



2023

ANNUAL
REPORT



NATIONAL
WILDLIFE
CENTRE

Message from NWC



2023 Reflections

2023 was a year of exciting achievements for the NWC (National Wildlife Centre). As we reflect on the past year, we're thrilled to share our journey of preserving wildlife and building capacity to treat Canada's precious animals. We take great pride in the progress we've made towards fulfilling our mission.

Below are the highlights:



Breaking Ground: Our Project Evolution Initiative

In the fall of 2023, we broke ground on our most ambitious endeavor yet - our Wildlife Field Hospital. This monumental milestone represents a vital step towards increasing our capacity to provide expert care to wildlife in need.



Healing Hands: Our Mobile Wildlife Hospital

Our mobile wildlife hospital continued to deliver essential medical care to sick, injured and orphaned animals throughout the year, thanks to our dedicated veterinarians.



Building Capacity: Welcoming Veterinary Interns

We welcomed three veterinary interns, committed to our mission of wildlife care excellence, aiming to foster the next generation of wildlife veterinarians.

These accomplishments were made possible by the ongoing support of our dedicated team, supporters and local community members. We look forward to building on this progress in the coming year.

Thank you

The NWC Team

Who Are We?

Established in 2014, the NWC works at the interconnection of humans, Canadian wildlife, and the environment through a 'One Health' concept.

We help native wildlife through our programs aimed at conservation goals to protect ecosystems, populations of wild animals, and the health of individual animals. We seek to be recognized for our leadership, creation, and transfer of knowledge to others, highest quality and standards, and excellence in caring for wildlife.



Our Vision

Our vision is to be a Centre of Excellence for wildlife surgery, medicine, rehabilitation, conservation and education for current and future wildlife rehabilitators and veterinarians in Canada.



Our Mission

The mission of the NWC is to preserve Canada's wildlife and bring the wildlife community together. We see ourselves as a centralized national hub for wildlife surgery and training with accredited facilities across provinces to expand our reach and build capacity to care for wildlife in Canada.

We organize our goals around four critical pillars:



Wildlife Medicine & Rehabilitation



Education & Conservation



Knowledge Creation & Research



Wildlife Emergency, Preparedness & Prevention



Our Presence

Local

Operating primarily through our mobile vet hospital, we're reaching every corner of Ontario in collaboration with local wildlife rehabilitators. With construction underway for our Wildlife Field Hospital in Caledon, Ontario, we're gearing up to grow our capacity. We are anticipating over 10,000 calls annually from the public and committed to providing compassionate care to more than 5,000 animals each year.



National

Through dynamic partnerships with wildlife rehabilitation centres and a network of veterinary medical interns, we're making a difference across the country. Together, we're forging new pathways, sharing best practices, and pioneering innovative approaches to elevate the welfare of Canada's precious wildlife.

Partners

The NWC collaborates with, and offers assistance to wildlife rehabilitators throughout Ontario and across Canada. Dr. Sherri Cox also extends her support to various governmental agencies in addressing wildlife-related matters, including municipal animal services, local and provincial police departments, and governmental ministries.

Wildlife Rehabilitation Partners

- Alberta Institute for Wildlife Conservation (Madden, Alberta)
- Aspen Valley Wildlife Sanctuary (Rosseau, Ontario)
- Bluewater Centre for Raptor Rehabilitation (Plympton-Wyoming, Ontario)
- Bear With Us Centre for Bears (Sprucedale, Ontario)
- Hope for Wildlife (Seaforth, Nova Scotia)
- Procyon Wildlife Rehabilitation and Education Centre (Beeton, Ontario)
- Shades of Hope Wildlife Refuge (Pefferlaw, Ontario)
- Wildlife Haven Rehabilitation Centre (Île-des-Chênes, Manitoba)



NWC with Bear With Us providing critical medical care for an American Black Bear.



Caledon OPP worked with NWC to assist this injured Red-tail Hawk.

