

Wildlife Rescue
ASSOCIATION

2020 Annual Impact Report



OUR VISION

To continually improve the
welfare of urban wildlife



Thank you!

YOU. You're an essential part of our generous community of 3,000+ donors. Thank you for helping Wildlife Rescue provide emergency and lifesaving services for injured and orphaned wildlife.

Message of Appreciation

This past year, we have been inspired by you, our passionate donors who have been unwavering in your commitment to wildlife as we face the challenges of the global pandemic.

It is your support that has enabled us to continue to provide the highest level of essential care for our wild friends. In the face of unprecedented challenges, you have been pivotal in helping us save and improve the lives of BC's wildlife.



Linda Bakker & Coleen Doucette
Co-Executive Directors

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'L. Bakker'.

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'Coleen Doucette'.



Cheryl Churney
Chair of Board

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'Cheryl Churney'.

OUR MISSION

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

Wildlife Hospital

Wildlife Rescue adheres to leading international rehabilitation standards to ensure the welfare and ethical treatment of wildlife in its care. Expert hospital staff and veterinarians work together to provide the best medical treatment possible 365 days a year. Trained wildlife technicians and animal care volunteers ensure optimal rehabilitation care for all patients. Last year, with the help of our supporters, we upgraded animal care infrastructure with an isolation room for bats, an animal recovery room, and an expanded medical treatment centre.

These improvements enabled us to care for more than 4,700 patients in the midst of enhanced safety and distancing protocols due to the pandemic.

Herring Gull Takes Flight

When a young couple bought their penthouse suite in downtown Vancouver, they looked forward to the panoramic views and the graceful flight of gulls through their floor-to-ceiling windows.

What they didn't expect to see was one of those sleek birds crouched listlessly on their rooftop patio upon arriving home from work one day. When they approached, he lay passively. Concerned, the couple gently captured him and brought him to Wildlife Rescue.



The Herring Gull had minor abrasions but what was most concerning was the results of the lab tests.

He was anemic and had deficits in key nutrients. This is a common urban problem from people leaving garbage out or actively feeding wild animals.

Thankfully, hospital staff were able to restore his health with a nutrient supplement boost, rest, and appropriate diet.

After 15 days, he was released near his original location where he immediately took to the skies.

4,722

patients were treated at the Wildlife Rescue hospital from

60

cities & communities across British Columbia

15,600

volunteer hours dedicated to preparing meals for patients, cleaning enclosures, feeding babies, monitoring patient health & other essential activities

139

different species were treated including: 17 mammal species, 118 bird species, 3 reptile species, & 1 amphibian species

Community Support Services

Wildlife Rescue's Community Support Services play an essential role in wildlife rescue, conservation, and education for communities across BC. With your help, we are able to save thousands of animals each year from at-risk situations in parks, public spaces, backyards, high-rise complexes, strata residences, and commercial and industrial properties. In 2020, support centre programs included the Helpline, rescue, transport & release, admissions, and education, as well as Rooftop Rescue, Fledgling Health Check, Wildlife Foster.

Helping Species Conservation

In August, a young man and his co-workers noticed a small fuzzy bat clinging 10 feet up a wall of a commercial building in Maple Ridge. A day later, when the quiet animal was still in the same spot, the men called the Wildlife Helpline which dispatched a rescue volunteer right away.

While bats overall don't disturb humans, a small percentage can transmit rabies so precautions were taken in transporting the tiny mammal to the hospital. Thankfully, after a medical exam and lab testing, the bat was found to be in good health, just weak and dehydrated. This was good news as bats are essential to a healthy ecosystem.

A single bat can eat up to 1,000 insects a night, including moths which can otherwise wreak havoc on BC's diverse agriculture crops. The wildlife technicians became especially excited when they identified the bat as a Western small-footed bat, a species native to the dry interior valleys of BC and never seen before at Wildlife Rescue.

Hospital staff worked with government biologists and a bat specialist to report the finding.



WESTERN SMALL-FOOTED BAT IN CARE

24,589

callers accessed the Wildlife Helpline, a 32% increase from 2019

33

orphaned animals were successfully fostered & raised by families in the wild

266

Canada Geese goslings & parents were rescued and set free in the nearest suitable waterways

74

animal babies were reunited with their parents to be raised naturally

Wildlife Rescue is often an important research partner in reporting species and location, monitoring and testing for diseases and providing information to the public about diseases.

