

2017 ANNUAL REPORT



MESSAGE FROM THE EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR

In 2017, 1,412 individual injured and orphaned animals of 136 different species were admitted to us for care. Hundreds more were helped through our Wildlife Hotline, which assists members of the public with wildlife related issues and educates Albertans about natural wildlife behaviours and how best to live alongside our wild neighbors.

AIWC is committed to providing the best care to the patients admitted into our care, and one step we took in 2017 to continue to ensure this was by adding a part-time veterinarian to our staff. We are excited to welcome Dr. Nicole Rose as our Head Veterinarian. Dr. Rose has been instrumental in improving AIWC's standards of care and helping AIWC to achieve a record 52 percent success rate for the patients in our care in 2017. We are the only wildlife rehabilitation centre with a veterinarian on staff in Alberta. This is a crucial achievement for improving the levels of care we can provide to wildlife in need.

As we prepare for another busy year, it is important to take time to reflect upon and celebrate the successes.

OTHER HIGHLIGHTS FROM 2017

- Our Wildlife Education Program reached over 4,100 individuals. The more we can spread awareness about wildlife, creating strong co-existence between Albertans and wildlife, the more lives we can help save.
- Our volunteers donated over 9,000 hours of their time to help keep AIWC running smoothly, from tasks such as cleaning in our hospital, to stuffing newsletters, to answering phone calls, and much more!
- AIWC built its first outdoor aquatic mammal building, specifically for beavers and otters, and a new outdoor waterfowl enclosure, the final stage of rehabilitation for dabbling waterfowl species, both sponsored by Inter Pipeline Ltd. Both enclosures will enable us to provide species-specific housing for the final stage of rehabilitation before patients are returned to the wild.
- We created new and successful fundraisers such as our 1st Annual Garage Sale and Bottle Drive in June, our 1st annual *Give the Gift of Saving Wildlife* Campaign in December, and our year-round Adopt an Animal plush program.

As we look ahead to the future, we aim to continue the rehabilitation of our facilities. Since 2016, AIWC has constructed five new enclosures for our patients as part of our infrastructure plans. We hope to continue to add new enclosures, with help from community and corporate partners, which will aid in the rehabilitation of our patients and provide them the best opportunity for pre-release conditioning before they return to the wild.

In addition, we will continue to work on initiatives that prevent animals from coming into our care that may not need to; for example, healthy baby wild animals who are taken from their parents by mistake. The more we can prevent healthy animals from being taken from the wild and brought into our care, the more resources we will have for the animals that are truly injured or orphaned and in need of our care.

AIWC continues to serve as a local and international expert on various topics. In the past year, we have provided input on wildlife-related concerns to government bodies, the media, and local community groups. In addition, our staff have presented at local and international environment, and wildlife rehabilitation conferences. We are committed to continuing our own education, and sharing our learnings with the wildlife rehabilitation community to better serve wildlife in need.

In 2018, AIWC will celebrate its 25th anniversary. Since our founding, we have cared for over 31,000 individual injured and orphaned animals. Without the support of our donors, we would not be able to realise our mission. Thank you for your continued and devoted support. We could not do it without you!

Sincerely,

Holly Duvall

Executive Director

1,412

**TOTAL ANIMALS
ADMITTED FOR
CARE IN 2017**

136

**DIFFERENT ANIMAL
SPECIES ADMITTED
IN 2017**

588

**ANIMALS RELEASED
BACK INTO THE
WILD IN 2017**

MESSAGE FROM THE CHAIRPERSON

AIWC's mission is two parts: the rehabilitation of orphaned and injured wildlife, and providing expert wildlife education and advice. We are proud to report that 2017 was a record year for AIWC on both fronts!

In 2017, AIWC saw a patient success rate of 52 percent, meaning that over half of the patients admitted were returned to life in the wild. This is one of the highest ever on record for AIWC and exceptional for an industry with an average success rate of 33 percent in North America.

We also reached a record number of more than 4,100 individuals through our wildlife education programs, on top of the hundreds of calls our wildlife hotline fields each month. Our social media presence has also grown to reach nearly 30,000 unique user accounts each week.

AIWC also continues to grow as an organization, working on the implementation of best-practice protocols, policies, and training to provide industry-leading care for our patients. This growth also extends to our facilities, with the several new enclosures that were built and became operational in 2017.

Fundraising is always a top priority for AIWC, and 2017 saw another successful casino night, new events such as our Garage Sale & Bottle Drive, as well as successful campaigns like *Beaver Finds a Buddy* and *Give the Gift of Saving Wildlife*. We also launched our online store (aiwc.shop) where supporters can sponsor a patient, make donations, and purchase memberships and merchandise! As a result, we saw an overall increase in both corporate and individual donations from the previous year.

