

GREAT BLUE HERON

*Wildlife
Rescue*
ASSOCIATION



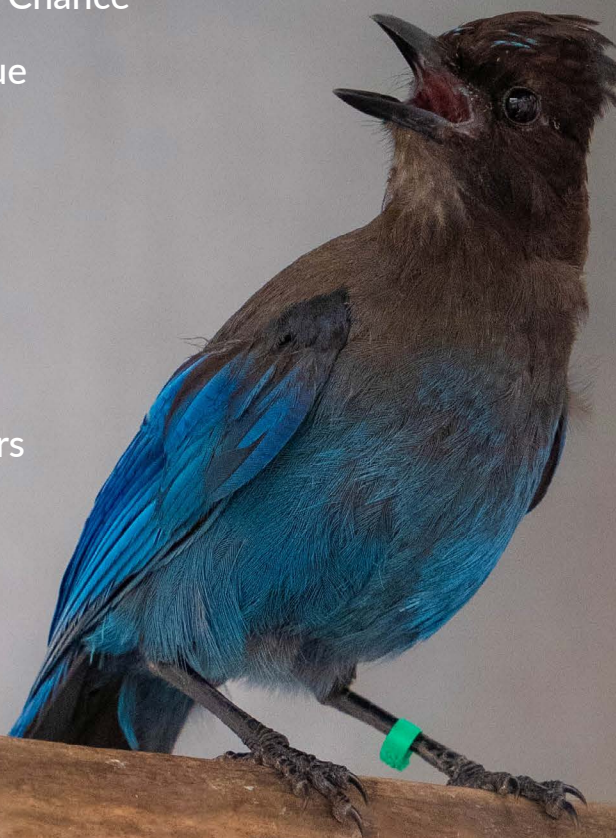
2025

Annual Impact Report

OCTOBER 1, 2024 - SEPTEMBER 30, 2025

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VISION

To continually improve the welfare of urban wildlife.

MISSION

To provide leadership in rehabilitating wildlife and in promoting the welfare of wild animals in the urban environment.

BOARD OF DIRECTORS

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Message of Appreciation

Dear Friends,

In 2025, this community carried forward a remarkable legacy of 46 years of compassion, dedication, and action for injured and orphaned wild animals. Every rescue, rehabilitation, and release was made possible by you - donors, volunteers, staff, and community members who believe in protecting local wildlife.

The year posed challenges that tested our collective resilience. Animal care relies heavily on support from a federal summer student grant, and this year's outcomes were uncertain. Thanks to significant support from the Greater Vancouver communities and local government leaders, students were able to join the team during the busiest months of animal care. Receiving the 2025 Canada Summer Jobs grant allowed wildlife in distress to continue receiving life-saving care.

Your support also fueled growth and progress. New faces joined the hospital team, and facility improvements - including a new on-demand hot water system - strengthened the ability to provide timely, compassionate care. A heartwarming highlight came when a bird cared for decades ago was spotted thriving in the wild, 24 years after their release.

This report is a celebration of your impact – the stories, successes, and milestones made possible through your care and compassion.

From all of us at Wildlife Rescue, thank you for being the heart of this work and for standing with local wildlife year after year.

With heartfelt appreciation,



Linda Bakker
Co-Executive Director



Coleen Doucette
Co-Executive Director




Jodi Westbury
Chair, Board of Directors



The Wildlife Rescue Association of BC is located on the ancestral and unceded homelands of the Musqueam, Squamish, and Tsleil-Waututh Nations. We are grateful for the opportunity to be on this beautiful, shared territory.

Helping Wildlife in the Wild

 **54,271**
helpline interactions
with the public

13%
increase from
2024!

