



National Wildlife Centre

Overview



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About Us

Established in 2014, the National Wildlife Centre (Charitable Registration Number 840912034 RR0001) works at the interconnection of humans, Canadian wildlife, and the environment through a One Health concept.

We help native wildlife through our programs aimed at conservation goals to protect ecosystems, populations of wild animals, and the health of individual animals. We seek to be recognized for our leadership, creation, and transfer of knowledge to others, highest quality and standards, and excellence in caring for wildlife.



First accredited national wildlife hospital in Ontario, providing medical support across the country.



Over 8,000 native wildlife cases treated since 2014, encompassing **over 200 species**, including many threatened and endangered animals.



11 wildlife veterinarian interns trained since 2014, with plans to **train 4-5 interns annually**




Over 100 rehabilitators, conservationists, wildlife veterinarians, and educator partners

Wildlife Patients



WOOD TURTLE
(*Glyptemys insculpta*)

Our team helped treat this wood turtle after being attacked by a dog. He made a full recovery!

 **Conservation status:**
Endangered (provincially and federally)



POLAR BEAR
(*Ursus maritimus*)


This polar bear was carefully monitored for vital signs by our team. She was safely transported to be reunited with her cubs.

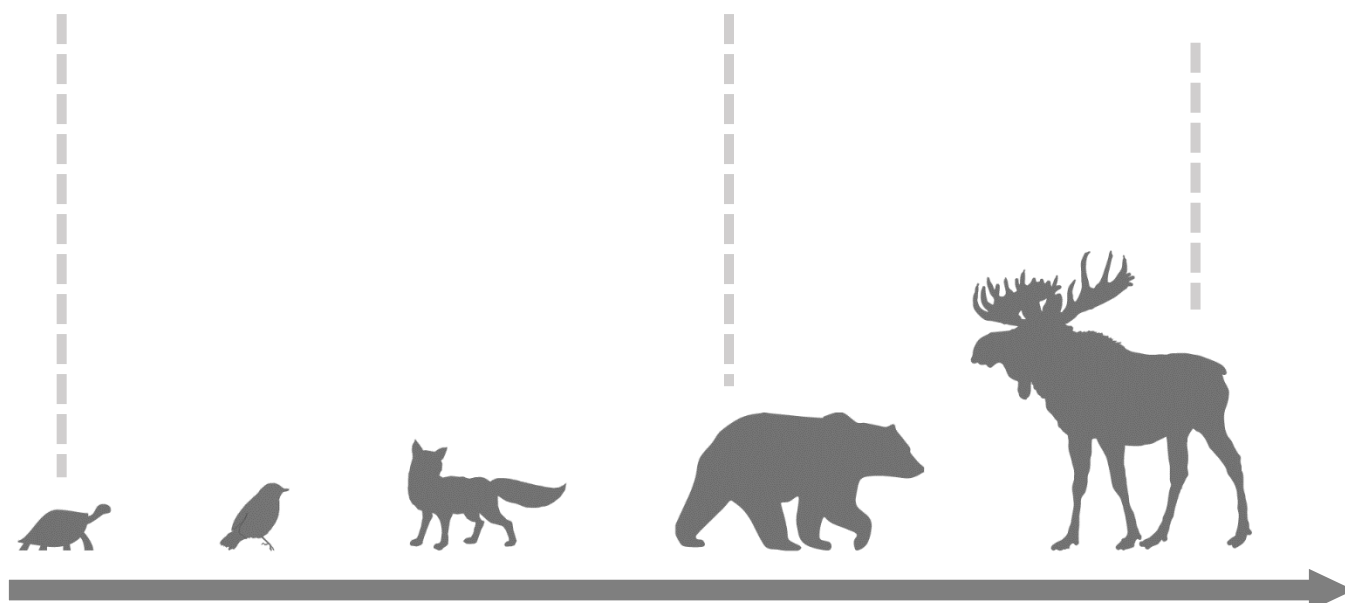
 **Conservation status:**
Threatened/Special Concern (provincially and federally)



MOOSE
(*Alces alces*)

This orphaned moose was hit by a car. He was assessed by our team and was provided several weeks of wound management. He is on the road to recovery!

