Wildside

Hope for Wildlife's Annual Newsletter **2017/18**





Hoo's New

An update on Oliver: he is our barred owl who was found and raised by a well-meaning and caring person for the first few weeks of life. Unfortunately, he lost an eye and a wing, rendering him forever un-releasable. When Oliver came to us, we decided to give him a chance as an education animal and he has become a very important ambassador to Hope for Wildlife for the past 6 years. His temperament is amazing around people and he touched the hearts of young and old alike, on site and off. However, Oliver's eye sight worsened in the winter of 2016 and we decided that it was time that Oliver retire, and so, he now spends his days happily basking in the sunny window of our laundry room, safe and content, with loved ones always close at hand.

E nter Arielle: She is a female barred owl who arrived at Hope for Wildlife in September 2016 with an old injury to her wing, for which an amputation was the only option. She was so calm and comfortable around her caregiver during her rehabilitation that she has now become a valuable new member of our Education Team. No one will ever be able to replace Oliver, but when you retire, you must make way for the future. We are so blessed to have Arielle, who is now making her own mark in the hearts of volunteers, staff and visitors.

Legally Blonde

While unusual, blonde raccoons have been no stranger to Hope for Wildlife. But the summer of 2017 brought us something we have never seen before, an entire litter of blonde raccoons! That is about a 1 in 10 million chance. These little beauties may look albino, but looks can be deceiving. They are leucistic, sometimes called blonde.

"So, what is the difference?"

A lbino animals have absolutely no color whatsoever in their skin, fur, eyes, nails, feathers, etc. A leucistic animal has at least some color like the big, brown eyes of our blonde raccoons. While we watched them run, jump and play, the jury is still out whether blonde raccoons have more fun!



Our New Wildlife Hospital

N ew medical updates! Our new hospital at Hope for Wildlife is fully equipped with surgery, x-ray, and treatment areas onsite here in Seaforth. Dr. Sherri Cox, the founder of the National Wildlife Centre, has always had the goal of creating satellite hospitals across the country to help wildlife rehabilitators with their sick and injured patients. We realized what a great partnership opportunity was before us.

"We are excited that the National Wildlife Centre chose Hope for Wildlife for their first satellite location outside of Ontario"



Dr. Cox also teaches wildlife rehabilitation at the University of Guelph, Ontario and trains future wildlife veterinarians, students, and wildlife biologists in wildlife rehabilitation medicine. We are fortunate to have one of the National Wildlife Centre veterinary interns stationed here full-time at Hope for Wildlife.

Under the mentorship of Dr. Cox, Dr. Krystal Woo is our current veterinary intern. She joins us all the way from the west coast (California!) and has experience in wildlife rehabilitation medicine and surgery. The new hospital allows our medical team to minimize stress to our patients by providing diagnostic assessment and treatment onsite for most of the illnesses and injuries. We look forward to continuing to fundraise for additional state-of-the art equipment such as endoscopy and ultrasound, as well as much-needed support for the increasing costs for medical supplies to support this busy wildlife hospital.

Sweet as Honey

This past spring, a white-tailed deer fawn was admitted with an injury we see far too often in our patients. She had been attacked by a domestic animal, leaving a large wound on her left shoulder. The three most common reasons we see wildlife are: hit by cars, domestic animal attacks, and relocation of wildlife resulting in orphans.

To pack her wound we used the natural antibiotic, honey, to prevent infection. We then "fawn"-dly named her, 'Honey'. It took a number of weeks, but with various procedures and treatments, Honey's wound healed! She joined the rest of the healthy herd, and all 12 deer were successfully released in the fall.





Opening New Doors

↑ t Hope For Wildlife, we are Aalways searching for new ways to foster meaningful connections between people and nature. Each day our education team has the pleasure of meeting with visitors from all over the world and sharing with them the story of our organization.

> "We try and facilitate a deeper understanding about the interaction between humans and wildlife through the amazing animals that we have the privilege of working with so closely"

his summer, Hope for Wildlife opened a new science centre as part of our education program which combines our three main goals of rehabilitation, education, and research. Come learn about the medical procedures performed by our veterinary team, as well as the natural history behind the animals we treat. We hope to see you soon! Check our website for hours of operation: www.hopeforwildlife.net



Two's Company

n the early hours of the morning, a man caught a reflection in his headlights while driving down the highway. He stopped his car to investigate and found a young fox pup, approximately 9 weeks old, injured and lying in the ditch. Without a second thought, he scooped her up and drove her straight to Hope for Wildlife. X-rays found 2 broken legs -



A badly fractured humerus on her front leg and the femur on her hind leg. Ren, named after the Good Samaritan who rescued her, has since received a pin and a plate and is fully recovered.

Shortly after, we received a young male fox that we named Biscuit. Though he had no broken bones, he was experiencing paralysis on his left side. Through medical treatment and the loving care of the Hope For Wildlife team, he has also fully recovered. Ren and Biscuit have stayed close throughout their time at Hope for Wildlife and though they are both physically healed, we will wait until spring and release them together, giving them the best chance of survival.

Lead's Figure It Out

This has been another exciting and ground-breaking year at Hope for Wildlife! Our fully operational Veterinary Hospital is open with a wildlife Vet on staff. With this new facility and equipment, we are able to provide top-notch health care for the animals that come through our doors. We are also now able to test for lead with a simple blood test, properly diagnose, and treat lead toxicity. Lead has been found in a wide variety of birds from pigeons, ducks and the majestic bald eagle. Typical signs of lead toxicity in birds can include seizures, altered mental state, regurgitation, blindness, paralysis, circling behavior, and anemia.

A Ithough radiographs can provide evidence of lead fragments, it is not a definitive diagnostic tool. A bird may have defecated the lead and still be a victim of lead poisoning. This simple blood test analysis is a necessity for a proper diagnosis and ensuring proper treatment for a terribly debilitating and often fatal condition. The equipment cost was about \$3,000 and each test cost about \$35.00.



Into New Waters for Marine Wildlife Fundraising Goal: \$100,000

We need your help!
With the abundance of marine animals that come into Hope for Wildlife, it's become a necessity to raise funds for an enhanced Marine Animal Facility including open water units for seals, beavers, otters, turtles and seabirds to experience a secondary controlled step in preparation for their release.

As one part of the fundraising campaign, donors may buy a stone for \$1,000 or more, and have their name inscribed in a stepping stone path leading to the facility's entrance. All donations are welcome, no amount is too small.



YES! I would like to support Hope for Wildlife.

I would	like to	make a	monthly donation:	
o \$10	o \$25	0 \$50	o Other \$	
l would	like to	make a	one-time donation of \$	

I would like my donation to go towards:

- o 'Into New Waters' enhanced marine rehabilitation unit
- o To help support education
- o General care of wildlife
- o Medical care

Contact	Information:
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Contact innomination.		
Name		_
Address		_
City	Province	_
Postal Code	Phone ()	_
Email		

o Please add me to your mailing list

Payment Information:

- o Cash or cheque (made payable to Hope for Wildlife) is enclosed
- o Please charge my credit card: o Visa o Mastercard
 - Card Number ____ Expiry _____/ _____ Signature _
- o Please mail me a tax-deductible receipt