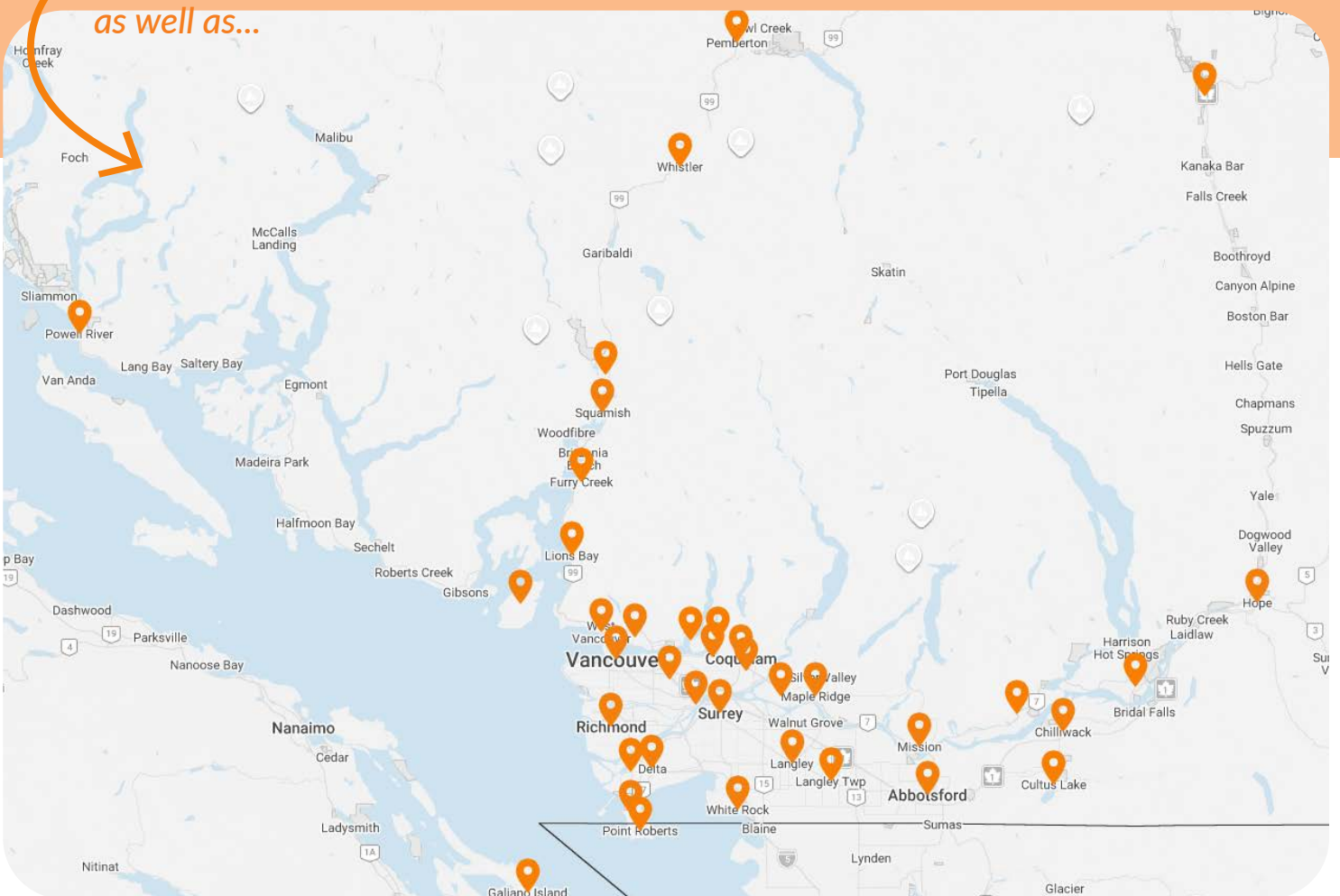


 Treated patients
from as far away as:
FORT ST. JAMES
SALMON ARM
CRANBROOK
KAMLOOPS
KELOWNA

Our dedicated volunteers **rescued 760 ducks and geese** from unsafe nesting sites across the Lower Mainland and released them safely at nearby waterways.



as well as...





Young Gull Reunited with Parents After Fall from Rooftop

On a warm July day, a gull chick found themselves in a tricky situation. The young bird fell from a rooftop nest onto a restaurant patio and became separated from their parents. Hearing the chick cry for help, a compassionate restaurant worker reached out to Wildlife Rescue, beginning a community effort to ensure the bird's safety.

The Support Centre team quickly gathered information to assess the situation and determine what was needed next.

Thanks to detailed information and photos shared by the restaurant worker, the team determined that the baby gull was likely not orphaned. The bird was described as alert, active, and defecating, all signs that the baby was being cared for and fed. Overhead, the parents anxiously called out, making their presence known.

When a trained Wildlife Rescue volunteer arrived, the young bird was carefully checked and confirmed to be healthy. With the restaurant manager's help, safe rooftop access was arranged, and the chick was successfully returned to their waiting parents.

Each summer, many young gulls experience similar tumbles from rooftop nests across the community. Local residents, business owners, and volunteers play a vital role in keeping these birds safe, showing that compassion and teamwork make a lifesaving difference.

Rescues like this help keep wild animals where they're meant to be, in the wild. Whenever possible, reuniting healthy young birds with their parents instead of admitting them for unnecessary care allows the chicks the best opportunity to grow strong and independent in their natural habitat.

