



Formula feeding a juvenile squirrel

Fall Update

As of December 1, 2006, the Rideau Valley Wildlife Sanctuary admitted more than 275 animals in 2006, up from 95 in 2005. This was due to an amazing team of volunteers, our summer students, and the generosity of our supporters.

Most of the animals we admitted were neonates (eyes-closed) or juveniles (teenagers). Some of the more interesting admit stories include (and all of the following were successfully released) an eastern grey squirrel burned all four paws on a car engine; a baby groundhog, being attacked by a crow, was rescued by a passing motorist; two different litters, one raccoons and the other red squirrels, were orphaned when the abandoned cars they were nesting in were towed to the dump leaving mother behind; a baby weasel was found in the middle of a highway; on Canada Day, a baby cottontail rabbit was rescued from being abused by teens on Parliament Hill; and a baby eastern gray squirrel was rescued by a bus driver on busy Albion Road.

We would like to take this opportunity to thank all of our supporters this year—our volunteers, donors and rescuers. While seeing a healthy animal released back to the wild is our best reward, it is the support and appreciation from the community that keeps us thriving, and will keep us going in the future.

Best wishes to everyone for the holiday season and a happy new year.

Linda Laurus
President



Two of our cozy, overwintering raccoons

About Us

The Rideau Valley Wildlife Sanctuary, founded in April 2005, is a registered charity (#82731 7744 RR0001). We are the only Authorized Wildlife Custodian for small mammals and rabies-vector species (raccoons, skunks, foxes) serving the Ottawa area.

Our mission is to care for injured or orphaned wildlife and return them to the wild. Our goal is to increase community understanding of wildlife and their environment and help prevent and solve human/wildlife conflict through education.

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Volunteer Recognition

A Huge Thanks to Our Volunteers

Without the support of our incredible volunteers, we would not have been able to help as many animals as we have. Every single one of our volunteers deserves specific mention for some way they went “out of their way” to help, whether that be their dedication and dependability, the number of hours worked, doing the grunge work, buying much needed supplies, dealing with the heat waves and insane mosquitoes, and even getting spouses involved.



One of four baby skunks (mom was hit by a car)

Our sincere thanks go to the over 100 volunteers who helped in 2006 in various capacities such as in-centre animal care assistants, foster caregivers, release site providers, cage builders, drivers, fundraisers and general helpers:

Adam, Aimee, Alicia C, Alisha, Amanda, Amber, Andrea, Angelica, Angelo, Anne, Ashley L, Aura, Barbara, Ben, Brooks, Caitlin, Carol, Chasity, Chelsea, Cheryl, Chris B, Chris G, Christina, Christine, Dan, Dani, Daniel C, Daniel K, Debbie, Deborah, Dianne, Dina, Dominique, Don, Donna, Erin, Eva, Gina, Gary, Heather, Ilan and Marianne, James C, James T, Jane, Janey, Jean, Jessica, Joan, Joanne and brother, Jodie, John, José, Julie, Kari, Karrie, Kathleen, Ken and Myra, Kim, Kimberlee, Lee, Lee-Anne, Linda A, Linda B and Harry, Linda F, Lisa, Mackenzie, Margaret M, Margaret P, Maria O, Maria W, Marianna, Mario, Maritza, Mary Beth and family, Michael, Michelle, Misha and friends, Monica, Natalie, Neil, Nicole, Niki, Norah, Paige, Pat, Rain, Rebecca, Rick, Sandra, Sarah, Scott, Stephanye, Sue B, Sue D, Sue M, Tanya, Teresa, Tom, and Tracy.❖

Special thanks also go to our two summer students with support from Human Resources and Social Development Canada’s Summer Career Placement Program. Christine, a biology student at Carleton University, and Galya, a zoology student at Guelph University, were instrumental in helping care for the animals and keeping us organized. ❖

1st Manotick Scouts

The scouting program tries to get youth involved in the community and be socially responsible. Some of the badge requirements call for youth to be involved in environment projects. When the 1st Manotick Scouts saw that a wildlife centre was starting up in the area, they felt that this would be a good opportunity to help a worthwhile cause and would be interesting for the youth. We are very grateful to the Manotick scouts for building two enclosures for juvenile raccoons. ❖