Of course, we cannot realize these incredible successes without three very important factors:

- the expertise of our small team of dedicated, skilled, and innovative staff members;
- the commitment and hard work from over 150 volunteers; and
- the continued support of our community, who contribute to AIWC by donating time, funds, supplies, or even just by sharing AIWC stories and their enthusiasm for Alberta's wildlife.

As AIWC celebrates its 25th anniversary in 2018, it is our goal to not only improve upon these achievements, but also ensure AIWC's is positioned as a leader in the community and the field of wildlife rehabilitation for the next 25 years!

Sincerely,

Jennifer Kaiser

Chair, Board of Directors



COMMUNITY ENGAGEMENT

VOLUNTEERING

Volunteers play a central role in AIWC's operations. From rescuing the animals, to cleaning enclosures, preparing meals, and spreading the word about what we do, AIWC's volunteers are truly at the heart of our success. In total, our volunteers donated over 9,580 hours in 2017!

Through all weather and all seasons, no matter how dirty the job may sometimes get, AIWC's volunteers are there for the animals through thick and thin. We could not do what we do without them, and we can't wait to move forward together in 2018 and 2019.



AIWC volunteer, Jen, gathering mealworms to feed to patients in care.

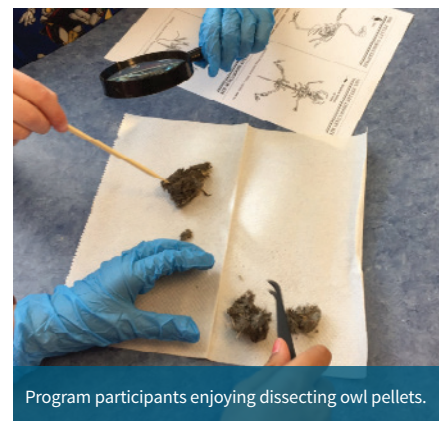


AIWC volunteer, Stephen, keeping on top of all the used food dishes from patients in care.

WILDLIFE EDUCATION PROGRAMS

Whether the subject is owls, bats, skunks, or wildlife rescue, AIWC's education programs have something for everyone.

Through learning more about the amazing animals we share our environment with, and how humans have affected their populations, program participants are inspired to protect their local wildlife species. This message was spread to roughly 3,760 people through 130 education programs in 2017!



Program participants enjoying dissecting owl pellets.



Education and Community Engagement Coordinator, Katrina Jansen, presenting an On-Site Talk at AIWC.

4,140

HOURS DONATED BY
CLINIC VOLUNTEERS

2,240

HOURS DONATED BY
RESCUE VOLUNTEERS

501

HOURS DONATED
FOR CONSTRUCTION,
FUNDRAISING
AND PICK-UPS

309

HOURS DONATED BY
EDUCATION AND BOOTH
VOLUNTEERS

960

HOURS DONATED BY
THE BOARD OF
DIRECTORS

220

HOURS DONATED BY
HOTLINE VOLUNTEERS



PUBLIC AWARENESS EVENTS

Our public awareness team made it out to 27 community events in 2017, reaching more than 4,800 people! By going out to community events, AIWC is ensuring that members of the community know that we are able to help in wildlife situations, and the best way to contact us. Community events are also a great way to meet future partners and donors, and we look forward to continuing this effort in 2018!

AIWC also facilitated several on-site public awareness events this year. In 2017, 121 people joined us for our five On-Site Talk events, each of which featured a one-hour presentation on a selected wildlife topic and a tour of our facilities. Given the growing interest in on-site events, we have again increased the number available in 2018, including doing one each month from April to September.



If you are interested in joining us to learn more about baby hares, skunks, corvids, hawks, and more, please check out the upcoming events section on our website at www.aiwc.ca



Public awareness team members, Christie and Carly, ready to meet members of the public at the AIWC booth.

WILDLIFE REHABILITATION

COMMON DIAGNOSES

Trauma, that resulted in bone fractures or dislocation, was one of the most common injury seen on intake for our patients in 2017, representing 23 percent of diagnosed cases. Many of these cases were likely due to human impact, but since their history is unknown we can only presume.

PATIENTS BY TAXONOMIC GROUP



79%
AVES

20.6%
MAMMALIA

0.2%
AMPHIBIA

0.1%
REPTILIA

0.1%
UNIDENTIFIED

10 percent of the confirmed diagnosed cases were from human impact with 5% of these being animals caught by domestic pets. The other 5% were varying causes including hit by car, caught in barbed wire fence and toxicities (oiled, strychnine, and anticoagulant rodenticide).