“Before intervening, the first thing we look for is whether the nestling's parents are present, and for any signs of injury from the fall, or signs of dehydration or starvation. If the parents are present, and the young gull is in good condition, our primary goal is to reunite them with their parents!”

ANIKA, SUPPORT CENTRE
COORDINATOR

Giving Wild Lives a Second Chance

4,376

patients admitted

109

bird species

15

mammal species

2

amphibian species

2

reptile species

55

patients admitted who are listed as **Endangered, Threatened, or of Special Concern** under the **Species at Risk Act (SARA)**

Top 5 Reasons for Admission:

874

Trauma



695

Orphaned



446

Predator Attack



398

Window Strike



387

Disease Symptoms



Unique species admitted

RED-EYED VIREO



BROWN CREEPER



DOUBLE-CRESTED CORMORANT



TOWNSEND'S BIG-EARED BAT



OILED WILDLIFE RESPONSE TRAINING WITH INTERNATIONAL BIRD RESCUE

In September 2025, Wildlife Rescue hosted a multi-day Oiled Wildlife Response Training, led by experts from International Bird Rescue and generously sponsored by Procter & Gamble. The training combined classroom instruction with hands-on practice, equipping staff, volunteers, and partners with critical skills in oil spill response, safe handling, field stabilization, and specialized care for oiled birds. This collaboration has strengthened the team's readiness to act swiftly and effectively when oil spills threaten local wildlife, ensuring animals receive expert care when they need it most.



AVIAN INFLUENZA GOVERNANCE RESEARCH

As part of ongoing disease surveillance, Wildlife Rescue helps identify and report birds showing signs of Avian Influenza. When birds are admitted to Wildlife Rescue showing symptoms of Avian Influenza, the relevant authorities are alerted, who decide which specimen should be sent for further diagnostics. Examining these helps scientists track how the virus is evolving and identify potential disease hotspots within local bird populations.

BIRD BANDING

This year, with the help of local bird banders from Vancouver Avian Research Centre, 55 patients were banded prior to their release. Whether it's a tiny Anna's Hummingbird or a large Great Blue Heron, attaching a numbered band around their leg provides an incredibly opportunity to learn more about where rehabilitated birds go once released and how they fare back in the wild if they are ever recaptured.

A remarkable example of this came when the news was received this year that a Glaucous-winged Gull, banded following rehabilitation at Wildlife Rescue in the year 2000, was rediscovered 24 years later during Environment and Climate Change Canada's Salish Sea Gull Project* – healthy and thriving along the coast. Stories like this highlight just how valuable bird banding is in understanding long-term survival and the success of wildlife rehabilitation.

*This research project was conducted under the appropriate permits.



NATIONAL WILDLIFE REHABILITATORS INTERNATIONAL SYMPOSIUM

The Wildlife Rescue team attended the 2025 National Wildlife Rehabilitation Association Symposium in Seattle, Washington, themed "Wild and Free," a celebration of wildlife rehabilitators dedicated to helping animals live naturally without disruption. The event gathered more than 500 participants from across North America and beyond for workshops, facility tours, and collaborative sessions with wildlife veterinarians and wildlife rehabilitators. Held just before baby bird season, the symposium provided fresh ideas, renewed energy, and valuable insights to strengthen rehabilitation practices.

The Heart of Wildlife Rescue



229
volunteers
donated time to
helping wildlife

89
new
volunteers

18,979
hours given = 9 full-time
employees
working for a year

EXPANDING PRACTICUM PROGRAM

In 2025, Wildlife Rescue began welcoming practicum students from Douglas College, along with participants from BCIT and UBC. These collaborations contribute to the training and development of future wildlife conservationists, strengthening the local and regional capacity to care for wildlife.

INTERNATIONAL VOLUNTEERS

Volunteers from around the world contributed time, skills, and passion to wildlife care and conservation efforts. In 2025, the number of international volunteers nearly doubled from the previous year, with 19 volunteers supporting daily operations across the Hospital and Support Centre teams and extending to Communications activities. International volunteers have become an integral part of our organizational culture, enhancing capacity, fostering stronger community connections, and reinforcing commitments to inclusivity and global engagement.

VIRTUAL TRAINING PROGRAM

The Support Centre virtual training program was expanded to help onboard an increasing number of volunteers this past year. This greatly consolidated the amount of in-person training required for new applicants, allowing them to start right away. This was vital in supporting volunteer recruitment during the busiest times of the year and allowed more flexibility, accepting applicants that may not have previously been able to meet the weekly or total hour requirement.

