

2023

Annual Impact Report



Wildlife Rescue
ASSOCIATION

OCTOBER 1, 2022 - SEPTEMBER 30, 2023

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.



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Message of Appreciation

Dear friends,

In 2023, Wildlife Rescue proudly entered its 44th year of operation and we are once again amazed at the incredible impact Wildlife Rescue donors, employees and volunteers had on wildlife in need.

Last year British Columbia faced a variety of sustainability challenges, including a cost-of-living crisis, continuous urban development, and the profound impacts of climate change. The 2023 wildfire season has been the most destructive in British Columbia's recorded history, with more than 2.84 million hectares of forest and land burned.

With these challenges having a severe impact on wildlife, we are truly grateful for the generosity of supporters like you, who have allowed us to continuously provide lifesaving services to wild animals when they need it the most.

In 2023, the Wildlife Rescue Hospital admitted nearly 5,000 patients to be treated and rehabilitated by our expert staff and volunteers. Our Helpline had nearly 40,000 interactions with the public and partner organizations, providing support and guidance for wildlife situations, which means our team averaged more than 100 interactions from the public a day! Other program achievements include the recruitment of a new Hospital management team, and the implementation of a new Hospital and Support Centre database which will further increase our ability to meet the ever-growing demand for our services.

We are excited to reflect on a year of life-saving work with you, and hope you enjoy these highlights and stories.

On behalf of all of us at Wildlife Rescue, thank you for joining us in saving thousands of lives and creating a better future for countless more.

With deep appreciation,

Linda Bakker

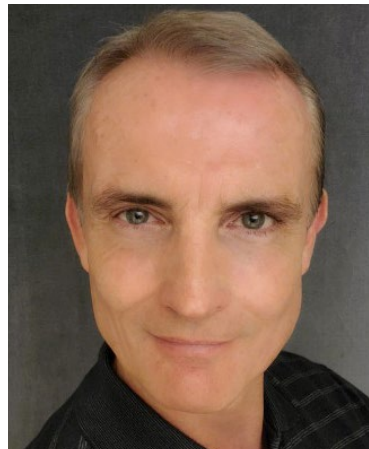
Linda Bakker,
Co-Executive Director

Coleen Doucette

Coleen Doucette,
Co-Executive Director

Glenn Boyle

Glenn Boyle,
Chair, Board of Directors





2023 Highlights

OCTOBER 1, 2022 - SEPTEMBER 30, 2023

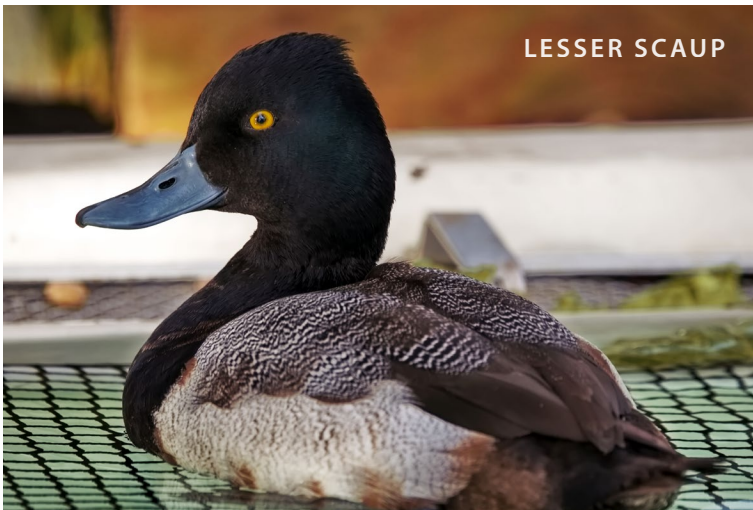
4,991
patients admitted

Treated patients
from as far away as:
**WILLIAM'S LAKE
VANDERHOOF
HAIDA GWAII
CALGARY**

109
new volunteers

39,848
helpline interactions
with the public

Unique species brought in for care



Admissions Centre Established

A new Admissions Welcome Centre was established on site this summer. The quaint and cozy little structure invitingly welcomes visitors to the Wildlife Rescue site. Here they can comfortably speak with admissions volunteers while filling out paperwork and learning more about the work we do.



