



Rideau Valley Wildlife Sanctuary

Newsletter



(613) 258-9480

Spring 2012

About RVWS

The Rideau Valley Wildlife Sanctuary (RVWS) is a registered charity that treats and cares for injured or orphaned wild mammals and turtles until they are healthy enough to be returned to their natural habitats. The Sanctuary is the only licenced rehabilitator of wild mammals and turtles serving the Ottawa and Rideau Valleys. We also offer advice on co-existing peacefully with wildlife and provide humane, cost-effective ways to prevent or solve wildlife conflicts. The Rideau Valley Wildlife Sanctuary has cared for more than 2,000 animals since 2005.

RVWS to re-open May 2

RVWS is stunned and delighted by the outpouring of support resulting in \$100,000 in donations. On April 1, the Rideau Valley Wildlife Sanctuary had raised only \$11,500 of a needed \$100,000 and sadly informed volunteers and interns that the sanctuary would not be able to admit injured and orphaned wild mammals and turtles this year.

In the weeks that followed, the response from past and new supporters, all across Canada, has been incredible, including single donations of \$23,500 and \$10,000.

The Rideau Valley Wildlife Sanctuary will open with limited capacity May 2 and will be prepared for full capacity by (or before) May 15. Thank you to everyone for your support of wildlife.

Is this Animal *really* Orphaned?

Many baby wildlife are mistakenly taken by well-meaning people who do not know that it is normal for some wildlife to leave their young alone during the day or who later find them when they do get lost.

It is common for many wildlife mothers to leave their young alone to feed or draw attention away from their babies. For example, cottontail rabbits only return to the nest to feed their young twice a day; deer often leave fawns alone in tall grass or by the side of a road and return only several times a day to nurse. If you've taken a wild baby and it doesn't have any signs of needing rescuing (see below), put it back and leave the area—the mother will likely return to collect it given the opportunity. If the mother does not collect the baby within several hours, it might need rescuing.

In the meantime, give us a call if you are unsure whether a wild animal needs rescuing or need tips on trying to reunite orphaned young with their mother.

Live-Trapping is NOT humane!

Although once a popular answer to wildlife problems, live-trapping and relocating wildlife is no longer considered a humane solution. Here are some reasons why trapping and relocating wildlife is not a solution:

- in Ontario, it is illegal to relocate wildlife more than one kilometre
- trapping and relocating adults may leave babies behind to die from starvation and dehydration
- relocated wildlife may not survive because of competition with native wildlife and the inability to find appropriate nesting places, food and water
- animals can suffer stress, injuries and even death trying to escape from traps
- baited traps can attract domestic pets or untargeted wildlife (skunks!)
- relocated wildlife can spread diseases and parasites to other areas
- removing animals will just create vacant territory for other wildlife to move in

Instead of trapping and relocating, please visit our website for humane, cost-effective solutions or call us for advice.

When does wildlife need rescuing?

An animal needs rescuing when it:

- is vocalizing or following people or pets
- is cold to the touch (this might be a temporary rescue)
- is bleeding, injured, very weak or lethargic
- has fluid discharging or bubbling from the nostrils or mouth
- has a sunken abdomen, sunken eyes or looks emaciated
- is gasping for breath or has rasping or clicking sounds when breathing
- has visible parasites crawling all over the body
- has been handled by a cat or dog
- is found near a dead adult or sibling
- is wandering
- is in imminent danger (e.g., from predators, traffic)

If any of these conditions are present, please **contact a wildlife rehabilitator immediately** and follow the general instructions on our website at www.rideauwildlife.org. ***Do not give an animal anything to eat or drink until you have spoken with a wildlife rehabilitator.***

Our Memorable Wild Patients

When people hear about RVWS and the work we do, the question they ask most often is, “Where do the animals come from?” In this issue, we recount some of the more memorable stories from the last six years—stories about animals, the people who found them and volunteers who cared for them. *All of the animals in these stories were successfully released back to the wild.*

2005

A baby squirrel had a lame hind leg but x-rays did not show any injuries. Margaret P, our first foster volunteer, massaged the squirrel’s lame leg twice a day upon advice from a homeopath. The squirrel regained full use of her leg and was released in the spring.



2006

Not a happy story but a happy ending—a baby cottontail rabbit was rescued from being abused by teenagers on Parliament Hill on Canada Day.



2007

“Ms. Muffet” was rescued by a passerby on Greenbank Road who noticed some noise coming from a garbage can, where she found a baby raccoon sealed in a plastic garbage bag.



2008

We received an extremely emaciated adult Red Fox that had a severe case of mange. Mange, a skin mite, can be fatal but easily treated if caught in time.



Join the Rideau Valley Wildlife Sanctuary on *Facebook!*



Another sad story in that teenagers were found abusing a baby raccoon, but happy in that a bystander intervened. "Jaws" had several surgeries under the care of Dr. Turmel, Richmond Animal Hospital, and his broken jaw and extracted tooth healed remarkably well.



'Sinead' the skunk arrived almost completely bald except for her head and feet. As you can see from the photos, the infamous skunk markings are visible in the pigments of her skin. After medical treatment, she grew back a lustrous, full coat of fur.



2009

"Hat" the raccoon kit came in with a broken femur but his leg mended beautifully



2010

George the groundhog was found by a dog, but mended beautifully.



Our Corporate and Foundation Supporters

A special thank you to:

- Community Foundation of Ottawa
- Elvis Sighting Society
- HIVA Environmental Fund
- IceGreen Reusable Eco Bags
- TD Friends of the Environment Foundation, Ottawa Chapter and Ottawa Valley Chapter



Our Wishlist

We are always grateful for donations of new and gently-used supplies:

- receiving blankets, towels, sheets, fleece
- electric heating pads
- cat litter boxes
- tip-proof pet food dishes, crocks, water bowls
- puppy/dog kibble
- striped sunflower seeds
- natural foods (walnuts, chestnuts, acorns, pinecones)
- fruits (apples, bananas, grapes, berries)
- vegetables (yams, broccoli, corn, leafy greens)
- kleenex, paper towels
- x-large trash bags
- dish soap, bleach, laundry detergent
- liquid hand sanitizer
- disposable and rubber gloves
- modern computer, screen and keyboard (or laptop)
- telephone (preferably speaker capability)
- video camera
- postage stamps
- paper, envelopes, etc.
- lumber (all sizes), plywood
- ½" and 1" welded wire mesh
- printing sponsor

I would like to help injured, sick or orphaned wildlife!

Our work is made possible through the generous donations from the community, foundations and corporations. With your support, we can help give a second chance at life to even more animals.

Name:	
Address:	
City:	
Province: PC:	
Email:	
Phone:	Date:
Donation: \$	

Membership:

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

() Cheque () Cash:

For secure **Credit Card** payments, please visit our website at <http://www.rideauwildlife.org> or **CanadaHelps** at <http://www.canadahelps.org> and search for Rideau Valley Wildlife Sanctuary.

Mail to:
Rideau Valley Wildlife Sanctuary
P.O. Box 266
North Gower, Ontario K0A 2T0

THANK YOU FOR HELPING US TO HELP THE ANIMALS!

Tax-deductible receipts are issued for donations or memberships over \$10.00

(Charitable Registration # 82731 7744 RR0001)