Thank You For Supporting B.C.'s Wildlife

Wildlife Rescue is grateful to more than 3,000 supporters across British Columbia who donated generously to help save wildlife in 2020.



YELLOW-RUMPED WARBLER

“We closely follow conservation and animal causes. The frequent emailed reports, as well as information on their website, shows that Wildlife Rescue is very well managed and doing their very best for the animals. This gives us full confidence that our donations are being used as intended. Wildlife in distress will unfortunately always be there – we’re pleased to be able to offer something to help such dedicated people do their work.”

ALAN BURNS & WEN-LIN SUN
DONORS, 13 YEARS

“I’ve known about Wildlife Rescue for years and years. I’ve brought birds to the hospital, even if they’ve been badly injured by a cat and were unlikely to survive, because I wanted to end their suffering humanely. I’ve also referred people to you when they’ve had an animal in need. Because of all this, I know the work that WRA does. I know it’s valuable and have personally benefited from it. The Lower Mainland would be a poorer place without your organization.”

NICHOLAS READ
DONOR, 5 YEARS

“Whenever we see a story in the news about Wildlife Rescue saving an animal, we know that we were part of that.”

PAUL & ROSEMARY
PRETORIUS, DONORS

“Wildlife rehabilitation is a constantly evolving science and the leadership and staff make constant efforts to improve things, from how the animals are cared for to the training and mentoring of staff and volunteers. It just seems that the organization learns constantly from its experiences.”

NEL AIRD, DONOR &
VOLUNTEER, 14 YEARS

Wildlife Education

Education is key to long-term change in how people interact with urban wild animals. Wildlife Rescue’s mission includes raising awareness of the risks that urban wildlife face and the role we can all play in their conservation. Last year, with the help of our supporters, we provided educational content to more than 100,000 members of the public through our website, Wildlife Alerts, YouTube channel, and other social media platforms. 252 volunteers were trained across all areas to provide education and advice through the helpline, admissions, field operations and personal networks. Our Helpline responded to 24,589 calls for animal emergencies. Millions more people saw our animal rescue stories featured throughout the year in print and televised media. Wildlife Rescue is committed to continually improving the welfare of urban wildlife.

252

big-hearted volunteers shared their talents and time for wildlife

68,520

kilometres travelled by volunteers to rescue wildlife

26,877

hours given by volunteers to wildlife hospital, helpline, rescue, transport & release, education and outreach

VOLUNTEER SPOTLIGHT

Tina’s Exceptional Leadership

Tina has been a volunteer since 2013 when she watched a TV marathon of Hope for Wildlife and realized she’d like to be involved with animals that way.

Over the years, Tina proved herself to be dependable and capable and is now a Team Leader in Animal Care.

She oversees up to eight Animal Care volunteers, providing mentorship and training on all aspects of animal care including feeding patients, preparing and cleaning enclosures, and keeping the facility clean and tidy.

Thanks to Our Volunteers

1,457

injured & orphaned animals transported to the wildlife hospital for emergency care