Roof Repairs Completed

The roof collapse of the Flight Pen, caused by the winter storms of 2022, has been repaired and restored. As one of the largest pens on site, the maintenance of the Flight Pen is essential for rehabilitating Wildlife Rescue's largest patients.



Waterfowl Pools

Thanks to our generous sponsor Acuitas Therapeutics, Wildlife Rescue was able to build and install custom designed Waterfowl Pools. These multi-chamber Waterfowl Pools allow baby water birds to grow up with access to dry land and clean pools. They're also perfect for housing adult water birds recovering from injury.



Wildlife Hospital

The Wildlife Rescue Hospital is a leader in wildlife rehabilitation across Canada. This team of experts provides the highest-quality medical care possible 365 days of the year to injured, orphaned, and pollution-impacted wildlife.

With a team of dedicated wildlife technicians and specially-trained volunteers, all patients receive consistent and thorough care to give them their best chance of returning to their natural environment.

4,991
patients received care

121 bird species

17 mammal species

6 reptile species

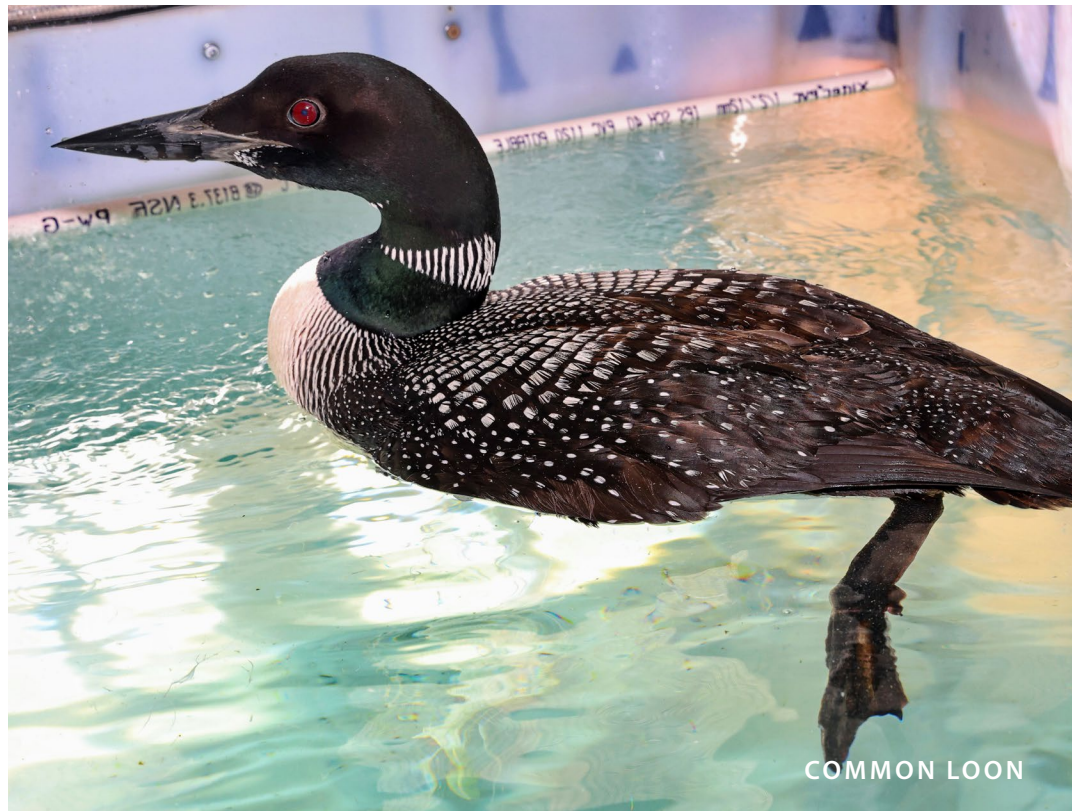
2 amphibian species

A Difficult Rehabilitation Leads to Loon Release

In early September, Wildlife Rescue received a call about a loon in dangerous circumstances. Likely migrating from mountain lakes to more mild ocean climates, the loon had mistaken a farmer's field as a place to rest and became grounded.

Loons are extremely specialized for life on the water, to the point that they are unable to walk on land. Unable to fly away and covered in mud, the loon was found distressed and exhausted. Without intervention it's unlikely they would have survived much longer.