Volunteer Spotlight

Special appreciation goes to Janey and Kim for having put in the most volunteer hours. Janey, an experienced foster caregiver, volunteered almost every day during spring 2006 while I was busy training other volunteers. Once the training crunch was over, she continued to volunteer at least three mornings a week (and usually more) not to mention fostering squirrels and chipmunks, and bringing veggies (as she still does) for our residents. At one point, Jane called in her husband Kim (through the affectionately known “Honey Do” list) to help with much needed general maintenance and repairs. Apart from usual weekly help, Kim also assembled our overwintering squirrel enclosures this year. I refer to them as our “Angels” and it’s much deserved.

Another mention needs to go to Karrie and Pat. Also experienced fosters, they cared for more animals than any other volunteer (Rockland is now affectionately known as our “satellite location”). Karrie volunteered, particularly at the end of the season, all weekend long. And her husband Pat singlehandedly built most of our raccoon enclosures this summer. Pat, we’re not allowed to tell you how much food Karrie buys for the critters!❖



Piggies on a picnic

Wildlife Education



What NOT to do When You Find an Orphan

It seems to be a basic human instinct, and a good intention, to want to feed and nourish others. If someone comes across an orphaned animal, it is almost inevitable that they will think it needs food and will want to feed it. However, with orphaned wildlife, this can be very detrimental.

Firstly, it is illegal for the public to care for wildlife. Secondly, many wild animals that need rescuing are dehydrated and in shock and feeding them anything in this condition can be life-threatening—they cannot process food in this state. Thirdly, mammals have a very different diet than humans and cannot tolerate what you would typically find in the fridge (e.g. cow's milk). Lastly, but most importantly, feeding a baby animal any liquids without knowledge of the proper feeding techniques can result in aspiration (breathing fluid into the lungs).



One of our spring orphans

So please ignore those websites that tell you how to raise and feed an orphaned mammal (and ignore those home-made formula recipes too!) and don't rush off to the local pet store to buy a baby bottle and kitten formula. If you have found orphaned wildlife, please do not offer it any food or drink until you have talked to an authorized rehabilitator.

Call us or visit our website to find a rehabilitator and instructions on what you *should* do when you find orphaned wildlife. ❖



Princess, an orphaned skunk

OWREN Wildlife Rehabilitation Conference

We are happy to report that 37 people participated in the Ontario Wildlife Education and Rehabilitation Network (OWREN) two-day basic skills course in Ottawa, in October 2006. We need more authorized rehabbers in Ottawa!

Don't worry if you missed the course, you will have another opportunity at **OWREN's conference in Niagara Falls, February 5-10**. Veteran and new rehabbers from across the province come together to share their knowledge and expertise, network and learn. The basic skills course will be given the first two days, advanced skills courses the next two days and the conference on the final two days. Visit the OWREN website (www.owren-online.org) for conference updates and registration. If you are interested in becoming involved in wildlife rehabilitation or brushing up on your skills, this is not the opportunity to miss!

Wildlife Spotlight: White-tailed Deer

The Rideau Valley Wildlife Sanctuary does not have the facilities to rehabilitate deer at this time, and there are very few licensed deer rehabilitators in the province. Rehabbing deer is a huge expense, estimated at a cost of \$1000 per animal.

This summer, we fostered two fawns, which were likely “kidnapped” by well-meaning people who didn’t know that a fawn lying by the side of the road is not uncommon. We had them for several days before we could find a rehabber that accepted deer—the Aspen Valley Wildlife Sanctuary. A very big thanks to one of our fosters, Carol, who took care of the fawns and drove them five hours, there and back, to their new, temporary home.



Our two foster deer

We are reprinting the following with permission from and gratitude to Solitudes Wildlife Rehabilitation Centre.

- From our own experience at Solitudes, a **MINIMUM** of 75 percent of fawns that are encountered by humans are not orphaned.
- Does normally give birth to 1-2 fawns anywhere from April to July, although May and June births are most common. The fawns are small and vulnerable for a few weeks and nature ensures that they possess little scent, and sports for camouflage. Does do not normally stay close to the fawns at this age and visit to nurse and clean them anywhere from 4-6 hours, longer if predators are near.
- From birth up to 3 weeks, fawns generally curl up to sleep and hide. Some fawns may wander and “bleat.” Concerned but mislead people may believe the fawn is “orphaned.”

