

# TO THE RESCUE

*Wildlife Rescue*  
ASSOCIATION

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NEWSLETTER



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**Co-Executive Directors**

Linda Bakker & Coleen Doucette

## A MESSAGE FROM THE EXECUTIVE DIRECTORS

2021 was a year of many unprecedented events for Wildlife Rescue, both in animal emergencies and in celebrations of our community. We couldn't be more proud of our team and more grateful for our community of supporters as we've moved into 2022 stronger together, and prepared for this ever-changing world.

The past year saw weather events like never before, both extremes of heat and cold, and the number of animals admitted to the Wildlife Hospital was higher than any time in our 43-year history.

On top of this, the Wildlife Rescue Support Centre was contacted 32,826 times. Our incredible, dedicated team of staff and specially-trained volunteers were there 365 days of the year to support you with anything from the best way to help an animal in distress to tips on caring for wildlife in your own backyard.

Wildlife Rescue celebrated two donation matching campaigns in 2021 and exceeded both of our original fundraising goals, even holding our first-ever triple donation match—all because of the generosity of supporters like you. Thanks to you, we were able to install a new space for animals to be received, and we admitted and treated over 6,000 animals!

Thank you for keeping up to date with Wildlife Rescue and for your support—saving wild lives is only possible because of you.

Warmly,

**Coleen Doucette and Linda Bakker**

Co-Executive Directors,  
Wildlife Rescue Association of BC



Take a look at the first of three new spaces you helped build and see how they're saving wild lives.

## INTRODUCING NEW SPACES IN ANIMAL CARE *Made Possible By Caring People Like You!*

In 2021, we put out an urgent call for support to build three new Animal Care spaces. Generous wildlife enthusiasts like you rose to the occasion and we're thrilled to be able to provide you with an update.

As of today, the Admission Structure is now up and running! It was immediately put to use for animal intake—just the other day we had birds there waiting calmly and comfortably for treatment. This space will continue to be absolutely vital to our operations once the warmer weather arrives.

However, help is still needed to complete the other two structures in 2022. Animal patients are steadily increasing and putting pressure on the existing infrastructure at Wildlife Rescue. In 2021, the Wildlife Hospital treated more than 6,000 animals—a significant rise from the year before!

### **To meet the growing need, Wildlife Rescue hopes to construct the following Animal Care spaces.**

#### **Flight Evaluation Enclosure**

A dedicated flight testing enclosure will allow Wildlife Technicians to assess the extent of wing injuries in newly admitted patients and the readiness of existing patients to progress to the next step in their recovery journey.

#### **Animal Care Work Areas**

The animal care work areas will protect volunteers and staff from the elements as they prepare species-specific meals, wash and sanitize dishes, build new wildlife enclosures, and train new volunteers in animal care.

**Please give to support important upgrades to Wildlife Rescue today!**

[wildliferescue.ca](http://wildliferescue.ca)  
604-526-2747 ext. 502

With animal admissions ever-increasing these new spaces are crucial, but they can only be built with your support. Please consider giving today, so we can be ready for the influx of helpless babies, migration injuries, and other animal emergencies in the challenging months ahead.



## A Long Road to Recovery for Common Raven

Your generosity helped save an injured raven all the way from Haida Gwaii!

Somewhere on the misty islands of Haida Gwaii, bushes rustled as a big black bird hopped awkwardly on the ground. The sound attracted the curiosity of a bystander walking on a path nearby. Peering through thick leaves, they were surprised to discover a raven!

Being jet-black from head to toe, it was hard to see why the raven was acting so strangely upon first glance. However, it soon became clear that this beautiful bird was bleeding and badly injured.

When the compassionate people at Gwaii Animal Helpline received the call about a local raven in trouble, they didn't waste a second. Across Canada, the Common Raven is an important icon to Indigenous peoples—held in high esteem as a symbol of knowledge and creation, especially in Haida Gwaii.