Notoriously difficult to rehabilitate, this patient was one of only two Common Loons admitted to Wildlife Rescue this year. Wildlife Rescue's hospital team was determined to get this loon back into the wild, and so came up with an extensive rehabilitation plan.



COMMON LOON

After nine days in care, the loon had made a remarkable recovery. They were released in the afternoon at a beach in South Surrey, where they made a majestic departure from care back into the wild. While we don't know for sure if this is the rehabilitated loon, a loon has been spotted in the area by beach goers ever since.

This loon's rehabilitation was made possible thanks to the dedicated work of Wildlife Rescue's talented and professional hospital team. Their dedication to the well-being of wildlife is essential to Wildlife Rescue's mission.

Support Centre

Whether a member of the public has found an injured animal in need of help, or someone is looking for tips to keep their backyard wildlife friendly—the Wildlife Rescue Support Centre is just a phone call or email away.

Beyond supporting the public, the Support Centre coordinates patient transportation, new patient admission, release of rehabilitated wildlife to species-appropriate environments, and wildlife fostering. The efforts of this program play an essential role in the rescue and conservation of wildlife across BC.

39,848
emails and phone calls answered

483
orphaned patients admitted to care

821
rescues attended

Babies Rescued After Accidental Road Trip

Through spring and summer, Wildlife Rescue admits and raises hundreds of injured and orphaned baby animals who can't survive on their own. It is our goal to keep wildlife wild and thriving, sometimes requiring quick action to ensure the best outcomes for these vulnerable babies.

In June, Wildlife Rescue received a call from Richmond about a nest of magpies. Magpies aren't typically found in the Lower Mainland, so their presence was a mystery. It turned out that the babies had come a long way to get here, hitching a ride all the way from Calgary on a truck! Mother magpie had built her nest on the truck, and it had thankfully held fast all the way to Richmond. When it was discovered, five baby magpies were lost, confused, and very hungry.



BLACK-BILLED MAGPIES

The Wildlife Rescue team took the babies into care for 16 days before they were fit and healthy enough to travel back home to Alberta to complete the rest of their rehabilitation and eventual release.

The hardworking Support Centre team provides educational materials and one-on-one guidance to thousands of Wildlife Rescue supporters every year. These efforts mean countless young animals can grow up in their natural environment without any unnecessary intervention.

Education

As factors against wildlife survival continue to grow, our best tool to support long-term health is a robust education program. Wildlife Rescue’s mission of improving the welfare of urban wildlife is achieved year round through diverse sources of high quality public education.

Last year, we provided educational content to hundreds of thousands of people through Wildlife Rescue communication channels with even higher exposure through televised and print media. Whether receiving our Wildlife Alerts via email, seasonal newsletters, reading the Wildlife Rescue blog, visiting Wildlife Rescue’s social media channels, or taking home educational materials from our Support Centre—the public is more informed and better equipped to support urban wildlife than ever before.

Wildlife Rescue is making efforts to return to in-person public outreach events in 2024 to better connect with the community after the pandemic.

An Incredible Volunteer Team

Wildlife Rescue volunteers are some of the most passionate and dedicated individuals in the animal rehabilitation world. There are truly no heights our incredible team won’t reach to ensure wildlife receive the care they need! This year, we were blown away by their efforts on the frontlines of animal rescue.

One volunteer went above and beyond to rescue a gull in Richmond. The gull had a dramatic injury—a barbecue skewer stuck through the back of their neck—and was in visible pain. Despite this brutal injury, this gull was still flighted, making it a particularly difficult rescue. The volunteer monitored the gull regularly, and cleverly devised a capture plan. Thanks to her efforts, the gull received treatment to remove the skewer and is now flying free of a painful and life-threatening injury.

These incredible rescuers are equipped with specialized equipment and can be spotted all across the Lower Mainland, ensuring wild animals are rescued and relocated from situations where they are trapped, or brought to our hospital for care when they are injured. No matter whether it is cold winter months or hot summer days, Wildlife Rescue volunteers are in the field providing life-saving rescues for wildlife in need.