Our Team

Board of Directors

- Dr. Sherri Cox, Chair
- Tracey Cox, Vice-President & Secretary
- Stephen Helston, Vice-President
- Dr. Krista Halling, Director
- Susan Gosling, Director
- Dr. Dana Cox, Treasurer

Staff & Veterinary Team



Dr. Sherri Cox
Co-Founder and Medical Director



Dr. Krista Halling
Veterinarian



Octavio Perez
Co-Founder and Facility Manager



Dr. Mikaela Jahncke
Veterinarian



Diana Kouril
Executive Director



Dr. Cassandra Lapham-Simpson
Veterinarian



Dr. Dana Cox
Veterinarian



Dr. Daniela Losada
Veterinarian



Dr. Anjuli Dabydeen
Veterinarian



Dr. Cara Newberry
Veterinarian



Dr. Taryn Ellis
Veterinarian

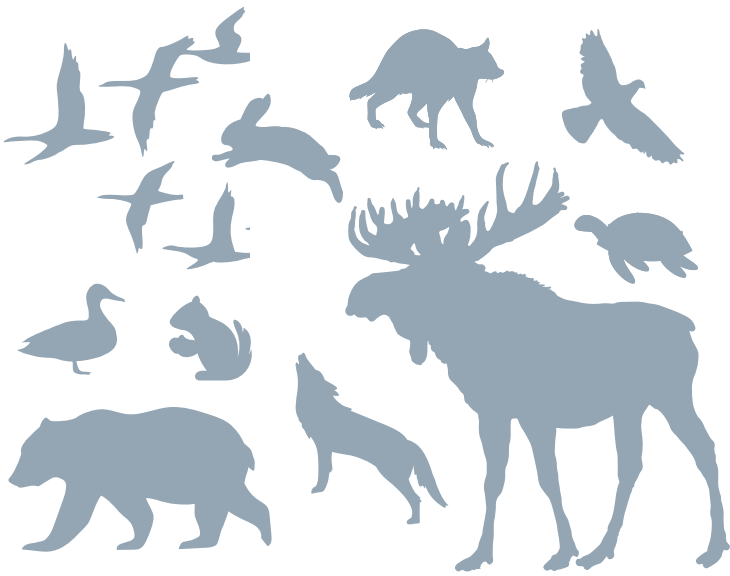


Dr. Nellissa Stalenhoef
Veterinarian

Year in Review



Animals Treated (Total Admissions)



Local Mobile Hospital

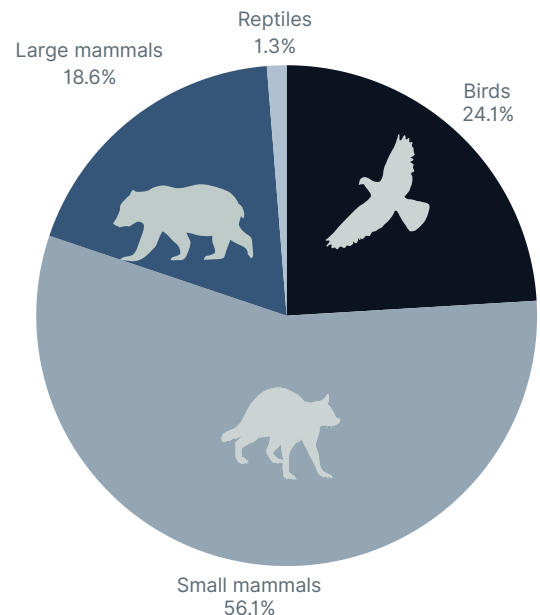
237 animals treated

61 species admitted

National Reach

Our dedicated wildlife rehabilitator partners admitted over 4,000 sick, injured, and orphaned wild animals in 2023, many of whom need NWC's medical support.

Admission by Species



Note: data from mobile wildlife hospital

Year in Review



Education & Training

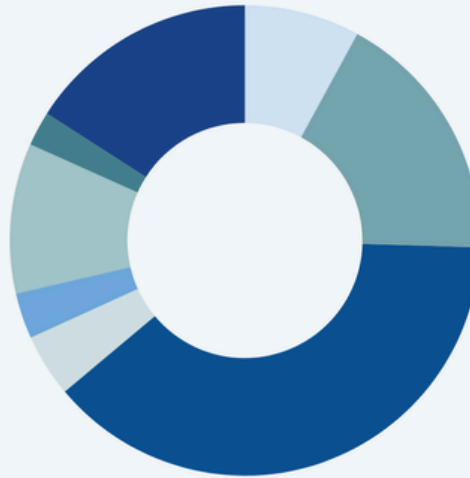
- Onboarded and trained 3 new veterinary interns in Alberta, Manitoba, and Ontario.
- Supported training of 27 new students in the Master of Wildlife Biology program at the University of Guelph (September - December 2023).
- Provided training through a virtual webinar program to 225 veterinarians and clinic staff with a focus on wildlife medicine (December 2023).
- Hosted our 2022 Gala Ride Along winner, for a captivating 'Day in the Life' experience. The winner witnessed firsthand the dedication and knowledge of our NWC medical team in treating sick and injured animals (May 2023).



