



Dear Linda,

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It can be a busy time for many of us, so I thought I'd touch base with a gentle reminder about our holiday appeal.

Wild animals do not feel self-pity like we might. They are driven to survive – that's all. They have it figured out through evolution. Survival drives everything they do – when to hunt, when to sleep, where to sleep, when to mate, when to flee danger.

What they don't expect is to end up at Rideau Valley Wildlife Sanctuary. But, we are proud to be here for them during their time of greatest need. **And, we are blessed to have our donors by our side making our work possible – thank you.**

In every story that I shared with you throughout December, they survived. But, not because of their wild instincts--because of so many caring and generous people. Here is a recap:

Wiley, the smiling coyote with a bad case of mange and a fractured pelvis, was helped by the people who noticed him on the golf course, and the staff and volunteers at RVWS. 'The Dodo' made him a bit famous because of his smile, and brought attention to RVWS and the important work we do.

Jaime, the super tough raccoon, was hit by a car, trapped in the grill, and endured 18 hours of fear and pain. She was helped by so many people: the driver of the car, the two mechanics and staff member who took the car apart, the volunteers who drove her around, the surgeon who fixed her broken arm, and the staff and volunteers at RVWS.



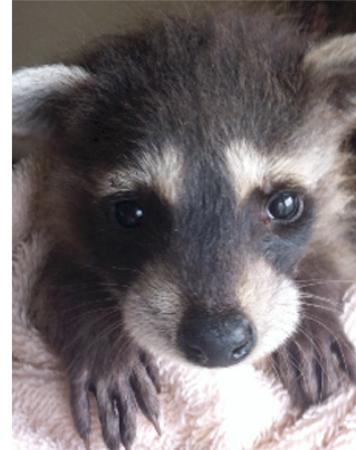
It took a village to save the **baby fawn that was delivered on the side of the road**. Its mom had been hit by a car and did not survive. Magic was on his side that night, and so were the OPP officers who helped deliver him and took him to the OPP station to keep warm, our staff and volunteers, and the Sandy Pines Wildlife Centre who helped him continue his healing journey.

The **adult raccoon who couldn't count** has no idea how many people helped saved her, her babies, and even more babies. She was helped by the kind passerby who brought her to us, and several members of our team – staff and volunteers alike.

And then there are **Ms. Muffet, Major and Jaws**. Very sad stories indeed. Their lives started with cruelty, but the love of so many led to their survival...the people who intervened, drove them to RVWS, the local media, and Earl McRae, our angel whose newspaper article helped us raise the funds to build the wildlife sanctuary.

**In each of these incredible stories of survival,
you - our donors - saved them.**

Without the support of donors like you, RVWS would not exist, and these poor souls would be left all on their own. That would be so unfair as it was likely human activity that threatened their survival. We owe it to them to help them.



I hope you will help create more survival stories by [giving today](#).

As we approach the end of the year, we wish you and yours good health and happiness in 2026! With much gratitude for all you do for wildlife and the environment,



Linda Laurus
Founder and Executive Director
Rideau Valley Wildlife Sanctuary

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. You can help them survive.

P.P.S. If you give by December 31st, your gift will be doubled (up to a total of \$25,000) and you will receive an official income tax receipt for 2025.

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