 **Conservation status:**
Endangered (in mainland Nova Scotia)



We provide medical care to a variety of wildlife,
from small reptiles to large mammals

Our Visionary: Dr. Sherri Cox



Dr. Sherri Cox is the founder and Medical Director at the National Wildlife Centre in Ontario Canada. As a wildlife veterinarian, Dr. Cox oversees the diagnosis, treatment, and surgical intervention of thousands of sick and injured wild animals across Canada every year.

A graduate of the Ontario Veterinary College (OVC), Dr. Cox is board certified as an avian specialist (Diplomate, ABVP) and has her PhD in animal biosciences, with a research focus on the scope of wildlife rehabilitation in Canada, and lead toxicosis in Trumpeter swans. She also teaches chemical immobilization of free ranging wildlife.

Dr. Cox is committed to helping educate others on wildlife rehabilitation and has trained many student veterinarians and veterinary technicians in wildlife medicine. She is also an Assistant Professor in the College of Biological Science at the University of Guelph.

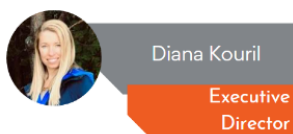


Our Team

Board of Directors



Staff



Veterinary Team

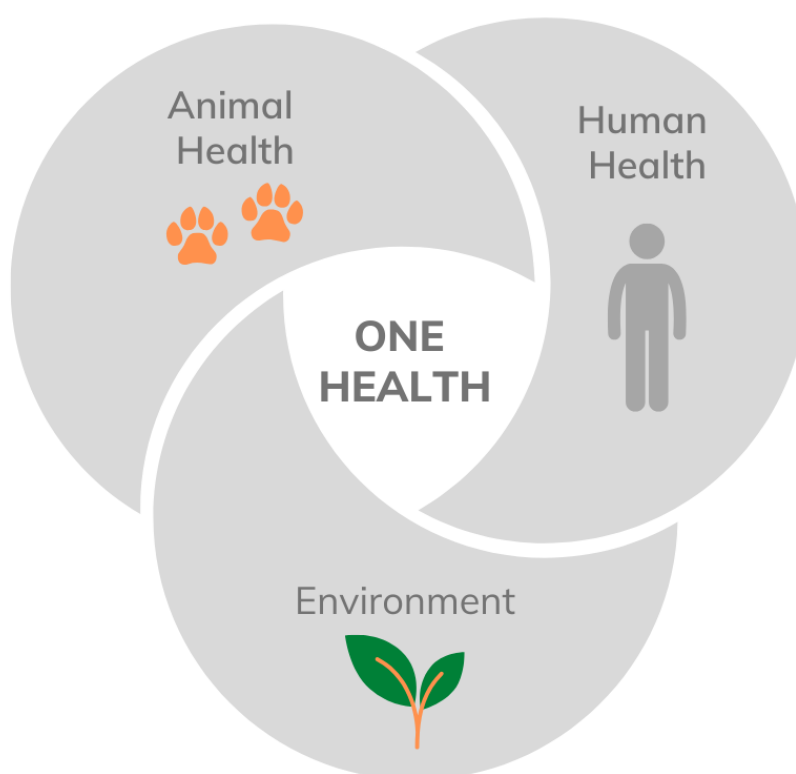


Vision

Our vision is to be a Centre of Excellence for wildlife surgery, medicine, rehabilitation, conservation and education for current and future wildlife rehabilitators and veterinarians in Canada.

In pursuit of this vision, we are guided by the One Health concept, a viewpoint that considers the interconnectedness between animals, humans, and the environment. These interconnections value wild animal health and welfare as part of the overall ecosystem.