Gwaii Animal Helpline reached out to Dr. Walton at the Dewdney Animal Hospital for advice. He knew just who to call and quickly alerted our team at the Wildlife Hospital of the raven's fragile condition. In no time at all, we collaborated with Pacific Coastal Airlines to organize and transport the injured bird to our centre.

When the raven was admitted, Wildlife Rescue staff discovered they had parasites and a large laceration wound on their keel. Our staff leapt into action, providing antiparasitic treatment and quickly arranging a surgery with the veterinary surgeons from Dewdney.

For the next couple of weeks, the raven was given antibiotics to prevent infection as well as medication for pain and inflammation. During this time, Wildlife Technicians worked diligently to

keep the wound site clean and re-apply bandages... but the raven had other ideas.

Whenever staff had their backs turned, the clever bird would remove the coverings as if they knew when we weren't looking! Known for their craftiness, ravens are among the smartest of all birds and are often featured in Indigenous legends as mischief-makers—something our hospital staff witnessed first hand.

This raven was particularly feisty, which made cleaning the wound and changing the bandages an interesting daily challenge for our team. And the mischievous black bird had even more tricks up their sleeve.

Because of their intelligence, adult ravens often feel stressed in captivity, which means they need

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***“Ravens are among the smartest of all birds and are often featured in Indigenous legends as mischief-makers—something our hospital staff witnessed first hand.”***

extensive enrichment. If they're not constantly challenged there's a good chance they'll become destructive and tear apart whatever they find around them, including their enclosure. Despite our best efforts, this raven's habitat needed sizable repairs later on.

Keeping the mind of a corvid, such as this raven, occupied in care can be extremely difficult! However, there's a fine line between preventing further injury after surgery and inducing boredom that causes emotional distress.

Knowing this, technicians rearranged the enclosure twice a week, changing the location of the perches and greenery to simulate the raven's natural habitat and foraging behaviours. Trays of mulch provided caching areas as these birds naturally save food

to eat later. For added comfort, the raven also received a small splash pool to cool off in on hot days.

Wildlife rehabilitation often requires a degree of creativity and resourcefulness, but our enrichment specialist had to create a plan specifically for this raven! To keep this brainy bird as mentally stimulated as possible, the team used different methods of feeding and a variety of meals.

Food was hidden in things like cardboard tubes, egg cartons, or boxes, so that the smart bird had something to open or peck through before they could enjoy their meal. First on the menu was frozen fish heads and mice, prey that the raven would scavenge for in nature. They also received spears of fruit on branches from the local blackberry bushes on our property.

In time, the raven's wound was fully healed, which meant the moment had arrived for them to spread their impressive wings once more. The large black bird was brought to our Raptor Flight Aviary where they had plenty of space to practice and build up important muscles for flight.

After an incredible 81 days in care, our team was elated to see that this intelligent bird was finally ready to return to the wild! At that time, the raven was sedated and put in a specially-made kennel to prevent them from hurting themselves on the long trip back to Haida Gwaii.

Finally, the raven was released where they rightfully belong, to once again soar the skies of the islands they calls home. And it's all thanks to you!

**Be a lifeline to animals in need by giving today!**

[wildliferescue.ca](http://wildliferescue.ca) | 604-526-2747 ext. 502



# VOLUNTEER SUPPORT SPOTLIGHT

## Sharing Gratitude for People Like Rita

Pictured here: Grace, Practicum Student at Wildlife Rescue

At Wildlife Rescue, volunteers are an integral part of the team. From animal care support to helpline calls to rescue, transport, and release—volunteers help educate the public and ensure the wellbeing of wild lives in BC.

A volunteer since November 2018, Rita Manning has worked in most areas of our organization. She initially began working on the Support Centre team, answering calls and responding to wildlife emergencies, but quickly branched out into animal care and wildlife transports. Over the years, Rita has worked her way to staff assistant in the Medical Centre and is also one of a few volunteers specially trained in caring for bats!