Year in Review



Expenses \$529,244

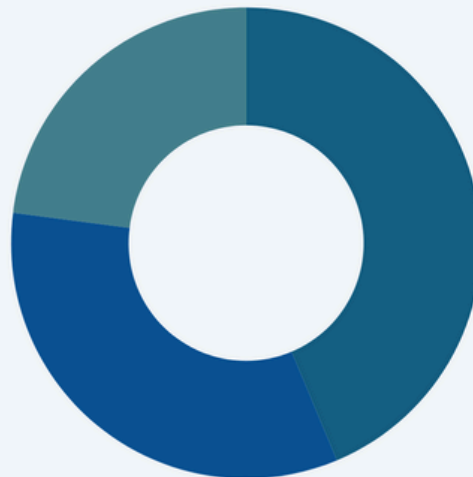


- Veterinary Medical Supplies and Equipment (8%)
- Wildlife Facility (18%)
- Capital Costs - NWC Property (38%)
- Staff Development (4%)
- Finance & Administration (3%)
- Vet Services (10%)
- General Operations (2%)
- Mobile Hospital (16%)



Capital Campaign:
Construction of Field Hospital
\$240,088

Revenue \$580,431



- Individual and monthly donations (44%)
- Corporate sponsorships and grants (33%)
- Other Income (23%)

Patient Spotlight

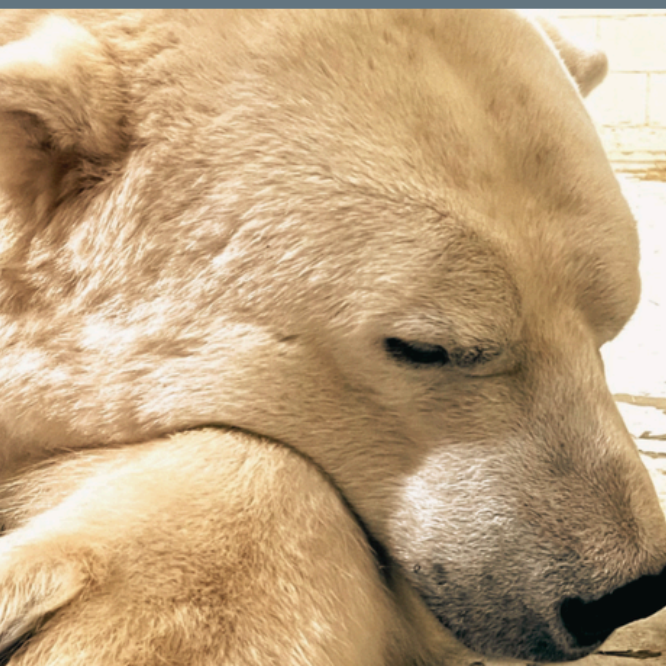


Great Blue Heron (*Ardea herodias*)

Rescued from a processing plant runoff pond in Alberta, this Great Blue Heron faced challenges due to environmental contaminants. Thanks to the dedicated efforts of NWC's Dr. Cassandra Lapham-Simpson and the team from Alberta Institute for Wildlife Conservation, our feathered friend received the care and attention needed to thrive once again.

After just over two weeks in the expert care of our team, including a thorough wash to remove contaminants from his feathers, this resilient heron took to the skies once more. During a flight test, he soared with grace and agility, showcasing his remarkable strength and resilience.