- White-tailed deer live in close proximity to humans and fawns may wander into backyards, outbuildings, farms and once even a church! The doe is almost always absent in these situations and will almost certainly not return until night when the threat of danger has lessened.
- Twin fawns are generally separate during the first few weeks of life—a survival ploy to increase the success rate of at least one fawn surviving predation.
- Does locate their hungry fawns through scent left on the ground from glands between their hooves. Fawns may “bleat” or “mew,” which provides an additional aid in the location of the fawn.

Fawn Needs Help If...

- Injured
- Has diarrhea (check under the tail—soft stool with toothpaste consistency OK; watery bad)
- Doe has been killed (must see body to confirm)
- Covered with flies and/or maggots/temperature low
- Has been in captivity for 2 or more days
- Has been given several feeds of cows milk, i.e. 8 oz or more
- Severely dehydrated. Please note that young fawns may appear frail and dehydrated when young. Many “rescuers” claim the fawn is underweight and dehydrated resulting in the “kidnapping” of the fawn.

Returning Fawns to Does ...

- Return fawn as close as possible to where found. If found on or beside a road, place out of right-of-way, preferably over the fence (if one) at that side of the road.
- Place fawn on the ground and leave quickly—fawns may follow!
- Return as soon as possible. Solitudes recommends leaving the fawn until next morning. Does often do not return until dark when the threat of danger has passed.
- Does DO NOT abandon their fawns—this is rare. The doe/fawn bond is very strong and Does will search for their fawns until her milk begins to “dry up” in 1 or 2 days.
- Human or pet scent will not keep the Doe from accepting the fawn.
- Keep all people and pets away from the sight for at least 3 days.
- Knowledge of natural predators in the area is an unacceptable motive for removing a fawn.
- If fawn is in the same location in the morning, re-evaluate health status. ❖

How You Can Help

Fundraisers Desperately Needed

If anyone would like to help with various aspects of fundraising—coordinating donation boxes, developing promotional materials, writing grant applications, approaching potential suppliers, or organizing events—we would greatly appreciate your help. ❖



We need lots of help with building cages

Animal Care Assistants

We are always looking for in-center volunteers to help with feeding orphaned wildlife and other fun stuff such as laundry, dishwashing, cage cleaning, etc. Animal care assistants are asked to commit to a consistent schedule for a minimum of four hours per week for three months. Most of the animal care occurs between April and October. Weekday volunteers are particularly needed. We arrange the volunteer schedule in February so be sure to call us early in the new year ❖



Nutter, who was injured in a fall from his nest

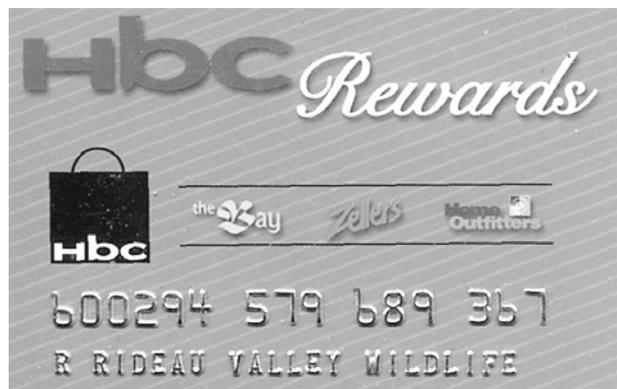
Foster Caregivers

To provide care to as many animals as possible and give them a fighting chance at survival, we foster wildlife to suitable families who provide temporary care of infant wildlife in their own home, in a quiet room away from domestic pets. This includes formula feedings several times a day until the animals are weaned. Time commitment varies from 2 to 6 weeks. We provide the training, caging and formula. We ask that foster caregivers provide solid foods.

We are particularly looking for raccoon fosters. Anyone who fosters rabies-vector species (raccoons, skunks, foxes) must first take a free, one-day rabies course from the Ministry of Natural Resources and pass an exam. If you would like to help, please contact us as soon as possible in 2007. ❖

Every little bit helps!