212

animals in distress rescued from at-risk situations

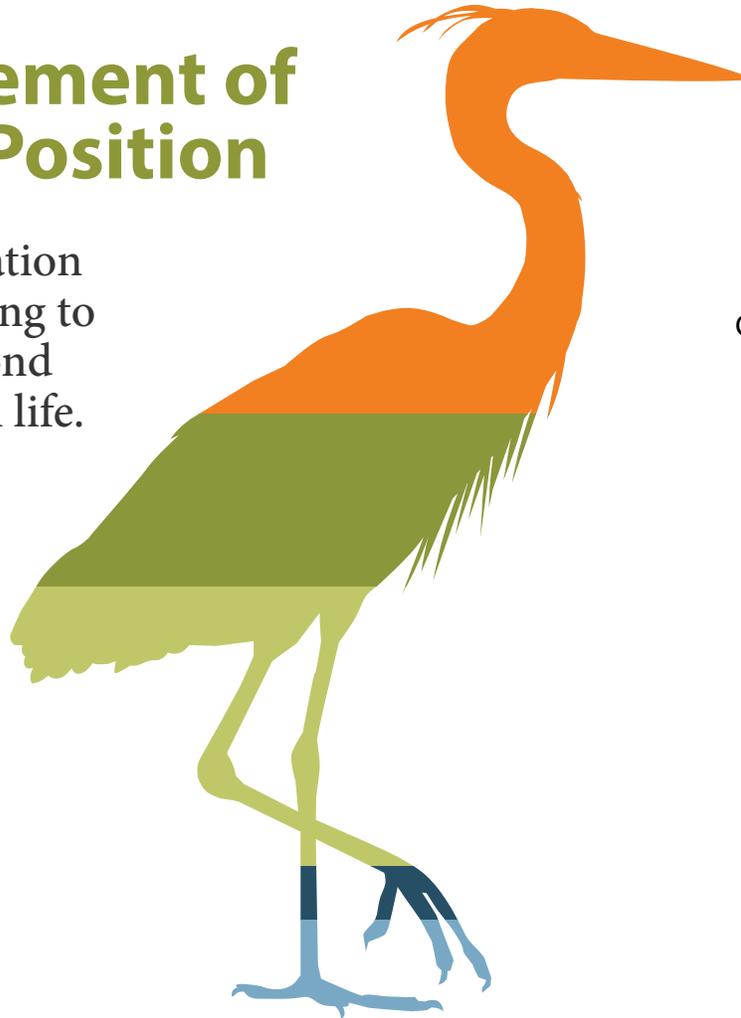


She also helps develop and facilitate Animal Care Training, Team Leader Workshops and Duckling Workshops. *Volunteers like Tina are the heart of Wildlife Rescue.*

FINANCIAL OVERVIEW

2020 Statement of Financial Position

100% of your donation goes towards helping to give wildlife a second chance at a natural life.



38%
Medical & Rehabilitation

16%
Community Wildlife Support Services

26%
Community Engagement

5%
Volunteer Development

15%
Administration & Program Support

REVENUES	2020 <i>Jan - Dec</i>	EXPENDITURES	2020 <i>Jan - Dec</i>
Individual Donations	\$592,790	Medical	\$150,548
Corporate	\$50,454	Rehabilitation	\$239,703
Planned Giving	\$318,404	Rescue & Transport	\$46,553
Foundations	\$41,420	Helpline	\$83,506
Government Grants	\$363,687	Education & Outreach	\$36,696
Memberships	\$455	Volunteer Development	\$46,786
Endowment Income	\$11,119	Fundraising & Community Engagement	\$259,893
Investment Income	\$163	Administration & Program Support	\$151,357
COVID-19 Subsidies & Incentives	\$19,002		
Sales & Other	\$2,925		
Total Income	\$1,400,418	Total Expenditures	\$1,015,043

WILDLIFE STORY

Peanut Butter Delays Return to Wild

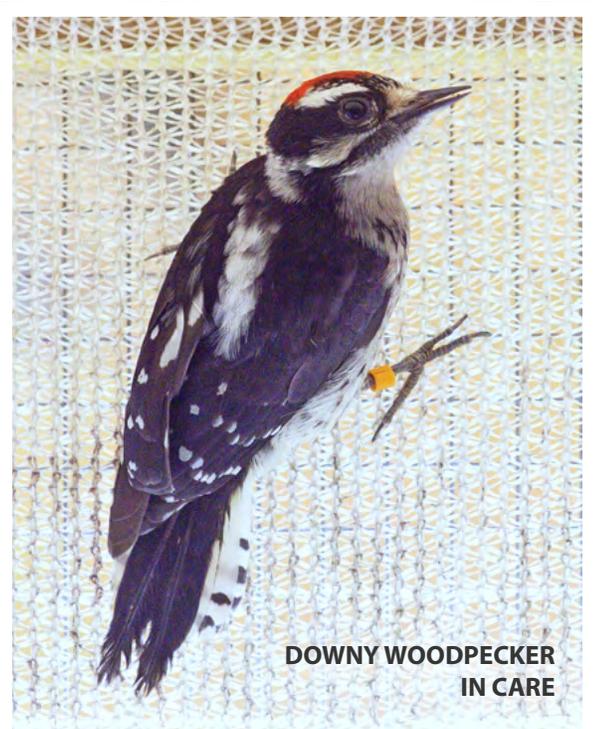
Last June, an active outdoor couple on the North Shore set out from Lynn Headwaters for a morning hike. They hadn't gone far when they saw a young Downy woodpecker hopping clumsily at the base of a tree. The fledgling crouched low and froze when they approached.