In 2017, almost 600 wild animals were returned back to the wild where they belong. Some of those released include dozens of ducklings who grow up in our care and are released once old enough to fend for themselves. Also released in a nearby wetland was a killdeer patient, who was admitted as a young orphan.

Seeing our patients return to the wild is one of the greatest gifts we get here at AIWC, and we couldn't do it without the support of our amazing community. When you help us, it allows us to help wildlife in need, and there are now hundreds of animals back in their natural habitats as a result!

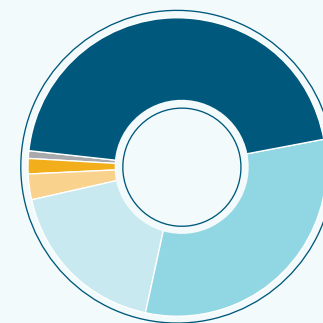
AQUATIC BIRD BUILDING

34 percent of our patients last year were from the waterfowl and sea bird groups. With the construction of Inter Pipeline Ltd.'s aquatic bird building, we are able to provide them with specialized housing that includes three large pools and allow aquatic birds to be housed in more comfortable and natural environments.

The building plays a particularly important role for species such as the common loon and the western grebe, who are so finely adapted to life in water that they have difficulty standing on land. When these patients require care that keeps them out of the water, they can often develop secondary complications such as keel sores (a type of bed sore on their keel) and foot lesions. The aquatic bird building has special net bottom cages to support these animals when they are 'dry docked' (i.e., out of the water).

Once ready to go in the water, but not fully waterproofed, the patients are usually housed in a hospital tub which is a smaller pool where the water temperature is kept warmer and allows them to spend more time in the water without getting uncomfortable. Finally, when ready they can be placed in the larger pools where they can float, preen, feed, dive and display all of their natural behaviors.

PATIENTS BY TAXONOMIC GROUP



45.6%
SONGBIRD

31.2%
WATERFOWL

18.1%
RAPTOR

2.9%
SEABIRD

1.7%
SHOREBIRD

0.6%
GAMEBIRD

CASE STUDY: BARB WIRE & GREAT HORNED OWLS

Each year, AIWC receives a number of patients that have been caught in barbed wire fencing. This most commonly happens to birds who either don't see the wiring or attempt to land on the fencing. In 2017, the most common species to succumb to barb wire fencing was the great horned owl, with seven patients admitted due to this issue. Two of these owls were admitted within two days of each other in early August.

Great horned owl, case #17-1131, presented on August 7, 2017 with puncture wounds to his right wing from barb wire. On initial presentation, his wounds were much deeper and larger than the first owl admitted with this issue. His wounds were cleaned and honey was applied over the exposed tissue. Due to the trauma to the wing, it was not possible to suture the area closed and instead we had to let the body heal the wound itself. He had bandage changes multiple times a week to assess the swelling, the wound was then cleaned and honey was reapplied. After 2 weeks, a large scab was noted over the major wound and he was placed outside to be allowed to start doing his own physio on the wing. Unfortunately, this scab came off in one large chunk and exposed a lot of underlying tissue so he was brought back for more wound management and this time a material called Tegaderm was used to help protect the wound. He required 2 more weeks of bandage changes until September 8, 2017 when he was placed back outside into the flight pen for conditioning. His wing was a bit stiff from being kept in a bandage for so long (he did receive regular bandage changes and physio to try and reduce this stiffness), and the staff began to encourage him to fly twice a day to help him exercise. On September 30, 2017, he was returned back to the wild.



DATE ADMITTED
August 7, 2017

RELEASE DATE
September 30, 2017

CASE STUDY: FRACTURED RED-TAILED HAWK

We are fortunate that many fractures can be managed with bandaging, but some do require surgical intervention. In 2017, more than 150 of the animals that presented to the clinic had a fractured bone. In bird species, the most common site of fractures is one of the bones on the wing. AIWC performed a number of fracture repair surgeries.