### We sat down with Rita to see what inspires her to volunteer with Wildlife Rescue.

#### Why do you support WRA?

*“Numerous reasons! I love animals, and I love the people there—the organization’s heart is in the right place.”*

#### What has been your best memory with the organization?

*“In the Support Centre, I’ve witnessed a general faith in humanity. People always go out of their way. Once, a construction worker saw an injured gull on the Pitt Meadows bridge, so we tried to organize a volunteer to go pick it up. He retrieved the bird and just drove it in directly himself. We’re often relying on the public, and they are incredibly accommodating.*

*Another time, I saw a robin come into Animal Care that had hit a window and had one eye bulging out of its head. I didn’t think it would make it, but it was rehabilitated and we released it.”*

#### What would you encourage others to do in these challenging times for wildlife?

*“Just keep an eye out, and try to help out when you can.”*

#### What is it like to volunteer in the spring?

*“Crazy chaotic. You never feel like you can keep up with all the calls. In the Animal Care side of things there’s always a task still to be done. But I like it, it’s busy. Ducklings are really messy though.”*

#### Is there anything else you’d like to share?

*“I love bats, so that’s the one thing I really enjoy doing.”*

**A big thank you to Rita for her time, passion, and dedication to saving wild lives in BC!**

# INVITING YOU TO GET INVOLVED!

## Come Volunteer With Wildlife Rescue

Spring and summer is the busiest time of year at Wildlife Rescue, as we receive lots of baby birds in need of care and feeding from dawn until dusk. That's why, each year, we recruit about 100 new volunteers to join our team in various roles across the organization.

Our volunteers have a huge impact on the quality of care we provide our patients and the number of animals we're able to transport to our site, admit, and successfully rehabilitate. Plus, volunteer support is integral to ensuring all of this runs smoothly! Whether their role is frontline or behind-the-scenes, we are extremely grateful for everything they do.

### We recruit for:

#### Animal Care

Volunteers prepare species-specific food, clean and prepare enclosures and habitats, as well as wash dishes and mop—rain or shine!

#### Rescue, Transport and Release

Volunteers transport contained animals from members of the public to our site to rehabilitate them and they also get the rewarding task of releasing animals back into their natural habitat.

#### Gardening and Maintenance

These teams are vital to keeping the facility running smoothly. Gardeners landscape the site and are currently planning a wildlife garden to grow fresh food for animal patients. The maintenance team is responsible for fixes and upgrades on our site, such as repairing animal enclosures to keep predators out and recovering animals safely inside.

*Our volunteers come to us for a variety of reasons! To meet new, like-minded people, learn more about urban wildlife, give back to their community, or even gain work experience. We welcome everyone who is enthusiastic to take initiative to get jobs done and keen to work with a team to achieve a common goal.*



IF YOU'D LIKE TO LEND YOUR TIME TO ANIMALS IN NEED, HEAD TO OUR WEBSITE TO APPLY ONLINE.

To learn more or apply, visit  
[www.wildliferescue.ca/what-we-do/volunteering/](http://www.wildliferescue.ca/what-we-do/volunteering/)

Anna's Hummingbird



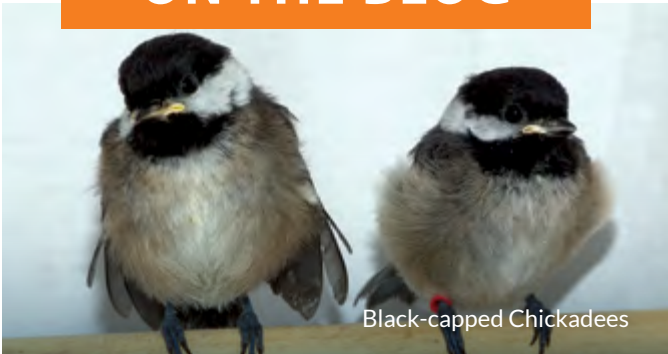
## LET YOUR LEGACY **BE WILD**

For over 42 years, we have cared for the largest number of injured animals in Canada! Please include Wildlife Rescue in your estate planning.