36,702

social media followers
learning about wildlife

8,785

email subscribers
getting updates straight
to their inbox

131,535

unique website users
getting valuable info
about helping wildlife



267

total volunteers

21,806

hours given

52,041

kilometers travelled

Financial Overview

2023 STATEMENT OF OPERATIONS

100%

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

37%

Medical & Rehabilitation

24%

Community Engagement

19%

Administration & Program Support

14%

Community Wildlife Support Services

6%

Volunteer Development

REVENUES

Donations	\$745,502
Contributed materials & services	\$505,459
Corporate	\$144,322
Planned Giving	\$300,662
Foundation Donations	\$92,091
Grant Income	\$272,577
Memberships	\$498
Endowment Income	\$12,029
Interest	\$15,083
Sales & Other	\$9,217

2023 Total **\$2,097,440**

Past Revenue \$618,181

Total **\$2,715,621**

EXPENSES

Medical	\$344,844
Rehabilitation	\$605,549
Rescue & Transport	\$204,448
Helpline	\$164,592
Education & Outreach	\$69,023
Volunteer Development	\$149,794
Administration & Program Support	\$500,711
Fundraising & Development	\$532,874
Data Systems	\$83,090
Facility Projects and Repairs	\$60,695

Total **\$2,715,621**

Wildlife Rescue managed to succeed in a challenging economic environment in 2023. Directed by the board, surpluses retained from previous years were utilized and Wildlife Rescue developed a state of the art data system for both fund development and Programs. Funds were also used for planned wildlife facility improvements and unforeseen emergency repairs on animal enclosures and the waste water system. Wildlife Rescue continued to fully operate, provide care for wildlife and provide regular wages for staff with utilization of the emergency fund.

WILDLIFE STORY

Conservation At Work: The Wrong Way Warbler

In December of 2022, birders around Vancouver were shocked to see small flashes of yellow flitting from tree to tree, a Prothonotary Warbler in the middle of winter! Not only is the Prothonotary Warbler an endangered species, it was only the 11th to ever be seen in BC. With wintering grounds in Central America and Florida, it was unlikely the warbler would survive the cold of a BC winter.

With help from the local birdwatching community, Wildlife Rescue was able to effectively track the location of the warbler. When the bird took refuge in a garage, seeking heat from the cold, rescue volunteers captured the warbler and brought the endangered bird into care.

Warblers are extremely difficult to hold in captivity. High stress and sensitive to environmental changes, it was going to be challenging to keep the warbler happy and healthy over the winter months. Wildlife Rescue's expert team designed a comprehensive plan to help the warbler survive the winter.

The warbler was kept in care for over five months. It caused a media sensation, with the Canadian Press picking up the story of the Wrong Way Warbler and sharing it across the world. Wildlife Rescue's communications team received dozens of inquiries about a chance to photograph the celebrity bird. In time, and against all odds, the warbler survived the winter.

The warbler was banded before release in case the bird is ever encountered again. Released at an undisclosed location near Abbotsford, the Prothonotary Warbler's story is one of incredible success won through hard work and determination. Thanks to the hardworking staff and volunteers of Wildlife Rescue, this rare and precious bird had another chance at a wild life!



PROTHONOTARY WARBLER

Staff Members

Administration

Coleen Doucette
CO-EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR

Linda (Hendrika) Bakker
CO-EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR

Kristen Trudeau
OPERATIONS DIRECTOR

Carla Benn
IT & DATA SYSTEMS SPECIALIST

Lauren Clift
OPERATIONS ADMINISTRATIVE COORDINATOR

Claire Short
FINANCE OFFICER

Lauren Kerley
EDUCATION COORDINATOR

Advancement

Bonnie Walker
FUND DEVELOPMENT MANAGER

Sheila Dickinson
GIFT PLANNING SPECIALIST

Coco Fralic
FUND DEVELOPMENT OFFICER

Sevda Laghayi
COMMUNITY RELATIONS DATA SPECIALIST

Tayelor Martin
COMMUNICATIONS COORDINATOR

Sierra Monastersky
COMMUNITY RELATIONS COORDINATOR

Michael Martin
DONOR RELATIONS ASSISTANT

Marina Schwarz
MARKETING SPECIALIST

Grounds & Maintenance

Dean Cornelson
GROUNDS & MAINTENANCE COORDINATOR

Hospital

Kimberly Stephens
HOSPITAL MANAGER

Frankie Norton-Hall
WILDLIFE TECHNICIAN (RVT)