Admin & Advancement 1,126	Wildlife Hospital 11,888
Rescue, Transport & Release 1,554	Support Centre 3,328
	Other 1,089

34,662
kms driven = nearly 4.5 trips
across Canada
from Victoria to St. John's

“I feel like I’m one piece in a very, very big puzzle, and I like that.”

Driven by a lifelong love of animals, a desire to learn through hands-on experience, and even a special fascination with bats, Cloud became a volunteer to grow beyond his desk-bound work and contribute to something bigger – the well-being of local wildlife.

Animal Care volunteer Cloud joined Wildlife Rescue in the summer of 2025 – the busiest time for animal care – and quickly became an essential part of the team. In just a few months, he donated hundreds of hours to help wildlife.

For Cloud, the opportunity to learn while making a difference is “unparalleled.” No two days are the same at Wildlife Rescue, and volunteers are never limited to just one task.

“The medical staff are very invested in bringing volunteers into the process,” he says, describing an environment where learning happens on the job and curiosity is encouraged.

Beyond the animals, Cloud values the people. Working alongside volunteers from all walks of life has offered new cultural perspectives and meaningful connections.

The animals drew Cloud in, but the warmth of the people and the shared mission they carry keep him returning again and again. At Wildlife Rescue every volunteer plays a crucial role in helping local wildlife thrive.



“There’s always somebody new to talk to, someone with a completely different story about what brought them here and where they want to go. It’s eye-opening.”

CLOUD, ANIMAL CARE VOLUNTEER

In the Community

In 2025, the Outreach team attended **16 events** including:
WINGS OVER IONA in Richmond
CAR FREE DAY in Burnaby
SHIPYARDS NIGHT MARKET in North Vancouver
and many more!



37,000+
social media followers learning about wildlife

EDUCATIONAL WEBINARS

In 2025, Wildlife Rescue launched a new webinar series designed to expand educational outreach and strengthen connections within the community. These online events provided dynamic opportunities to share expertise, collaborate with partners, and engage wider audiences beyond traditional programs.

One key highlight was the inaugural hummingbird webinar, presented in partnership with the Vancouver Avian Research Centre (VARC). This collaboration demonstrated the power of shared knowledge in deepening public understanding of local wildlife. Building on strong early engagement—with two webinars and 354 registrations—the series continues to enhance community awareness.

FINALIST NOT-FOR-PROFIT OF THE YEAR

For the second year in a row, Wildlife Rescue had the honour of being nominated for Not-for-Profit of the Year and was named a finalist for the Burnaby Business Excellence Awards. We would like to thank the Burnaby Board of Trade and the City of Burnaby for this recognition and for celebrating the work being done across our incredible community.

Looking Ahead

EDUCATION PROGRAM

The Education Team is laying the groundwork for a future program that promotes safe coexistence between people and wildlife. Through conservation education, it will help communities protect wildlife and the habitats they rely on. The program will serve as a central hub for knowledge sharing, empowering people to make informed and compassionate choices during wildlife encounters.

FUTURE PLANNING BURNABY LAKE PARK

The Wildlife Rescue Association is contributing to the 20-year management plan for Burnaby Lake, helping to shape a vision that supports both people and wildlife. This growing partnership with Metro Vancouver Parks aims to strengthen our presence in the park, and collaborate on future education and outreach initiatives.



Your Generosity in Action

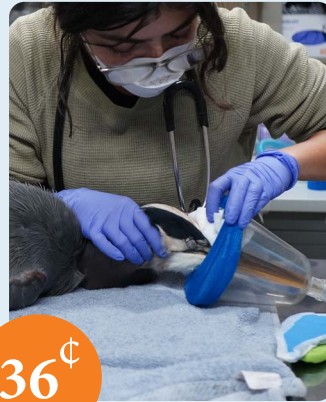
For every dollar you gave in 2025, here's how you helped wildlife.



EDUCATION, HELPLINE & OUTREACH

Helped prevent future wildlife suffering by providing education and outreach in the community - online, in person, and through our Support Centre operating 365 days a year.

11¢



MEDICAL & REHABILITATION

Provided expert emergency care for injured, orphaned, and sick wildlife. From medication to daily check ups and nutritious food, you helped save countless wild lives.

36¢

RESCUE, TRANSPORT & RELEASE



Ensured distressed wild animals were rescued, safely transported, and released back into their wild homes.

