

TO THE RESCUE

Wildlife Rescue
ASSOCIATION

VOL. 47 NO. 1

WILDLIFERESCUE.CA | WINTER 2026

NEWSLETTER

DONATE TO SUPPORT
INJURED AND
ORPHANED WILDLIFE



INSIDE THIS ISSUE:

Oiled Wildlife Response Training | Avian Influenza 101

Fall & Winter Highlights

From August until November...

1,456 patients admitted.

3,637 pounds of laundry washed.

131 active volunteers donated **5747** hours. That's the equivalent of almost 9 full-time staff members!

10 outreach events attended.



Thank You, Burnaby Community!

After being named a finalist for Not-for-Profit of the Year, Board Member at Large Adrienne Sampert and Co-Executive Director Linda Bakker proudly represented Wildlife Rescue at this year's Burnaby Business Excellence Awards gala.

Thank you to the Burnaby Board of Trade and the City of Burnaby for this honour and for celebrating the important work being done across our community.

Site Tour with MP of Burnaby Central, Wade Chang

Our local MP, the Honourable Wade Chang, stopped by this fall for a behind-the-scenes tour of our wildlife rehabilitation centre. During his visit, we chatted about how vital our Canada Summer Jobs team members are in helping Wildlife Rescue care for animals and carry out our mission - made possible through government support. Mr. Chang had the chance to meet several of the incredible individuals who worked with us this summer thanks to the grant, and he shared that he's a big animal lover himself - he's even helped rescue wildlife before! We were honoured to receive a certificate of recognition and are so grateful for his continued support of local wildlife and community initiatives.



Halloween Gala Fundraiser

In the spirit of the spookiest holiday of the year, the Rotary Clubs of Burnaby and Metrotown hosted a Halloween Gala fundraiser in October. Wildlife Rescue was grateful to be chosen as one of the event's beneficiaries.

The bat and skunk pictured on the left are none other than our Board Member at Large, Corinne Atwood and Co-Executive Director, Linda Bakker!



Uncommon Patients of 2025

Thousands of patients get admitted every year - some we don't see as often!



Townsend's Big-eared Bat



Long-tailed Duck



Brown Creeper



Western Painted Turtle



Sooty Shearwater



Red-eyed Vireo



Double-crested Cormorant

Oiled Wildlife Response Training

As global trade evolves and trade ports expand, oil spill disasters continue to pose a serious threat to wildlife and ecosystems. Being prepared for these emergencies is critical, so that when disaster strikes we can respond quickly and help animals when they need us most.

In late September 2025, Wildlife Rescue welcomed Barbara Callahan and Michelle Bellizzi from International Bird Rescue for an intensive, multi-day Oiled Wildlife Response Training, generously sponsored by Procter & Gamble. The workshop focused on the core principles of oil spill response and the specialized care required for affected wildlife.



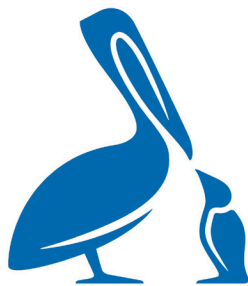
“The practical, hands-on washing training was extremely beneficial both to prepare for large-scale events, and for daily operations, as we often take in contaminated wildlife.”

- KENDRA TREICHEL, WILDLIFE REHABILITATION CO-MANAGER

During the hands-on sessions, cadavers from wildlife patients that had passed away due to untreatable conditions were used. This allowed participants to safely build real-world skills while honouring the animals through education and continued learning.

“Barbara, Michelle, and Coleen brought decades of emergency response experience and shared candid stories about what it’s like to be on the ground during a crisis. It was a stark reminder of the challenges we face in the industry and the importance of the work we do.”

International Bird Rescue is a globally recognized nonprofit specializing in oiled wildlife response. Since 1971, they have responded to more than 250 oil spills and wildlife emergencies, providing care to over 160,000 birds across six continents.



**INTERNATIONAL
BIRD RESCUE**

With International Bird Rescue’s 54 years of expertise, Wildlife Rescue’s staff, volunteers, and partner organizations were in excellent hands. The training combined classroom learning with practical, hands-on sessions - covering everything from safe handling and field stabilization to advanced washing techniques for oiled birds.

Thanks to the leadership of International Bird Rescue and the generosity of Procter & Gamble, our team is now better prepared to be part of a swift and effective response when oil spills threaten local wildlife.



Avian Influenza 101



AVIAN INFLUENZA (BIRD FLU) is a virus that easily spreads from bird to bird. It can make the animals sick and is particularly fatal in some avian species. While it mostly affects birds like chickens, turkeys, geese, ducks, and swans, it can also affect other birds and mammals.