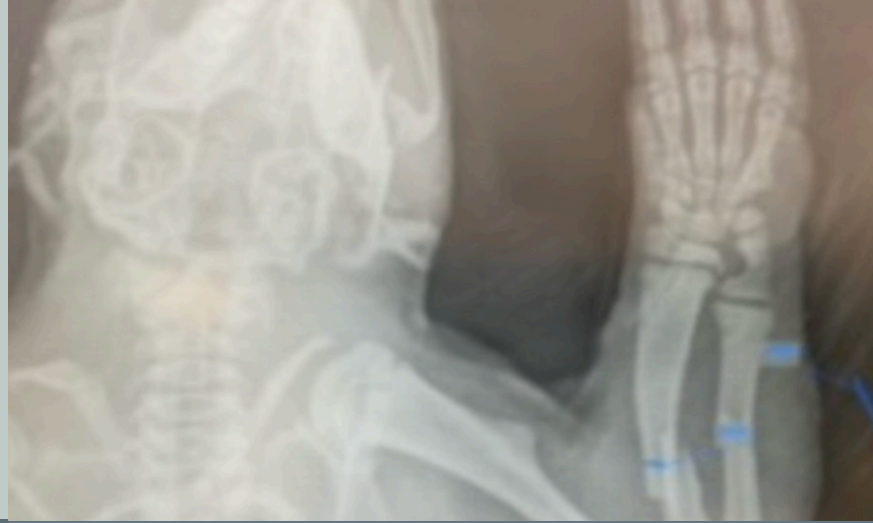
We are thrilled to announce that our Great Blue Heron has been successfully released back into the wild where he belongs!



Polar Bear (*Ursus maritimus*)

In December 2023, Dr. Sherri Cox arrived at Cochrane Polar Bear Habitat, performing health checks on three resident polar bears. We are happy to announce that all three bears underwent their procedures smoothly and are already on the path to recovery! This success wouldn't have been possible without the remarkable collaboration of the staff from: Cochrane Polar Bear Habitat, Bear With Us Centre for Bears, King Animal Hospital, Millson Veterinary Services and the Ministry of Natural Resources and Forestry.

Patient Spotlight



North American Porcupine (*Erethizon dorsatum*)

Meet our resilient friend, the porcupine who faced a daunting injury after a run-in with a vehicle left him with two broken legs. Thanks to the expertise of our NWC veterinary team, our spiky friend received top-notch care, with both legs expertly pinned for optimal healing. After a successful recovery, the pins were removed, and our brave buddy was ready to return to the wild.



White-Tail Deer (*Odocoileus virginianus*)

2023 was a tough winter for this young white-tailed deer. He was found limping through the woods with a high-powered arrow in his left front leg. Through the swift action of our team, the arrow was safely removed and the wound meticulously repaired. Without delay, he was reintroduced back into the wild.



American Black Bear (*Ursus americanus*)

Meet Lee, a young bear cub hit by a car near Bracebridge, Ontario. Under the expert care of Dr. Nellissa Stanelhoef, Lee underwent emergency surgery for a ruptured diaphragm and a broken leg. Thank you to Bear With Us and Aspen Valley Wildlife Sanctuary, he's now healing and will return back in the wild.



Photo Courtesy: Bear With Us



Media Reach



Polar bears at northern Ont. sanctuary undergo health checks under sedation

CTV News

December 2023

National Wildlife Centre breaks ground on Caledon field hospital

Caledon Enterprise

November 2023

Bear in care of wildlife experts after surviving over 100 pellets to face

CTV News

July 2023

Healing Powers

In the Hills

March 2023

Aggressive moose in Windy Lake tranquilized, sent to Muskoka animal rehab centre

CBC News

January 2023

Social Media Reach

Our social media audience has been steadily growing, with increased reach and followership.



4.5K Followers



970 Followers



181 Followers

Building Our Future



Breaking Ground

Our team is thrilled to announce that our new Wildlife Field Hospital is officially underway as part of our Project Evolution Initiative. Located in Caledon, Ontario, this facility will be a game-changer for wildlife medicine and training, providing vital care to sick, injured, and orphaned animals.

We broke ground on November 14th, 2023, surrounded by local councillors and amazing partners who've lent their support to this incredible project. Anticipated to open to the public in 2024, we are gearing up to receive hundreds of calls annually, ensuring every native animal gets the compassionate care it deserves. The future shines brighter than ever for Canada's invaluable wildlife.

Project Evolution Initiative

Phase 1: Constructing the Wildlife Field Hospital, allowing us to immediately care for wildlife (in progress).

Phase 2: Building a Centre of Excellence. The larger centre will serve as our national headquarters, clinical unit, and training hub.



Donors & Supporters



The NWC is grateful for the support of our donors and supporters, including a diverse range of individuals, foundations, and corporations who all come together in support of Canada's wildlife.

Airlie Foundation



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THE ANIMAL WELFARE FOUNDATION OF CANADA
FONDATION DU BIEN-ÊTRE ANIMAL DU CANADA

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