7¢

FACILITY PROJECTS & REPAIRS



1¢

Ensured consistent water and electricity supply and maintained facility buildings to provide wild patients with a safe, quiet shelter for recovery.

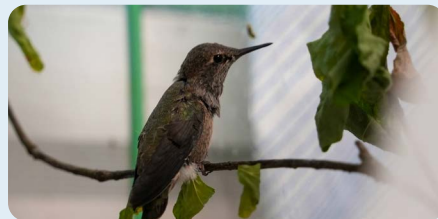
VOLUNTEER DEVELOPMENT



6¢

Supported volunteer recruitment, training, and engagement across the organization to ensure cohesive program delivery and provide volunteers with a rewarding experience.

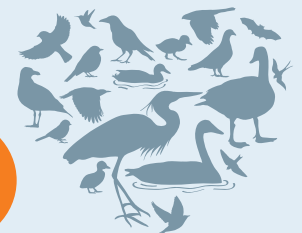
ADMINISTRATION & PROGRAM SUPPORT



17¢

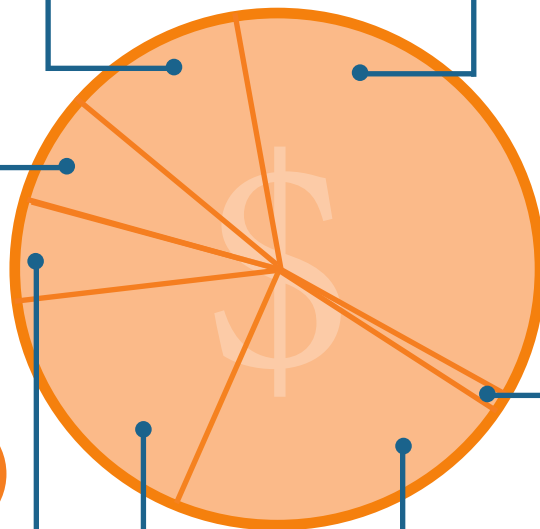
Covered essential operational costs to keep systems running smoothly and ensure wildlife continues to have a safe haven during challenging times.

FUNDRAISING & DEVELOPMENT

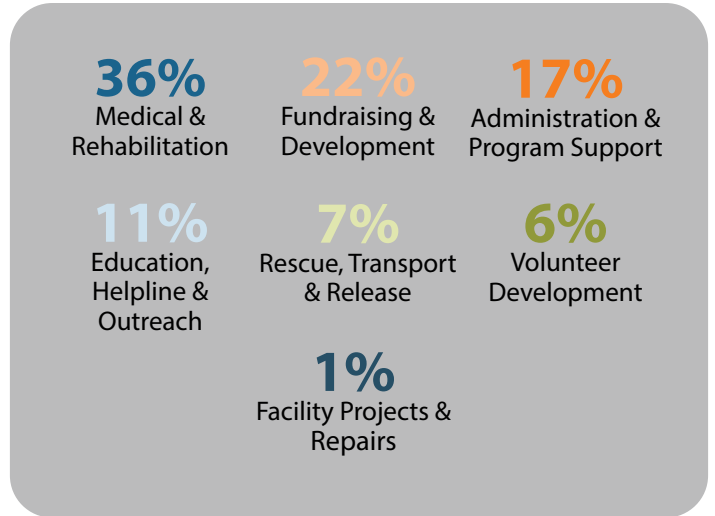
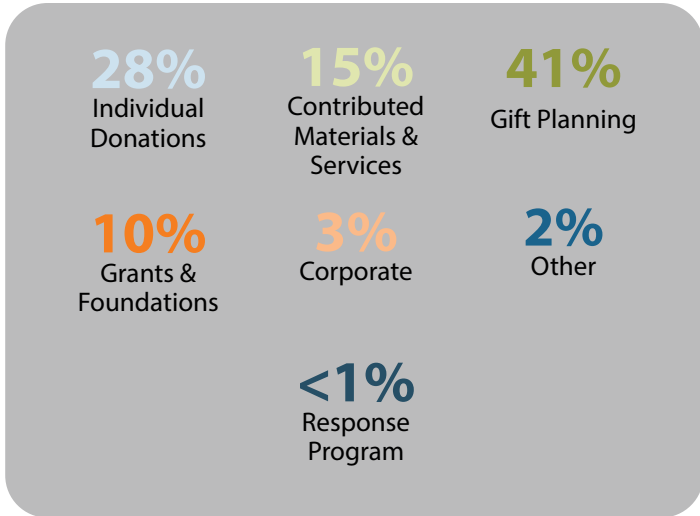


22¢

Empowered compassionate and caring wildlife lovers to give wild animals a second chance at a wild life. Thank you for joining this special Wildlife Community!