You can help us this season when you're braving the crowds at the Bay, Zellers or Home Outfitters. Consider using our HBC Rewards Card. We can redeem points for much-needed rehab supplies, food, cleaning products and more.



Our Wishlist

Rehabilitation Supplies

- towels, sheets, receiving blankets, fleece
- heating pads, hot water bottles
- small stuffed animals
- cat litter boxes, cat condos
- cages, x-pens, pet carriers, aquariums
- dog igloos
- pet food dishes, crocks and water bowls
- hamster water bottles
- heavy-duty gloves, welding gloves
- Esbilac powdered puppy formula
- rodent block
- striped sunflower seeds
- walnuts, almonds, chestnuts, acorns
- apples, bananas, grapes
- yams, broccoli, corn
- leafy greens, dandelions

Office Supplies

- double-sided printer
- general office supplies

Cleaning Products

- soap, disinfectants, bleach, etc.
- tissues, paper towels, j-cloths
- brooms and dustpans
- mops and water buckets
- garbage cans
- trash bags

Services

- printing
- construction and trades (heating, electrical, plumbing, drywall, carpentry)

Veterinary Supplies

- gauze, cotton batting, vet wrap
- syringes
- lab coats, scrubs
- incubators, heat lamps

Construction/Caging Materials

- lumber (2x2, 2x3, 2x4)
- ½" plywood
- ½" and 1" welded wire mesh
- tin roofing
- any fencing materials
- central air conditioner
- freezers (energy efficient)
- drywall
- linoleum or other cleanable flooring
- full-spectrum lighting

Many Thanks To...

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TD Friends of the Environment Foundation



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Veterinary Clinics

Dr. Robert Turmel, Richmond Animal Hospital
 Dr. Andrew Sparling, Osgoode Veterinary Clinic
 Dr. Jeanne Vachon, Clinique Vétérinaire Lafontaine



Special mention goes to Carling Animal Hospital, who donated a lot of their furnishings when they moved to their new clinic location; and Wildcare, a former wildlife rehabilitation centre out of Toronto, for donating a trailer load of rehabilitation equipment. Thanks also to Dr. Katherine Jones who provided veterinary support in 2005.



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Yes, I want to help injured, sick or orphaned wildlife!

In 2006, the Rideau Valley Wildlife Sanctuary helped more than 275 orphaned, sick or injured wild animals, but there were many more that needed help. With your help and generosity, we can give a second chance at life to even more animals in 2007.

Name: _____

Address: _____

City: _____ Province: _____

Postal Code: _____

Email: _____

Phone: _____ Date: _____



Membership

In addition to demonstrating your support of the work we do, our members receive our newsletter four times per year and advance notice of special events. Members are also invited to attend our Annual General Meeting.

- Individual \$25/year Life \$500 one time only Small Business \$100/year
 Student/Senior \$15/year School \$35/year Corporate \$1000/year
 Family \$40/year

- I am attaching a cheque or money order, made payable to the Rideau Valley Wildlife Sanctuary.
 I am making a credit card payment through CanadaHelps.Org (see below for instructions).

Donation

Please accept my one-time gift of \$ _____. I am attaching a cheque or money order made payable to the Rideau Valley Wildlife Sanctuary.

Please accept my monthly gift of \$ _____. I have enclosed a void cheque. I authorize the Rideau Valley Wildlife Sanctuary to arrange automatic withdrawals from my bank account on the _____ day of every month. I may change or cancel at any time by contacting the Rideau Valley Wildlife Sanctuary.

Credit Card Payments

Currently, we accept credit card payments for memberships and donations through CanadaHelps.org. CanadaHelps, a public charitable foundation, is Canada's only donation portal that provides access to all of Canada's 80,000 charities. For donors, CanadaHelps.org simplifies the donating process, making it easy, quick and secure. Please visit <http://www.canadahelps.org> and search for Rideau Valley Wildlife Sanctuary.

Tax-deductible receipts are issued for memberships and donations over \$10.00
(Charitable Registration #: 82731 7744 RR0001).

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THANK YOU FOR HELPING US TO HELP THE ANIMALS!