Infected birds often exhibit the following symptoms:

- Seizures
- Lack of energy or movement
- Paralysis
- Swelling around the face/head
- Lack of coordination
- Cloudy eyes

While we understand it can be concerning to encounter sick wildlife in the community, there are various risks involved when handling wild animals. **The federal government advises not to handle sick wildlife at this time.** You can find additional government guidance regarding avian influenza on their website.

Please report sick wildlife to the Interagency Wild Bird Mortality line at 1-866-431-2473. This government phone line actively monitors the number of sick birds in the province.

Wildlife Rescue continues to accept sick animals. If you encounter a sick bird locally, you can additionally alert the Support Centre through our online webform at wildliferescue.ca/report-an-emergency

HOW YOU CAN HELP

Report sick and dead wildlife

Keep pets away from wild birds and their droppings

Keep yourself safe

Avoid coming into close contact with wildlife.

Clean your feeders regularly

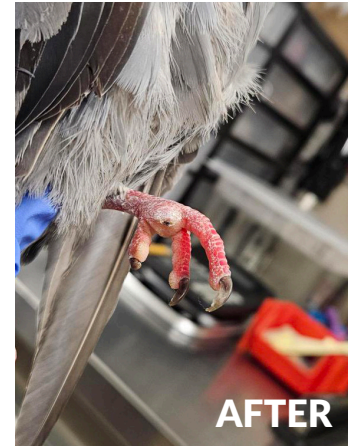
Bird feeders and birdbaths should be cleaned at least every two weeks to help prevent the spread of disease.

Entangled Pigeon Needs Toe Amputation

On a cloudy fall day in Vancouver, a compassionate passerby froze mid-walk when they noticed a Rock Pigeon in distress. The bird seemed to be able to fly but had trouble walking – the kind person soon realized **the bird's feet were tightly entangled in human hair.**

No time was wasted, and after contacting Wildlife Rescue, the pigeon was transported to the Wildlife Hospital for an immediate health assessment. **Two of the bird's toes were swollen and painful, and permanent bone and nerve damage caused by the deep cuts of the hair meant that the pigeon's toes had to be amputated.** Without these toes, they are still able to thrive in their natural environment.

The pigeon spent more than a month in our care, healing from this terrible entanglement and bounced back bit by bit. This included daily check-ups, countless bandage changes, medication to support healing, and a specialized diet. Thanks to the empathetic action of the rescuer, the dedication of our medical staff, volunteers, and caring supporters like you, **the pigeon made a full recovery and was released back to the wild, walking confidently once again.**



CELEBRATE WILDLIFE ALL YEAR LONG!

2026 Wildlife Calendar

Last chance to get your hands on this year's Wildlife Calendar! All proceeds support lifesaving care for injured and orphaned wild animals.

GET YOUR COPIES NOW!



20% OFF



Black-bellied Plover

Common Goldeneye

Winter Birds

British Columbia

Trumpeter Swan



Evening Grosbeak



Pine Siskin



Cackling Goose



Red-breasted Nuthatch



Red-necked Grebe



Dunlin



American Robin



Greater Yellowlegs



Fox Sparrow



Anna's Hummingbird



Western Grebe



House Sparrow



Dark-eyed Junco



Varied Thrush



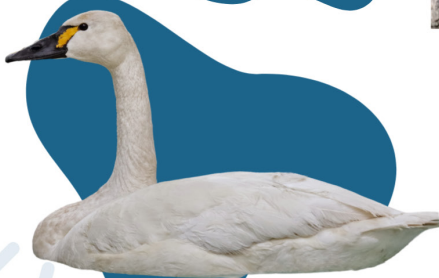
House Finch



Red-throated Loon



Tundra Swan



Long-tailed Duck



Snow Goose



Downy Woodpecker



Common Loon



Brant



Steller's Jay



Red-necked Phalarope



Snowy Owl



SUPPORT YOUR LOCAL WILDLIFE

wildliferescue.ca

Start the New Year Right by Giving Wildlife a *Second Chance*

Your generosity helps injured and orphaned wildlife recover and return to their natural homes.

DONATE NOW



Wildlife Rescue Accepts Securities!

Donating stocks and other securities is a tax-smart way to support the wildlife in your community. Contact our team at giving@wildliferescue.ca for more information.

Anyone Can Leave A Legacy

Every generation leaves a unique footprint. Now is the ideal time to plan *your* legacy.

Take action today to save vulnerable wild animals in your community and make a lasting difference.

giftplanning@wildliferescue.ca
(604) 526-2747 ext. 517

CONNECT WITH US:

