

A Whirlwind Spring

Thanks to the community, the Rideau Valley Wildlife Sanctuary (RVWS) was able to help almost 500 injured or orphaned wildlife in 2012.

Most of our patients were successfully returned back to their natural habitats in late summer or fall. We helped several injured wildlife during the winter and continued to care for the injured turtles that needed more time for their broken shells to heal before going back home this spring.

As we continue to increase our capacity through generous donors and expansion of our facilities, we expect an even higher number of patients in 2013. But, we didn't expect it so soon.

We admitted our first orphaned patient, Charlotte the porcupine, on March 15. Such an early birth for that species may have predicted an early spring birthing season for wildlife in general, but the cold weather and lingering snow made for a quiet few weeks. And then the floodgates opened.

As of May 25, RVWS has admitted more than 250 animals! These include injured adult turtles, and orphaned squirrels, raccoons, chipmunks, a skunk, a fox (photo above) and even more porcupines.

Thanks to your generosity and the tireless dedication of full-time volunteer interns and a record number of 60 weekly volunteers, RVWS is a flurry of activity as babies continue to thrive and grow, well on their way to release back to the wild.

Thank you for allowing us the opportunity to help give wildlife a second chance. We hope to see you at our Annual Open House on June 15.



Annual Open House – June 15

Join us for our annual Open House on Saturday, June 15, between 12:00 p.m. and 4:00 p.m., rain or shine.

There will be sanctuary tours (with one-way viewing windows) where you can see wildlife being fed, a silent auction, craft sale, bake sale, entertainment, barbecue and kids' activities.

Please register at <http://rvws/eventbrite.ca>. The event is free and your registration helps us plan to have enough food and drinks.

Donations are greatly appreciated towards the care of injured and orphaned wild mammals and turtles. Donations from our wishlist on our website (www.rideauwildlife.org) are also greatly appreciated.

Our Wild Patients

This robust snapping turtle was released this spring back to his native habitat off Moodie Drive in Nepean. Admitted last August, Franklin had parts of his carapace scraped off, likely from a car that straddled him on the road. Snappers will often rise up when threatened, which can bring them into contact with the undercarriage of a car.



This litter of seven red squirrels – all female – were just two weeks old, eyes closed and only 25 grams each when they arrived. Alone for several days, they were severely dehydrated, and required oral and subcutaneous electrolytes every few hours. All seven squirrels have now doubled in size.



Charlotte, our first baby of the season, arrived on March 15. Porcupines are born fully developed, fully quilled and eyes opened. She will remain in our care until she is old and strong enough to survive on her own in the wild. She now spends her days in an outdoor enclosure, practicing her tree climbing skills. We have since admitted two more baby porcupines.



This five-week old Eastern Grey Squirrel had an unfortunate encounter with a dog and ended up with a broken leg. Being in a growth phase, and with the help of antibiotics to treat an infection, he mended well. He is now with some other squirrel buddies and is almost ready for release.



This two-week old skunk was dropped by his mom when she was startled and scared off. Unfortunately she wasn't able to retrieve him so he's come to RVWS for care. He's now opened his eyes and has a healthy appetite.



Is that baby rabbit really orphaned?

Eastern Cottontail Rabbits are very difficult to raise in a rehabilitation setting due to their sensitive and delicate nature. The stress of captivity and human handling can be quite detrimental, and success rates are low. Letting mother take care of them naturally is their best chance at survival.

Eastern Cottontails make their nests in burrows, a depression in a garden and even in the middle of a lawn. The nest is usually covered with dried grass and bits of the mother's fur. These babies are just over two weeks old and will soon be on their own. .



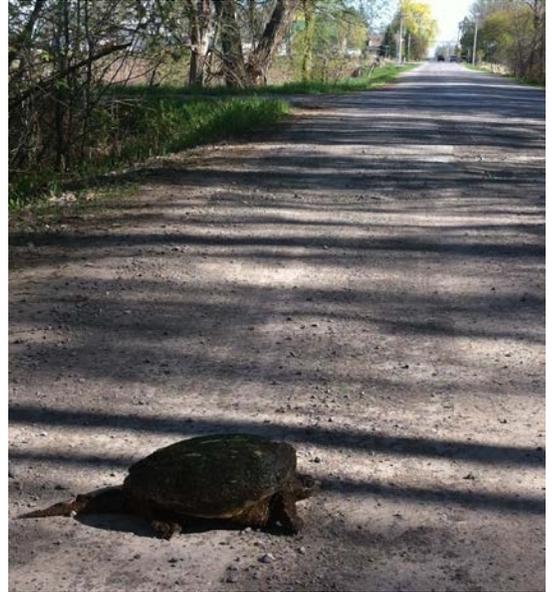
Mothers leave the nest during the day to draw attention away from the young. The mother usually returns when dark, at dusk and dawn, to nurse the bunnies so it is not unusual to never see the mother.

If you find or uncover a nest of cottontails and they show no signs of illness or injury (see our website), it is best to put the babies back where you found them and cover them up with the nesting material. Moving a rabbit's nest is not recommended since the mother might not find it.

To be sure the mother is coming back to feed them, place several twigs on top of the whole nest in a checkerboard fashion. If the twigs have been moved after the next feeding time (dawn or dusk), the mother returned to feed them.

Their best chance for survival is to let the mother raise them, so keep children and pets away from them for this short time. If you need to let a pet out during the day, you can protect the nest by keeping your pet on leash, or covering the nest temporarily with a recycle bin or laundry basket and monitoring your pet. But remember not to leave the nest covered too long in warm weather.

The good news is that a nest of cottontail bunnies in your yard is a temporary situation, lasting only about four weeks from birth. A cottontail that is about four inches long (photo right), eyes open and ears erect is on its own and should be left alone.



Why did the turtle cross the road?

Many of the turtles hit by cars are adult females on their way to lay eggs on dry land and June is the height of nesting season.

You can help turtles across the road in the direction it is going. Do not handle the turtle any more than is necessary and never pick up a turtle by the tail, which could damage its spine.

But, careful helping a snapping turtle across the road – keep a safe distance from their head as it can reach past its midpoint if it feels threatened. You can coax a snapper across the road using a shovel or a board, or by allowing it to bite a long stick and pulling it across the road.

With seven of Ontario's eight turtle species at risk, saving even one turtle can make a difference.



Can you help us go home?

Are you willing to share your property with rehabilitated wildlife? At RVWS, finding appropriate private property to release animals back to the wild is the hardest part of our job.

Release sites for squirrels include quiet rural or suburban areas away from busy roads. Habitat should include hardwood or pine forests, native squirrels in the area, and a tree in your backyard (without existing squirrel nests) where we can place the squirrel's nesting box.

Release sites for other mammals, such as raccoons and skunks, normally include rural areas and large acreages, away from urban developments, with a mixed mature forest and a water source.

For more information, call us at 613-258-9480 or complete the online release application form on our website at www.rideauwildlife.org/volunteer.



Wildlife Centre Improvements

Ever since we opened our doors in 2005, we have continued to expand our facilities and services to the community and, of course, the wildlife in need of care. Thanks to generous individuals and local businesses, we have been busy preparing for even more spring arrivals. With donations of supplies, we have refinished floors, and installed new doors, partitions and cabinets. Our thanks go to the individual donors, and A1 Mann Construction, Access Rigging, Braycorp, Deslauriers Custom Cabinets, Karson Group, Merlin Door and Sapacon Drywall.

Connect with us



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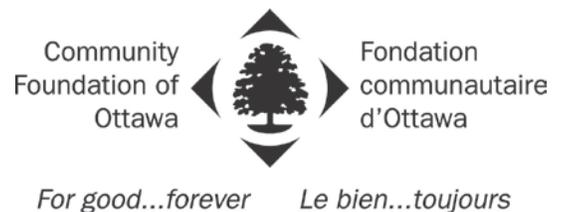
P.O. Box 266, North Gower, ON, K0A 2T0

Wildlife Rehabilitation Enclosures Project

RVWS is grateful for the support of the Community Foundation of Ottawa over the years, and we're excited this year to receive funding towards the purchase of materials and construction of additional outdoor enclosures. The four 8'x16' wire enclosures can be subdivided into eight smaller enclosures and will last for at least 10 to 15 years. The enclosures will support rehabilitating foxes, fawns, groundhogs, skunks and raccoons.

The Community Foundation of Ottawa is a public, non-profit organization created by and for the people of Ottawa. It connects donors who care with causes that matter and serves as a trusted resource for addressing issues and leveraging opportunities in the community. It attracts and manages a growing endowment, the invested earnings of which provide grants to charitable organizations.

The Foundation's role is as neutral broker in support of all charitable causes that contribute to the community's quality of life. With a growing profile, the Community Foundation of Ottawa has built an enviable reputation for astute financial management, high-quality donor services, strategic grantmaking and innovative partnerships. For more information, visit www.cfo-fco.ca.



Our Wishlist

Thank you to all of our wishlist donors! We are always grateful for donations of new and gently-used supplies:

Animal Care Supplies

- receiving blankets, towels, sheets, fleece
- electric heating pads without automatic shut-off
- small stuffed animals
- durable plastic kids' toys
- cat litter boxes
- extra-large plastic dog carriers, rabbit cages
- tip-proof pet food dishes, crocks, water bowls
- disposable gloves
- heavy-duty gloves, welding gloves
- remote surveillance system

Turtle Supplies

- x-large (200+ litre) Rubbermaid containers, rigid pond liners and plastic feeding troughs (no aquariums please)
- light timers and power bars
- aquarium thermometers
- aquarium heaters with plastic guards
- large aquarium filters
- clip-on lights
- UVB and full-spectrum light bulbs
- large, smooth aquarium gravel
- cuttlebones and Rep-Cal Herptivite
- fish, worms (earthworms, waxworms, blackworms), crickets, snails, crabs, crayfish, clams, freshwater mussels (year round)

Foods (April to October)

- rodent block
- striped sunflower seeds
- nuts in shell (almonds, filberts, walnuts, peanuts)
- natural foods (walnuts, acorns, green pinecones)
- fruits (apples, bananas, grapes, berries)
- vegetables (yams, broccoli, corn, carrots, greens)

Cleaning Products

- kleenex, paper towels
- extra-large trash bags
- bleach
- dish soap, laundry detergent
- liquid hand sanitizer
- brooms and dustpans
- mops and water buckets
- garbage cans

Veterinary Supplies

- stainless steel cage banks
- medium-sized scales
- disposable gloves
- syringes and needles (all sizes)
- lactated ringers, plasmalyte
- chlorhexidine, betadine, sterile saline
- vet wrap, gauze and cotton batting

Caging Materials

- lumber (all sizes), plywood
- ½" and 1" welded wire mesh
- 6 ft chain link

Office Supplies

- postage stamps
- computer paper, envelopes
- clipboards

Services

- English to French translation
- construction and trades
- waste disposal
- website design and management

Fundraise for Wildlife

When you hold an event in support of RVWS, you are contributing towards the care of hundreds of injured and orphaned wild mammals and turtles. You also help spread the word about the availability of our services and demonstrate your commitment to wildlife.

This year, many friends of all ages held fundraisers to benefit the animals at RVWS. The response was fantastic. Collectively, these events raised more than \$6,000, proving that every donation, large or small, makes a difference!

If you are planning an event in support of the sanctuary, please contact us. We can help to promote your event, provide brochures and displays, and more.





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

RVWS relies entirely on donations from the public, foundations and businesses to continue our work. With your support, we can help give wildlife a second chance at life.

Name: _____ Date: _____

Address: _____

City: _____ Province: _____ Postal Code: _____

Phone: _____ Email (optional): _____

I would like to receive your e-newsletter

Please accept my monthly gift of: \$ _____

Joining our monthly donor program allows us to plan ahead, knowing we can count on your support all year round. It also helps us save on administrative and mailing costs. Tax receipts are issued for the full year's donations early in the next calendar year, or upon request.

I authorize the Rideau Valley Wildlife Sanctuary to deduct the above amount from my credit card on the 15th of each month. I understand that I can cancel this arrangement at any time by notifying the Rideau Valley Wildlife Sanctuary.

Visa Mastercard

Card #: Expiry Date (mm/yy): /

Name on Card: _____ Signature: _____

Please accept my one-time gift of: \$ _____

Donation: \$ _____ and/or **Membership:** Individual \$25/yr Family \$40/yr Student/Senior \$15/yr
 School \$35/yr Business \$100/yr Corporate \$1000/yr
 Life \$500

Payment Method:

Visa Mastercard Cheque/Money Order Cash

Card #: Expiry Date (mm/yy): /

Name on Card: _____ Signature: _____

To donate online, visit www.rideauwildlife.org.

Thank you for helping native wildlife!

Please mail to:
 Rideau Valley Wildlife Sanctuary, P.O. Box 266, North Gower, Ontario K0A 2T0
 Tel (613) 258-9480 / Fax (613) 258-2601 / www.rideauwildlife.org / info@rideauwildlife.org

Tax receipts are issued for donations and memberships over \$10.00, or on request.
 Charitable Registration # 82731 7744 RR0001