Brandon Law
WILDLIFE TECHNICIAN

Raelee Barth
WILDLIFE TECHNICIAN

Mackenzie Pearsall
HOSPITAL ASSISTANT MANAGER

Cassandra Lacusta
WILDLIFE TECHNICIAN

Ana Gheorghiu
PROGRAMS TECHNICIAN

Amy O'Brien
WILDLIFE TECHNICIAN (RVT)

Dayna Evans
WILDLIFE TECHNICIAN

Sam Moore
JUNIOR WILDLIFE TECHNICIAN

Jessica Roth
WILDLIFE TECHNICIAN

Ritti Lakhanpal
WILDLIFE TECHNICIAN

Laura Bodel
SEASONAL WILDLIFE TECHNICIAN

Eunice Kwok
SEASONAL WILDLIFE TECHNICIAN

Tarryn "Sal" Tisdale
JUNIOR WILDLIFE TECHNICIAN

Emma Kominek
JUNIOR WILDLIFE TECHNICIAN

Volunteer Program

Layla Gilhooly
VOLUNTEER PROGRAM MANAGER

Fernanda Kalil Origuela
VOLUNTEER PROGRAM MANAGER

Anna Hornung
VOLUNTEER COORDINATOR

Naomi Bardin
VOLUNTEER COORDINATOR

Support Centre

Jackie McQuillan
SUPPORT CENTRE MANAGER

Eloisa Diaz Nieto
SUPPORT CENTRE COORDINATOR

Paula Clifford
SUPPORT CENTRE COORDINATOR

Maya Hamilton
PROGRAMS TECHNICIAN

Gabriella Wohlgemuth
SUPPORT CENTRE COORDINATOR

Veronica White
SUPPORT CENTRE COORDINATOR

Sophie Satveit White
SUPPORT CENTRE ASSISTANT

Board of Directors

Glenn Boyle
CHAIR

Jenson Leung
VICE CHAIR

Jodi Westbury
DIRECTOR AT LARGE

Anson Wong
SECRETARY

Ken Cen
DIRECTOR AT LARGE

Professional Affiliations

National Wildlife Rehabilitators Association

International Wildlife Rehabilitation Council

Wildlife Rehabilitators' Network of BC

Annual permits by Canadian Wildlife Service and Ministry of Forests.



Support Wildlife Rescue

VOLUNTEER

Connect with like-minded people and make a difference for wildlife in BC. Learn more at wildliferescue.ca/volunteering

BECOME A MONTHLY DONOR

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

KEEP UP WITH WILDLIFE

Visit our website to sign up for Wildlife Rescue updates and education right to your inbox, read the latest stories about animals in care, learn the best tips to help wildlife, and more.

FOLLOW US ON SOCIAL

We are on Facebook @WildlifeRescue, Instagram @WildlifeRescueBC, Twitter/X @WRAofBC, and now on TikTok at @WildlifeRescueBC! You'll be the first to see updates from the hospital and in the field.

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

Leave a Legacy of Compassionate Care for Wildlife

Make a plan today to remain personally connected to wildlife and provide a legacy of sustainable impact and essential care for injured, orphaned, and pollution-impacted wildlife.

Whether you are naming Wildlife Rescue in your will or as beneficiary in a life insurance policy, maximizing the benefit of your retirement plan, or interested in a charitable gift annuity—the impact of a legacy gift will continue for many years to come.

If you are considering a legacy gift to Wildlife Rescue and are uncertain where to begin, we are happy to connect with you. We will provide basic guidance for your options, discuss the future needs of wildlife rehabilitation and how your gift will serve to ensure that the Wildlife Rescue Association of BC continues its vital programs.

If you are planning to make a legacy gift to Wildlife Rescue, please reach out and let us know. We want to honour your generosity and ensure you are confident in how your generosity supports wildlife.

LEARN MORE ABOUT LEAVING A WILD LEGACY

Email: giving@wildliferescue.ca

Call: (604) 526-2747 ext 502



Wildlife Rescue Association of BC

5216 Glencarin Drive
Burnaby, BC, V5B 3C1, Canada

Learn about the many ways you can support your local wildlife by visiting our website at wildliferescue.ca or by emailing info@wildliferescue.ca

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Wildlife Rescue Association of British Columbia is a
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Found Wildlife in Distress?

Call our Support Centre at (604) 526-7275



HOODED MERGANSERS