



## 2026 Spring News



### Protecting Wildlife, Together!

#### 🌿 Spring Has Sprung – And So Has Baby Season! 🌿

As the days grow longer and wildflowers bloom, spring arrives in full force, and at the National Wildlife Centre, that means one thing: baby season is here!

Across our region, native wildlife are nesting, denning, and raising their young. From tiny songbirds learning to fly to young mammals venturing out for the first time, spring is a season of new beginnings. It's also our busiest and most critical time of year.

Each year, wildlife rehabilitation centres across the country see a dramatic increase in orphaned and injured animals during the spring months. Many of these patients are healthy young animals who have

been mistakenly “rescued” by well-meaning people who didn’t realize their parents were nearby.

If you encounter a baby wild animal, remember:

- **Observe first.** Many young animals are meant to be on their own for periods of time
- **Keep pets on a leash or indoors**
- **Call an authorized wildlife rehabilitator** if you are unsure or need help

Your support makes all the difference during this demanding season. Donations help provide specialized formulas, critical medical supplies, and the dedicated care these young patients need to grow strong and return to the wild where they belong.

Spring is a season of resilience, renewal, and the incredible wildlife that share our communities. Thank you for being part of their second chance

With gratitude,

*The National Wildlife CentreTeam*



You made this possible.  
Since opening our new hospital in late Spring 2025

**1,250+**

Sick, injured and orphaned wild patients received lifesaving care this year, since opening our doors.

**5,500+**

The number of wildlife hotline calls from the community and beyond.

**154**

The number of species treated at our wildlife hospital in 2025.



### **Wild Neighbours Are House Hunting!**

Baby Season has started. Wildlife are looking for safe spots to raise their babies. They may be checking your home, garage or shed, or they may have already moved in!

Unless you are welcoming them in for the season, you will want to think prevention! A few simple steps can help you avoid a problem:

- 🌱 Ensure bushes and trees do not provide access to your rooftop.
- 🌱 Seal all gaps - but first check your basement, crawl space and attic. It may be too late if they have already moved in. You cannot relocate

newborns.

- 🌱 Don't forget to inspect your chimney for possible hiding spots too!
- 🌱 Under decks and sheds are great hiding spaces too - make sure you check these spaces before repairing holes or winter damage.



### **A Tiny Survivor: One Baby Opossum's Journey to the Wild**

When this tiny Opossum arrived at the National Wildlife Centre, he weighed just 34 grams, small enough to fit in the palm of a hand.

His story began with tragedy. His mother had been struck and killed by a vehicle. Thankfully someone stopped. They found this little one still tucked safely inside her pouch. Miraculously, he was uninjured, but far too young to survive on his own in the wild.

Our amazing team was up for the task. They provided the specialized care he and his siblings needed. At such a young age, orphaned Opossums require frequent feedings, careful temperature support, and constant monitoring.

Over the past weeks, this tiny survivor has steadily grown and developed under our care. In his enriched environment, he has been practicing the natural behaviours he'll need in the wild.



The photos capture his journey: from his fragile first days with us, through his progress in care, to the confident young Opossum he is becoming today.

Now, as spring approaches, he is preparing for the moment when he will be returned home to the wild. Even the smallest lives can have a second chance with a little help.

[DONATE NOW](#)

### **Compassion in Action**

Our volunteers are the heart of our wildlife hospital. From preparing specialized diets (nutrition chefs) and cleaning enclosures to assisting with feedings and supporting daily operations, their dedication makes lifesaving care possible. Baby season would not be possible without their compassion, commitment, and countless behind-the-scenes hours.



## Help Us Shower Wildlife Babies with Love!



To help prepare for our busiest time of year, we're hosting a virtual **Wildlife Baby Shower** and everyone is invited. Our patients need formula, feeding syringes, heating pads, incubators, and lots of expert care.



A single orphaned squirrel can require feedings every few hours. A young bird may need weeks of specialized support before it can be released. The costs add up quickly, but with your kind support, every little life has a chance.



Our Wildlife Baby Shower is a meaningful way for families and donors to directly impact the survival of these vulnerable animals. By contributing much-needed supplies or donating a gift, you are helping us provide critical care during our busiest season.




Your small gift is your ticket to join. Items can be purchased through the our baby registry or dropped off at the centre!


**Join us online April 16th, 2026,  
12:00 - 1:00 pm - REGISTRY OPEN NOW!**

[Sign-up for NWC's Virtual Baby Shower Here!](#)

### Baby Fun Facts

Did you know:

 Foxes sometimes dig up their own buried snacks - and then re-bury them somewhere else to keep them safe!

 Opossum babies are North America's only marsupials and they are born not fully developed. They finish developing in mom's pouch.



🐣 Baby ducklings, unlike baby songbirds, are precocial, meaning they don't rely on mom feeding them, although they do need mom and dad's protection!



*We are sincerely grateful to our individual donors, community partners, and grant funders whose support sustains our work. Your generosity helps us protect wildlife, strengthen conservation medicine, and serve communities across our region.*



**Thank you.....**

- Queensmere Farms - for all the eggs
- Cobs Bakery - for fundraising
- Dunk Disposal - for the holiday trees
- Animal Services - for the mealworms
- Harmony Meadows Alpaca Farm - for the alpaca fibre
- Just Say'n Caledon - for the great press
- All those who donated towels, vegetables
- All those who sent us a wish list item!



Airlie Foundation



Hodgson Family Foundation



*The National Wildlife Centre works within the interconnection of humans, Canadian wildlife and the environment through a OneHealth 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. Since our inception in 2014, the NWC has cared for over 5,000 native wild animals and more than 200 species, including many threatened and endangered ones.*

Charitable Registration Number 896568417RR0001



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