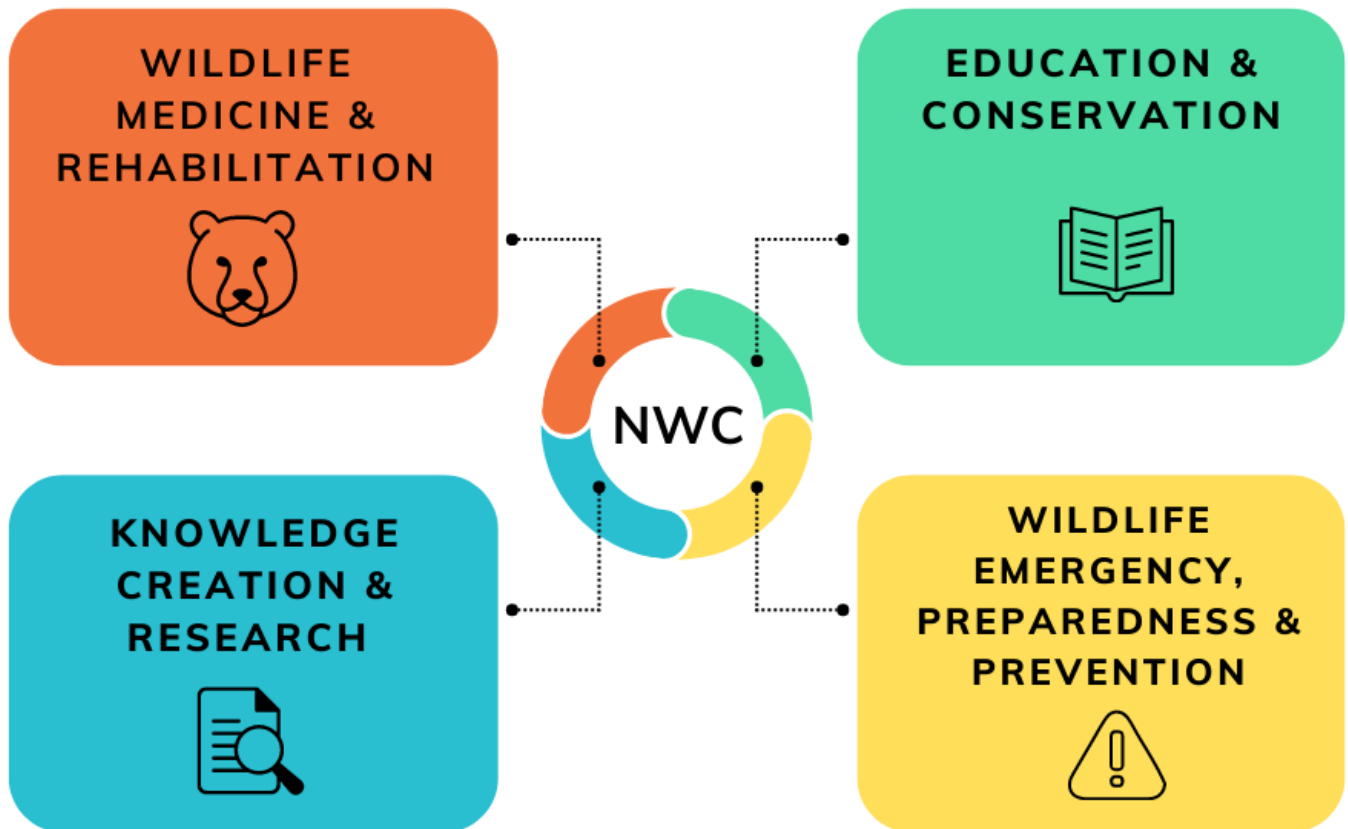
All three elements are intertwined. Together they comprise one ecosystem. If one or more of these components becomes threatened, the health and the viability of the overall ecosystem is impacted. By caring for and protecting Canada's wildlife, the National Wildlife Centre is caring for and protecting Canada's ecosystems at the same time.



Mission and Objectives

The mission of the National Wildlife Centre is to preserve Canada's wildlife and bring the wildlife community together (including rehabilitators, conservationists, biologists, students, and volunteers). We see ourselves as a centralized national hub for wildlife surgery and training with accredited facilities across provinces to expand our reach and build capacity to care for wildlife in Canada.

