

TO THE RESCUE

Wildlife Rescue
ASSOCIATION

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NEWSLETTER

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AND ORPHANED
WILDLIFE**



INSIDE THIS ISSUE:

Helping Wild Babies Stay Wild | Create Your Own Wildlife Oasis

Spring & Summer Highlights

2,189 patients admitted from May through July, with a whopping **50 patients admitted on the busiest day of the summer!**

1,399 wild babies received a second chance to thrive in the wild

American Robin



Great Blue Heron



Violet-green Swallow



Pileated Woodpecker



Glaucous-winged Gull



1,128 crisp heads of lettuce filled the bellies of hundreds of hungry wildlife patients.



113 volunteers logged, and **6,707** hours were donated.



6 community events were attended to educate the public about coexisting with our wild neighbours.

Support Centre Update

Spring and summer are the busiest times of the year for the Support Centre, and this year has been no exception! **From May until the end of July alone, we had 24,341 communications with people seeking to help wildlife in need.** We are so grateful for the care and compassion our community shows for local animals. Your willingness to reach out and help truly makes a difference.

Wildlife Rescue couldn't fulfill its mission to improve the welfare of urban wildlife without everyone who contacts the Support Centre to ask questions, report concerns, or simply to learn how to best support wildlife. Your compassion and your patience during this busy season mean the world to us.



Helping Wild Babies Stay Wild

Every spring and summer, many wild baby birds are unintentionally 'kidnapped' by well-meaning people. Why, you wonder?

Often, these babies are on the ground learning to fly or waiting for their parents to return with food. If you're concerned about a baby bird, it's important to start by observing from a distance for at least an hour to see if the parents are still around. Depending on the species, fledglings can spend days or even weeks on the ground before taking flight.

Reuniting

The Best Caretakers of Wild Babies are Their Parents

Baby birds have the best chance of survival when raised by their own parents in the wild. If a suspected orphan or injured baby bird is brought to Wildlife Rescue, the medical team first performs a full health check. If the bird is healthy, the Support Centre team investigates whether a reunion with their parents might be possible. In some cases, the original nest is nearby where the bird was found, and the parents are still in the area.

Don't worry! Touching a baby bird does not influence their parents' willingness to care for them.



Fostering

Second Chance with a New Family

If a reunion isn't possible for healthy baby birds separated from their parents, for some species fostering is an option.

Goslings, for example, are highly susceptible to habituation when in care. Fortunately, geese are usually quite willing to adopt goslings that are similar in age and size to their own! The medical team matches goslings with suitable wild families based on these factors. Once a match is found, the gosling is released to join their brand-new family and continue growing up in the wild.



Your Support Helps Wild Babies Grow Up in the Wild

Thanks to wildlife friends like you, more wild babies get the chance to grow up in their natural environment, despite facing urban challenges. Your support helps give every wild baby the best possible start to life.

If you suspect that a bird is injured or don't see a parent return, contact our Support Centre at wildliferescue.ca/report-an-emergency for guidance.

From Fracture to Flight: A Gull's Road to Recovery

WITH REGISTERED VETERINARY TECHNICIAN (RVT), KIKI O'HARA



Every day, city streets become obstacle courses for urban wildlife, with moving vehicles posing a constant threat. Already this year, 208 wild patients have been brought to Wildlife Rescue after being struck by cars - among them this Glaucous-winged Gull.

The gull was going about their business in downtown Vancouver when their journey ended abruptly. A collision with a vehicle left the bird stranded on the sidewalk, covered in blood, with a painful broken wing. Thankfully, a compassionate community member came to the rescue. The wildlife friend found the injured gull outside their office and immediately called Wildlife Rescue for help.

Once at the hospital, the bird underwent a thorough exam, and was sent for x-rays, which confirmed they had suffered a fractured ulna - a wing -bone crucial for flight. Fortunately, the radius (the other main wing bone) was intact, and the gull was otherwise in good condition, making recovery a promising possibility.



The medical team anesthetized the gull to prevent the bird from experiencing pain and stress while they carefully cleaned the wound and stabilized the fractured bone with a splint.

To help maintain the muscle mass and range of motion in the wing, the gull received gentle physiotherapy every few days for about two weeks while the wing healed.

"WE DIDN'T WANT THE GULL TO LOSE MUSCLE MASS IN THE WING, WHICH CAN BE DETRIMENTAL TO FLIGHT."

KIKI O'HARA, RVT AT WILDLIFE RESCUE



1. The gull was anesthetized to avoid sudden movements that could cause further injury.



2. Then, the team carefully unwrapped the splint.



3. Staff stabilized the wing and performed flight-like motions to ensure the muscles weren't seizing up.



4. The gull received a brand-new wrap - including some 'wrap art' - before slowly waking up.

Once the splint was removed, the team observed a callous at the fracture site. The gull's healing was progressing well. To encourage flight recovery, the gull was moved to a larger enclosure featuring a variety of perches made from milk crate towers and sawhorses. Here, they practiced hopping and flapping between crates, gradually regaining strength and confidence.



"AT FIRST, THE GULL WASN'T FLYING MUCH. IT WAS A WAITING GAME, GIVING THEIR BODY TIME TO RELEARN THOSE FLYING MOTIONS. THEY DID MOST OF THE WORK THEMSELVES THROUGH STRETCHING AND HOPPING, BETTER THAN ANY PHYSIO WE COULD PROVIDE."

After careful monitoring and a second x-ray, the team confirmed the gull's wing had healed well and would not affect their ability to thrive in the wild. After about a month in care, the gull was soaring in the skies of Vancouver once again.

