



Some magical releases from the last 20 years

They say it's the most wonderful time of the year. For us, release days are the most wonderful time of the year! That is when the true magic of our work really shines through. Words cannot express the emotions that flood through me when a previously injured soul saunters off – or runs like the wind – back home to the wild.

Recently, I have been reflecting on the most memorable rescues from the last 20 years. Stories about the animals, the people involved in their rescues, the staff and volunteers who cared for them, and our donors who made everything possible. I hope you enjoy these incredible stories.

An extraordinary rescue and example of teamwork!



It all started when a woman was driving along a highway at night. Suddenly, a raccoon darted out in front of her car...there was nothing she could do to avoid it. There was a sickening thud, and she assumed the worst. She pulled over but didn't see any evidence of a collision on the road, only bits of fur on the grill. **The next morning, she was shocked to find the raccoon trapped inside the grill of her car – still alive!**

Two mechanics we knew and a staff member took hours to disassemble the front of the car to free the raccoon. We could only imagine the pain and fear she endured for almost 18 hours.

Miraculously, x-rays only showed a fractured arm bone. A summer student drove the raccoon to a Dr. Sherry Cox, a wildlife surgeon at the National Wildlife Centre in Caledon. She required pins to hold the bone pieces together.

'Jaime' (affectionately named after the 'Bionic' Woman), slowly began bearing weight. After six weeks, we made another trip to Caledon to have the pins removed. Back home, we gave Jaime more space to move around. We gradually added climbing structures to slowly exercise and strengthen her muscles. It was a months-long road to recovery, but she was successfully released back to the wild. It was a **magical** day for all those involved in her rescue!



Match your donation and have TWICE the impact!

We are excited to share that your holiday donation will be matched! Several RVWS supporters have teamed together to generously match \$25,000 in gifts until December 31st! We are so grateful to each one of them! The magic of the season is so incredible!

Here are the ways to donate

- Make a [one-time donation](#)
- Join our [monthly giving program](#)
- Make a [tribute donation](#) in honour or in memory of a friend or loved one
- Send an e-transfer with your address and phone number to info@rideauwildlife.org
- Mail a cheque to P.O. Box 266, North Gower, ON K0A 2T0 (should be postmarked before or on December 31, 2025 to receive a 2025 tax receipt)

Wiley, the famous smiling coyote

If you're an RVWS fan, donor or animal lover, here's another amazing story that you too can help with in the future by giving today. In the fall of 2016, we were notified about a mangy, limping coyote who was seen frequently on a golf course. Luckily, staff knew where his den was, so we were able to trap him. 'Wiley', as named by our social media fans, had the worst case of mange we had ever seen. He was almost hairless and had numerous infected wounds.



X-rays revealed that he also had a fractured pelvis. Thankfully, the fracture would eventually heal on its own, but required cage rest. We joined two large metal dog crates together that allowed him to stand up and take some steps, with space for bedding, food and water. He received treatment for his mange and daily pain medication.



Pictured here, early on in his recovery, he had started to grow his fur back. Our social media post was picked up by 'The Dodo' as the smiling coyote, making him a bit famous.

Once he was more mobile, he got the run of the room, with his crate as his den. Keeping him occupied involved a lot of creative enrichment like food puzzles, natural foods, and greenery. One day, on a whim, I dumped a garbage bag of stuffed toys on the floor. Later that day, he had gathered all the stuffies in a circle to make himself a nest. I wish I had a photo 😊.

Once he had full mobility, and gained back most of his fur and some much-needed weight, he was released in early spring. Bye Wiley!

A traumatic start to life for a newborn fawn

I think a little magic was on his side that night...

Sometimes, it takes a village of kind people to save one tiny creature. In May 2017, OPP officers responded to a call about a white-tailed deer that had been hit by a car. Once on scene, the officers realized the doe was giving birth and assisted in the delivery.

Sadly, the mother did not survive. But, the officers brought the fawn to the Perth OPP station to keep warm. They immediately called RVWS and one of our volunteer drivers transported the fawn from Perth to the Sanctuary.



RVWS animal care staff worked to warm and hydrate the baby. At the same time, we called our friends at Sandy Pines Wildlife Centre in Napanee to arrange for the fawn's transfer. They had the essential colostrum (the first milk produced after birth that gives a baby essential nutrients and antibodies). They also had the large, specialized enclosure to house older fawns. We were informed that he thrived with his herd mates and was released that fall.

These are just a few of our most memorable and magical stories. I would have to write a book to share all of them with you. Through everything, our donors have always been there for us, making our life-saving work possible. Thank you for being such an important part of our team.

I hope you will work your **magic** and [give this holiday season](#). You and your gift today will help us be ready for 2026 and help make more happy endings possible.

Wishing you and yours the best of everything this Christmas and holiday season.

With hope, determination and gratitude,

A handwritten signature in blue ink that reads "Linda". The signature is fluid and cursive, with a long, sweeping underline.

Linda Laurus
Founder and Executive Director

P.S. Our patients, no matter their situation, have already been dealt a bad hand. You and your gift can help get them back on their feet and home to the wild.

P.P.S. Please remember that from now until December 31st, all gifts will be matched to a maximum of \$25,000. All gifts matter and make a difference for animals.