We organize our goals around four critical pillars:





Wildlife Medicine and Rehabilitation

- Advanced diagnostics and treatment for sick and injured wildlife
- Rehabilitation for sick, injured, and orphaned animals
- Medical care and oversight for animals within a network of trained wildlife rehabilitators
- Rescue and release when the public is unable to safely bring an animal to the centre and requires treatment
- Treatment for animals affected by hazardous noxious substances or affected by other disasters





Education and Conservation

- Rehabilitators receive training, ongoing education, and connection to our medical staff for advice and assistance
- Veterinarians learn in-depth knowledge about Canada's wildlife, how to diagnose and treat their illnesses and injuries
- Public education programs are delivered, such as co-habiting with urban wildlife
- National Wildlife Centre supports scientists and others in the quest to ensure healthy individuals and populations of wild animals
- Emergency responders will have learning, discussion, and hands-on training labs to be prepared and respond to incidents



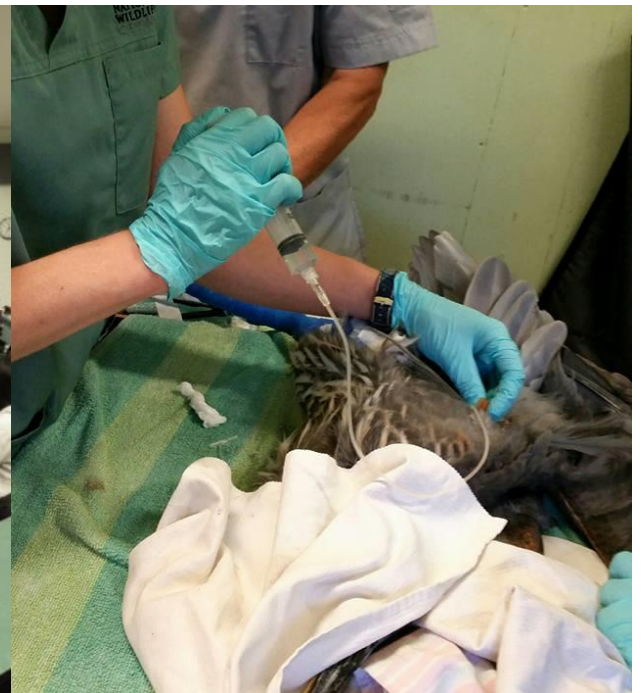


Knowledge Creation and Research

Opportunities to build knowledge of clinical medicine are vast. Using proper documentation methods to track electronic medical records, various clinical signs, treatments, and results, we have an opportunity to share new information for wildlife responders around the world.

Post release studies and husbandry studies are additional areas where we can share what we learn with responders, the public, and the scientific community.

Many other opportunities for knowledge creation and dissemination exist, and we will evaluate ideas that support the vision and mission of the organization.