Kiki was ecstatic to see this resilient patient return to the wild.

"THE FIRST BIRD I EVER RESCUED AS A KID WAS A GULL – I WAS 11. GETTING TO PROVIDE TREATMENT AND WATCH THIS GULL RECOVER AND RETURN TO THE WILD WAS VERY SPECIAL."

She also emphasizes the vital role of volunteers.

"WE WOULDN'T HAVE BEEN ABLE TO HELP THIS GULL WITHOUT THEIR COMPASSION AND DEDICATION. THE BIRD TRULY HAD A TEAM AROUND THEM COMMITTED TO THEIR CARE."

Thank you to the Wildlife Community and our dedicated team of staff and volunteers who made the recovery and release of this gull possible. Special thanks to Dr. Rocky Lis from Skyline Veterinary Hospital and Dr. Mira Ziolo for their shared expertise and partnership.



Corporate Spotlight: Thank You, Stantec

This summer, we excitedly welcomed the Stantec team to Wildlife Rescue as part of their Stantec in the Community Week - an annual initiative that blends corporate support with direct, on-the-ground action.

While Stantec has supported our work in a number of ways over the years, this visit was a strong reflection of their hands-on commitment to animal welfare. Their team took on two high-impact projects: improving several of our fledgling aviaries - key spaces where recovering birds spend time rebuilding strength and practicing natural behaviours - and deep-cleaning our wash pad area, which plays a critical role in keeping hospital equipment clean, safe, and ready for daily use.

Through sponsorship and volunteer hours, companies like Stantec are not just supporting our work-they are powering it, helping to turn our mission into measurable impact every day.

Thank you to the entire Stantec team for continuing to show up for BC's wildlife.



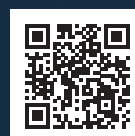
Let Your Legacy Be Wild!

Why leave a legacy gift? Legacy gifts create a reliable funding stream, enabling Wildlife Rescue to plan confidently for the future and weather economic uncertainties – ensuring that future wildlife generations have a shoulder to lean on.

Wildlife Rescue is thrilled to announce our partnership with Epilogue! Epilogue's online Will solution makes leaving a meaningful legacy gift to your favourite charity easy, fast, and affordable.

We are pleased to offer 20% off any Epilogue package! Head to epiloguewills.com/give/wra to enjoy your special discount and create a lasting legacy for future generations of wildlife.

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SCAN HERE TO
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Create Your Own Wildlife Oasis this Fall

As summer fades and temperatures begin to cool, fall is the perfect season to start building a wildlife-friendly garden or balcony sanctuary. With slower weed growth and the soil still warm from the summer sun, fall offers ideal conditions for planting native species that will support local wildlife all year long.



Think Ecosystem, Not Just Individual Plants

Whether you have a spacious backyard or a cozy balcony, adopting an ecosystem approach and creating interconnected layers of plants and natural features will provide better habitat for wildlife and reduce maintenance over time. Aim to include a variety of native trees, shrubs, flowering plants, and ground covers to mimic natural habitats.

Right Plant, Right Place

Choosing plants suited to your regional climate and local conditions is key. Native species are adapted to your area's temperature extremes, rainfall patterns, and soil types, making them more resilient and valuable to local wildlife.

Some native species to BC are Salmon Berry, Douglas Fir, Common Snowberry, Red-columbine, and Pacific Bleeding Heart. We recommend researching native plants for your region or consult local gardening centres and native plant societies for further recommendations.



Build Essential Habitat Features

Wildlife needs three essentials: food, water, and shelter.

Shelter

Incorporate dense shrubs, native grasses, and natural elements like logs or rock piles. Install birdhouses, bat boxes, or insect hotels to provide nesting and overwintering sites.



Food

Plant berry and fruit-producing shrubs, nectar-rich flowers, and seed-bearing plants with varying bloom and fruiting times to feed birds, pollinators, and small mammals throughout the seasons.



Water

Create or maintain ponds, birdbaths, or shallow water dishes. Add stones or sticks to allow small creatures safe access.



Go Chemical-Free

While the intended purpose of pesticides is to control pests, insects and weeds, these chemicals can be very harmful to wildlife. Opt for non-toxic methods instead, such as sprays made with natural soaps or seaweed fertilizer.

Seasonal Tips to Support Wildlife in Your Backyard

Spring

Keep an eye out for nesting birds when you are working on trees or undergrowth. Unless the tree is presenting a safety issue, the best practice is to schedule maintenance between September 1 to February 28 to avoid disturbing nesting wildlife.



Summer

Maintain birdbaths and water sources by cleaning and refreshing the water daily.



Fall

Avoid heavy cleanup in fall and winter. Leaving fallen leaves, seed heads, and plant debris provides shelter and food for insects and birds.



Winter

If you decide to offer feeders, make sure to clean them at least every two weeks to prevent disease spread. Wash it with soapy water. Then, rinse the feeder thoroughly and disinfect using a solution of one part household bleach and nine parts water and rinse again.



Thank You, Freedom Partners!

After a whirlwind spring and summer, we're feeling incredibly grateful for you. Your monthly support means that no matter how busy things get, wild animals in need have someone they can count on – all year long. Season after season, we know that wildlife can count on you.

We invite you to join our special community of monthly donors! For example, \$19 - the cost of a streaming subscription - can give injured and orphaned wildlife expert care, nutritious food, and safe shelter, helping them recover and return to the wild all year long.

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PARTNERS**
today!



Help Wildlife Survive and Thrive

*Your generosity helps them heal
and return home to the wild!*

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