/raven snowshoe hare

\$100/year: fox porcupine raccoon skunk
 squirrel/chipmunk seal

\$150/year: raptor (eagle/hawk/falcon) deer/moose
 owl mustelid (marten/fisher/mink) bobcat

If the sponsorship is a gift, please provide:

Recipient's name _____

Recipient's mailing address _____

Contact Information:

Name _____

Address _____

City _____ Province _____

Postal code _____ Phone (_____) _____

Email _____

Please add me to your mailing list.

Payment Information:

Cash or cheque (made payable to Hope for Wildlife) is enclosed.

Please charge my credit card: Visa Mastercard

Card number _____

Expiry ____/____/____ Signature _____

Please mail me a tax-deductible receipt.