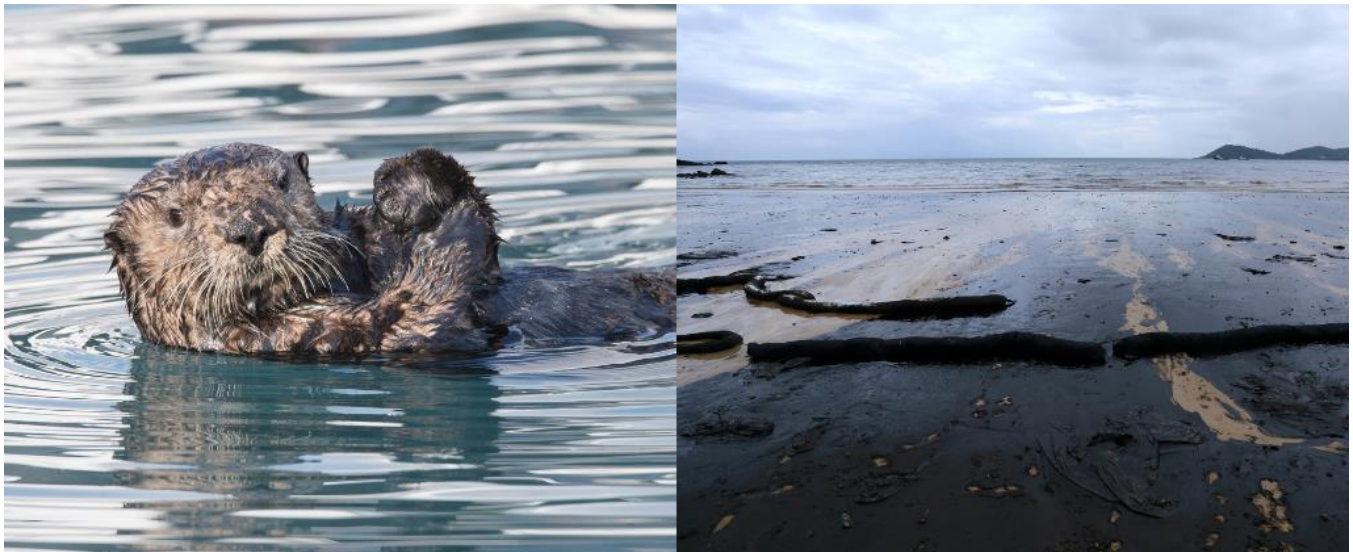




Wildlife Emergency Prevention, Preparedness and Response

Oiling incidents happen – from petroleum to non-petroleum based spills, from a few animals to hundreds of thousands of animals affected. The oil spill preparedness and response planning section seeks to create a cohesive and consolidated national oiled wildlife response plan in Canada.

Other disasters or hazardous, noxious substances can also negatively impact wildlife. The National Wildlife Centre seeks to help plan, prepare, and respond to such emergencies in conjunction with local, national, and international organizations and governments.



Our Presence

Local

Based out of Caledon, Ontario, the National Wildlife Centre currently operates across Ontario primarily using our mobile vet hospital, and in partnership with local wildlife rehabilitators across the province.

Once the Centre of Excellence is established, we expect to field over 10,000 calls a year from the public and care for over 5,000 animals annually.



National

We have recently expanded and now provide care to sick and injured wildlife through partnerships with wildlife rehabilitation centres and a network of veterinary medical interns across the country. In 2022, we are active in Alberta, Manitoba, Ontario, and Nova Scotia.

Open 365 days a year, the Centre of Excellence will host national and international veterinarians, students, scientists and rehabilitators to learn and share best practices and create new practices for the betterment of Canada's wildlife.



Our Partnerships

The National Wildlife Centre partners with and provides support to wildlife rehabilitators across Ontario and Canada. Dr. Sherri Cox also supports a diverse range of government services when called upon for assistance with wildlife situations, such as municipal animal services, local and provincial police forces, and government ministries.

Examples of Wildlife Rehabilitator Partnerships

- Alberta Institute for Wildlife Conservation (Madden, Alberta)
- Aspen Valley Wildlife Sanctuary (Rosseau, Ontario)
- Bluewater Centre for Raptor Rehabilitation (Plympton-Wyoming, Ontario)
- Bear With Us (Sprucedale, Ontario)
- Hope for Wildlife (Seaforth, Nova Scotia)
- Procyon Wildlife Rehabilitation and Education Centre (Beeton, Ontario)
- Shades of Hope Wildlife Refuge (Pefferlaw, Ontario)
- Wildlife Haven Rehabilitation Centre (Île-des-Chênes, Manitoba)

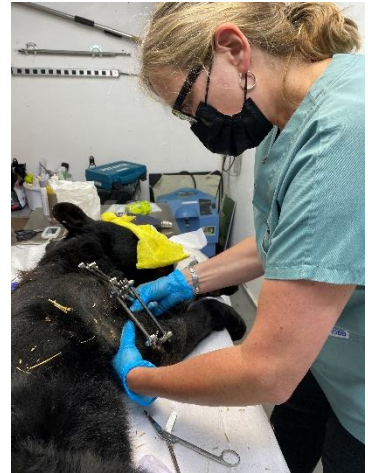


Patient Spotlight: Success Stories



Young Bear Found Along Highway Saved

An injured young black bear was brought to our private clinic on July 27, 2022 by Bear With Us, one of our wildlife rehabilitation partners. He was found along a side of a highway in Parry Sound, Ontario. We learned he suffered two broken legs after being hit by a car. Our veterinary team performed a complicated six-hour surgery to repair his broken legs. Several months later, our team removed the surgical pins from the bear's legs in order to begin rehabilitation to help him walk again. We are happy to report the young bear did well in recovery and was released back into the wild in October. The story was reported on [CTV News Barrie](#) on August 19, 2022.