Give wildlife a second chance at a natural life.

(604) 526 - 2747, ext 502 | [giving@wildliferescue.ca](mailto:giving@wildliferescue.ca)

## ON THE BLOG



Black-capped Chickadees

## GET READY FOR SPRING

Every year, signs of spring fill the air as we feel the temperatures lifting, hear the chorus of year-round and migratory birds returning and the smell of fresh green grass as we step outside. It's the perfect time to welcome this revitalizing energy into your backyard by preparing for these feathered friends.

In British Columbia Chickadees, Sparrows, Starlings, Robins, Northern Flickers, Bushtits, Finches, Steller's Jay and Hummingbirds are a few of the common backyard birds looking for mates and shelter to thrive during the busy season.

Learn more about how to prepare for these feathered friends:

[www.wildliferescue.ca/2021/02/05/spring-into-action/](http://www.wildliferescue.ca/2021/02/05/spring-into-action/)



## CHARITY CAR PROGRAM

*Supports Wildlife Rescue Association of BC*

Donate your old vehicle and AA-Wong's Towing Ltd. will recycle it for you.

You will receive a minimum \$50 tax-deductible receipt for the assessed value of your car and net proceeds donated to Wildlife Rescue. AA Wong's Towing will also donate their administrative fee so that 100% of the proceeds go to Wildlife Rescue.

Call the donation hotline at (604) 321-2277 or visit [charitycarprogram.ca](http://charitycarprogram.ca)

## Follow Wildlife Rescue!

For patient updates, tips, and education on co-existing with wildlife.







# WILDLIFE EMERGENCIES CAN HAPPEN AT ANY TIME.

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*Help Wildlife Rescue be prepared.*

Spotted Sandpiper

## BECOME A MONTHLY FREEDOM PARTNER

42 years ago, a group of people who value wildlife just like you, took action to help injured and orphaned animals who needed a helping hand. Today, your wildlife hospital is a leader in rehabilitation in North America.

Wildlife Rescue's goal is to carry on our important work for the next 40 years and beyond. This means strengthening sustainable capacity.

### Join the Monthly Freedom Partners!

As little as \$20 a month helps provide complete care for one animal through release. Choose an amount that works with your monthly budget.

**IT'S EASY AND YOU ARE SAVING LIVES EVERY SINGLE DAY!**



**VISIT**

[wildliferescue.ca/give](http://wildliferescue.ca/give)



**EMAIL**

[giving@wildliferescue.ca](mailto:giving@wildliferescue.ca)



**CALL**

(604) 526-2747, ext. 502

# ANTICIPATING OUR BUSIEST SPRING TO DATE

## *How You Can Make an Impact*

**With spring on the horizon, baby animals are on the way! It's the most exciting time of year for BC's wildlife, but more animal activity means more wildlife emergencies.**

With environmental crises like wildfires, flooding, and heat domes on the rise, we've seen more animals in distress year after year. And Wildlife Rescue expects this spring to be the busiest season for our hospital to date.

Animals and their young will be depending on you for their survival throughout the upcoming months. Thankfully, your support makes a world of difference! With your help we can respond quickly, ensuring that distressed animals have critical health assessments and emergency medical treatment. More importantly, we can work to prevent as many wildlife emergencies as possible, before they happen.

Right now, hospital preparations are already underway! But we'll need as much help as possible to meet the demand in the busy days ahead. Thankfully, we'll be sharing some exciting news with you soon. Stay tuned for an amazing opportunity to multiply your impact and ensure the survival of countless orphaned and injured wildlife and their babies this spring.



Cedar Waxwing

HELP WILDLIFE AND  
THEIR YOUNG RECEIVE  
THE SPECIALIZED CARE  
THEY NEED THIS SPRING!



SCAN ME



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