Financial Overview



REVENUE

Individual Donations	\$838,848
Contributed Materials & Services	\$447,413
Gift Planning	\$1,213,337
Grants & Foundations	\$298,625
Corporate	\$91,969
Other	\$64,486
Response Program	\$12,406

EXPENSES

Medical & Rehabilitation	\$841,000
Education, Helpline & Outreach	\$260,950
Rescue, Transport & Release	\$166,216
Volunteer Development	\$133,241
Administration & Program Support	\$407,664
Fundraising & Development	\$508,680
Facility Projects and Repairs	\$15,535

Total **\$2,967,083**

Total **\$2,333,286**

Thank You to These Partners!

Animal Care Hospital of Williams Lake

Animal Emergency Clinic of the Fraser Valley

Bandstra Transportation

Beaty Biodiversity Museum

BC Bats

BC Centre for Disease Control

BC SPCA

British Columbia Institute of Technology

Burnaby Board of Trade

Burnaby School District

Canadian Wings of Rescue

Central Mountain Air

Coastal Partners in Conservation

Coquitlam Animal Shelter

Cozen O'Connor LLP

Critter Care Wildlife Society

Delta Community Animal Shelter

Dewdney Animal Hospital

Douglas College

Elizabeth's Wildlife Centre

Environment and Climate Change Canada Canadian Wildlife Service

Fronteering

Good Caws Crow Rescue

Greyhaven Exotic Bird Sanctuary

Interior Wildlife Rehabilitation Society

Internex International Exchange

International Bird Rescue

Metro Vancouver Parks

Ministry of Water, Land and Resource Stewardship

New West Animal Services

Northern Spotted Owl Breeding Program

Olympic Village Veterinary Clinic

Orphaned Wildlife Society (OWL)

Pacific Coastal Airlines

Rotary Club of Burnaby

Skyline Veterinary Hospital

SPCA Wild Animal Rehabilitation Centre (WildARC)

Stanley Park Ecology Society

Surrey Animal Resource Centre

The Shipyards Night Market

University of British Columbia

Vancouver Avian Research Centre (VARC)

WildResearch



ACUITAS THERAPEUTICS

The valued partnership between Acuitas Therapeutics, Inc. and Wildlife Rescue has been continued for another year by their generous investment in our Education Program. Acuitas' support helps advance Wildlife Wisdom, an evolving education initiative focused on building public understanding of urban wildlife. Supporting Wildlife Rescue since 2022, Acuitas' partnership reflects a long-term commitment to education as a complement to hands-on wildlife care.

The Acuitas team visited our hospital in 2025 to see the impact of their support firsthand. We're grateful for their continued partnership and shared belief in education as a meaningful component of protecting wildlife and supporting healthier communities.

STANTEC

Stantec supported Wildlife Rescue this year as a 'Chickadee-level' corporate sponsor, supporting expert medical care and rehabilitation for injured and orphaned wildlife across BC. Their annual sponsorship contributed to the day-to-day care that helps thousands of wild animals heal and return to the wild.

In addition to their financial support, the Stantec team joined us on site for a corporate day of volunteering, supporting hands-on projects in patient recovery spaces. We're grateful to Stantec for choosing a partnership that combines annual support with action and for their continued commitment to wildlife and community care.





Ways to Give

VOLUNTEER

Connect with like-minded people and make a hands-on difference for wildlife in BC. Learn more about current volunteering opportunities at wildliferescue.ca/job-opportunities.

BECOME A MONTHLY DONOR

Provide a sustainable, monthly contribution of your choice, and ensure injured, orphaned, and sick animals have a chance to heal and return to their natural homes year-round. Become a Freedom Partner today at wildliferescue.ca/give.

LET YOUR LEGACY BE WILD!

Your planned gift saves the wild animals you love long after your lifetime. Start building a legacy of life today! Contact our team at giftplanning@wildliferescue.ca to learn more.

DONATE SECURITIES

By giving bonds, stocks, or employee stock options, you can turn appreciated investments into immediate tax benefits and meaningful change. Contact our team at giving@wildliferescue.ca to learn more.



Wildlife Rescue
ASSOCIATION

Wildlife Rescue Association of BC
5216 Glencarin Drive
Burnaby, BC, V5B 3C1, Canada

Wildlife Rescue Association of British Columbia is a
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