Swan Reunites With His Mate

This 6-year-old male trumpeter swan and his mate live on a golf course near Cambridge, Ontario. He was seen not bearing weight on his left leg and was brought to the National Wildlife Centre by Ontario Trumpeter Swan Restoration for X-rays and further assessment. X-rays showed that he had been shot, and the pellets in his right leg and left toe were surgically removed by the veterinary team at NWC. Thanks to the diligent care provided by Ontario Trumpeter Swan Restoration, he was successfully released back with his mate!



Our Donors and Supporters

The National Wildlife Centre is grateful for the support of our donors and supporters, including a diverse range of individuals, foundations, and corporations who all come together in support of Canada's wildlife.



Airlie Foundation



Media Presence and Reach

Local and National Coverage

Why Ontario's wildlife-rehab centres could become an endangered species

TVO Ontario Hubs - September 2019

London bear is doing much better, but rescuers say he's not out of the woods yet

CBC News - June 2020

Black bear captured in London could be released back into the wild soon

CTV News - June 2020

'We have an obligation to help animals': Wildlife vet eyes Caledon for teaching facility

Caledon Enterprise - October 2020

'Hawk-eyed' Caledon OPP officer spots, helps rescue injured bird on Mayfield Road

Caledon Enterprise - March 2021

Injured critters get boost with opening of Manitoba's 1st wildlife veterinary hospital

CBC News - August 2021

Beaver Lake moose darted, driven to Muskoka

Sudbury Star - April 2022



COMMUNITY

'We have an obligation to help animals': Wildlife vet eyes Caledon for teaching facility

Injured critters get boost with opening of Manitoba's 1st wildlife veterinary hospital



Addition of hospital means hurt, orphaned animals have greater odds of survival, says Wildlife Haven director

CBC News - Posted: Aug 04, 2021 7:56 PM CT | Last Updated: August 4, 2021



Public Figure Supporters

Dr. Roberta Bondar

Canada's First Female Astronaut



The National Wildlife Centre is proud to have [Dr. Roberta Bondar](#), Canada's first female astronaut as a public spokesperson supporting our vision and work.

Dr. Bondar was our keynote speaker at our first formal gala, *An Evening for Wildlife*, on September 22, 2002 at the Royal Ambassador in Caledon, Ontario. Drawing on her expertise as an astronaut, physician, scientific researcher and photographer, she provided insights on our changing environment and the impact on wildlife.

Our Future: The Centre of Excellence

We have accomplished great things since 2014. It is time for our next evolution - growth and permanency. Our Project Evolution will see the construction of a new state-of-the-art 26,000 square foot facility in Caledon, Ontario that will serve as our national headquarters, is projected to help over 5,000 sick, injured, or orphaned wild animals annually, and will act as a hub of new discovery and dissemination of knowledge in support of the next generation of wildlife specialists across Canada.

We have purchased 100 acres in Caledon, Ontario to build a new wildlife centre that will train more professionals and treat more animals on a national level.

The project will consist of two phases:

- 1) Building a wildlife field hospital to immediately service injured, sick or orphaned animals. The facility will be mostly clinical space and open to the public allowing the National Wildlife Centre to service the Caledon region and surrounding communities such as Brampton, Bolton, Orangeville, Caledon, and Guelph, as well as surgical space to support wildlife rehabilitators from across Ontario
- 2) Building a Centre of Excellence, a new state-of-the-art 26,000 square foot facility. The Centre will serve as our national headquarters, clinical unit, and training hub of new discovery and dissemination of knowledge in support of the next generation of wildlife specialists across Canada.



We are currently raising funds to complete the first phase of the project to begin in 2023.