It is quite common to see fledgling birds on the ground in spring and summer as they strengthen their juvenile wings and learn to fly. The couple didn't know this however and, with the best of intentions, they scooped up the young bird and headed back to their car. They quickly returned home and put the fledgling woodpecker into a box to transport him to Wildlife Rescue.

After they dropped him off, hospital staff opened the box to do an initial health check only to discover the frightened bird covered in peanut butter! The kind-hearted people had put a little food and water in the box and the poor bird was now completely soiled. Oil contamination on feathers is deadly for birds as the food oil interferes with the feathers' natural waterproofing and causes hypothermia. As well, when the bird tries to remove the oil with its beak, ingestion causes internal damage.

The peanut butter was so thick that trying to remove it with soap alone would have broken the fledgling's newly emerged feathers. Knowing this, our wildlife technicians did a pre-treatment to break down the hardened oils, followed by a professional feather cleaning to further remove the contamination before putting the young woodpecker in a specialized drying pen. Instinct then took over and the Downy woodpecker spent hours preening its feathers so that all the barbules were re-aligned and faceted. This is like nature's Gortex - a little weather-proof feather jacket.

This whole process took about 48 hours, too long unfortunately for the juvenile to be taken back and reunited with his parents.



Wildlife Rescue has a long-established baby bird program, and over the next several weeks, the team monitored the young woodpecker's weight and alertness, encouraged it to self-feed, and gradually introduced him to pre-release conditioning so that he was strong enough to be returned to Lynn Headwaters and explore the world as a young adult.

BOARD OF DIRECTORS

Cheryl Churney
Chair

Erika Lambert-Shirzad
Vice-Chair & Secretary

Tommy Kwok
Treasurer

Jeannie Magis
Past Chair

Jenson Leung
Member at Large

Jodi Westbury
Member at Large

Wildlife Rescue's Board of Directors is a volunteer governance board. Responsibilities include organizational governance, executive director oversight, reviewing/approving budgets, approval of major organizational decisions, chairing board Committees, supporting fundraising activities, and ensuring that operations are consistent with organizational mission.

STAFF MEMBERS

Wildlife Program

Janelle Stephenson
Hospital Manager

Andrea Morgan
Support Centre Manager

Jackie McQuillan
Support Centre Team Lead

Esther Lintern
Support Centre Coordinator

Stephanie Green
Volunteer Coordinator

Carla Benn
Resource Coordinator

Seth Bennett
Meghan Coghlan
Breanna Handley
Kimberley Kennedy (RVT)
Brandon Law
Justin Pfeifer
Emma Zinck
Wildlife Technicians

Sierra Monastersky
Support Centre Assistant

Brynne Graham
Support Centre Assistant

Don Anderson
Grounds & Maintenance Assistant

Business Operations

Coleen Doucette
Co-Executive Director

Linda Bakker
Co-Executive Director

Rob Vandermey
Operations & Finance Director

Shantal Cashman
*Development & Marketing
Communications Director*

Vindi Sekhon
Communications Coordinator

Sheila Dickinson
Donor Relations Coordinator

Sasha Rink
Graphic Design & Multimedia Assistant

Professional Affiliations

**National Wildlife
Rehabilitors Association**

**International Wildlife
Rehabilitation Council**

**Wildlife Rehabilitators
Network of BC**

Annual permits by Canadian Wildlife Service and Ministry of Forests, Lands and Natural Resources Operations



SUPPORT WILDLIFE RESCUE

You Create a Future for Wildlife

VOLUNTEER

Our volunteers are key to helping give wildlife a second chance at a natural life. Email volunteer@wildliferescue.ca

MAKE A PLANNED GIFT

Consider leaving a lasting legacy to help ensure our lifesaving work continues.

FOLLOW US ON SOCIAL

We are on Facebook @WildlifeRescue, Instagram @WildlifeRescueBC and Twitter @WRAofBC. You'll be the first to see updates from the hospital and the field.

KEEP UP WITH WILDLIFE UPDATES

Bookmark our website wildliferescue.ca to read the latest stories about animals in care, plus learn tips to help wildlife, and much more.

BECOME A MONTHLY DONOR

Providing a sustainable monthly gift better enables us to meet the needs of wildlife year-round.

**For more ways to get involved,
email us at giving@wildliferescue.ca or
call us at (604) 526-2747**

Wildlife Rescue Association of BC

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FACEBOOK **WildlifeRescue**

YOUTUBE **Wildlife Rescue**

TWITTER **WRAofBC**

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NORTHERN HAWK OWL