

Dear Friends,

I hope you've been enjoying hearing about some of our most memorable patients and magical releases throughout the month. I feel it's important to share them and it reminds all of us how important our work is.

We are so grateful to be here for wildlife during their time of greatest need.

And please always remember that we couldn't help them without you.

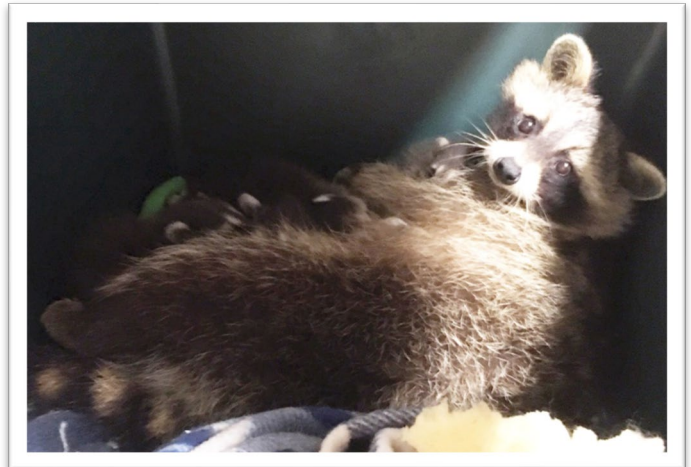
Thank you for being an important part of our team.

Here's another story about how you and your support make a difference. **In this case, we were so relieved that this momma raccoon couldn't count!**

We received an injured, adult raccoon in late winter who was found on the side of the road. She had some neurological problems and wasn't displaying normal aggressive behaviour, likely caused by head trauma from an accident. Over the next month, she gained weight, her neurological issues resolved and her behaviour became normal. Sometimes, it just takes some quiet time to heal naturally. So, we scheduled her for release back to the wild in a few days.

We should have been a bit quicker about the release date! One morning, staff went in for the daily clean and food/water replacement and heard the familiar sounds of newborn baby raccoons. She gave birth the night before her release day! (it's hard to see the babies in the shadows)

We couldn't release them at this point because the babies needed warmth and care by mom around the clock. Mom wouldn't be able to find her den or make a new one, and keep her newborns safe at the same time. We couldn't risk their health.



We quickly examined her four babies and found them to be in good health. We had three other orphaned babies about the same age and weight so we decided to see if she would take them all. Raccoons are known to adopt young orphans and we've done this successfully before. After all, momma raccoons are much better at caring for babies than we are.



We put all seven babies back in the room on a blanket near her carrier. Closely monitoring from the one-way viewing window and a webcam, we watched as she quickly gathered up all seven babies into the carrier and began nursing them. With a large room, quiet environment, cozy nest and no need to forage, momma was happy and raised some fat babies.

After several months, once the babies' eyes opened and they were walking, we moved everyone to an outdoor soft release enclosure, which was close to where she was found. We watched through the webcam - she nursed her babies, and the babies started to explore and eat solid foods. She was allowed out to explore at times so she could find a nest. Once she was ready, she moved the babies one-by-one to a safe spot in the wild. Another happy ending for eight animals thanks to the

compassion and kindness of many people.

You and your support today mean so much. You will help take away pain through medication. You will help ease hunger by providing nourishing, healthy food. You will help provide a gentle, safe place to rest and recover. You and your gift mean a second chance for the patients in our care now, and for those needing help in 2026.

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)

Wishing you the best this Christmas and holiday season. With hope, determination and gratitude always,

Linda

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.