Red-tailed hawk, case #17-1183, was one of these surgeries. He was hit by a car in Carstairs but instead of fracturing a wing bone, he fractured his right tibiotarsus. On presentation the bone fragments were sticking out through the skin. He was stabilized with fluids and pain medications, and AIWC staff applied honey over the wound to keep the fracture site clean. Honey has great antimicrobial activity and helps keep the tissue moist until the site can be surgically repaired. He had surgery performed three days later where a pin was placed to line up the bone and two cross pins were placed to keep the bones stabilized. He began standing on the leg two days after surgery, which is excellent to help promote appropriate bone healing. Since he could not stand and grasp his meals initially, the staff helped by tweezer feeding him daily until he proved that he could eat on his own. After three weeks, the pins were removed. Birds are designed for flight and have very light skeletal structures, so any additional weight such as pins can interfere with flying. As a result, many fracture repair surgeries in birds are designed so that the hardware can be removed. He was moved outside shortly after and remained in an outdoor enclosure for one month. On October 5, 2017, eight weeks after his admission, he was released in time to make his migration south for the winter.



DATE ADMITTED
August 14, 2017

RELEASE DATE
October 5, 2017

COMMUNITY PARTNERS

- 2017 Cochrane Beavers – White Tail North Star Project
- 38901 Yukon Inc.
- A. Katherine L.T. Checkland Prof. Corp
- A.E. Bowers Elementary School – Mrs. McMurray’s Grade 3 Class
- Agrium
- Alberta Gaming & Liquor Commission
- Alberta Wildlife and Habitat Endowment Fund at the Red Deer and District Community Foundation
- Animal Care Centre of Strathmore
- Annapolis Capital Limited
- ARVS
- Brookfield Office Properties Management LP
- C.H. Andrews Farms Ltd.
- Calgary Properties Lions Club
- Calgary Regional Trail Riders Association
- Cenovus Energy – The Cenovus Volunteer Program and Employee Foundation
- Cochrane Foundation
- Cochrane Veterinary Care Clinic Ltd.
- Community Natural Foods – Change for the Earth Campaign
- ConocoPhillips Canada – Employee Match Donation
- Donmar Foundation
- Elbow Valley School
- Friends of Springbank Middle School Society
- Harry and Martha Cohen Foundation
- Inter Pipeline Ltd.
- Jackie and George Palmer Fund at the Calgary Foundation
- Kingsboro Auto Service 1975 Ltd.
- MacEwan Family Charity Fund at the Calgary Foundation
- Madden Lions Club
- Mountain Equipment Co-op
- Nickle Family Foundation
- Paul Dunphy Productions Inc.
- Rocky Mountain Eagle Research Foundation
- Rocky View County
- Shell
- Sherling Animal Welfare Fund at the Calgary Foundation
- Stantec Consulting Ltd.
- STEP Program
- Sundance Animal Hospital Ltd.
- The Byler Foundation
- The Congram & Woloschuk Family Charitable Foundation
- The Greygates Foundation
- Trol Excavating Ltd.
- United Way of Calgary, Donor Choice Program
- Western Canadian Spill Services Ltd.
- Westgate School
- Wild and Exotic Animal Med Society



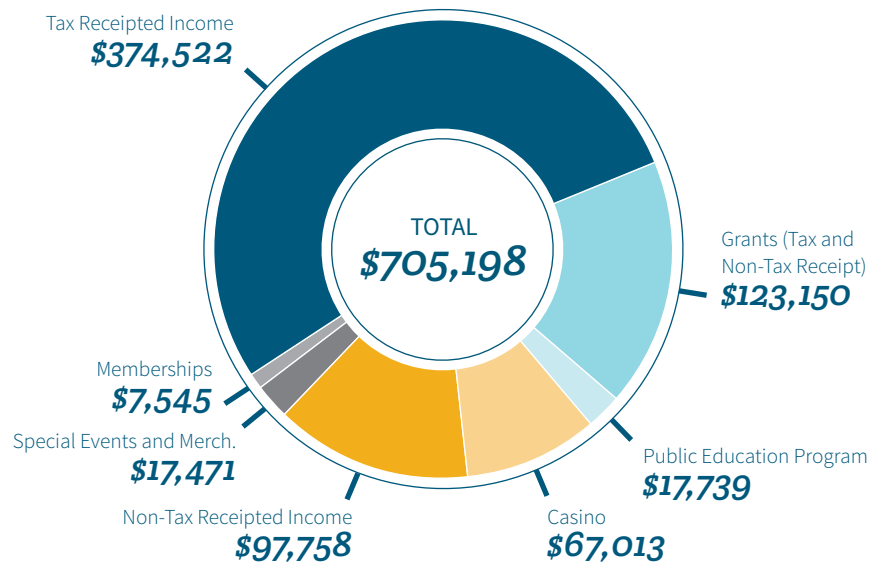
American Coot patient who was admitted after suffering from a clavicle (collarbone) fracture.



American Wigeon admitted after suffering from a clavicle (collarbone) fracture and trauma to the elbow joint in his left wing.

2017 FINANCIALS

REVENUE

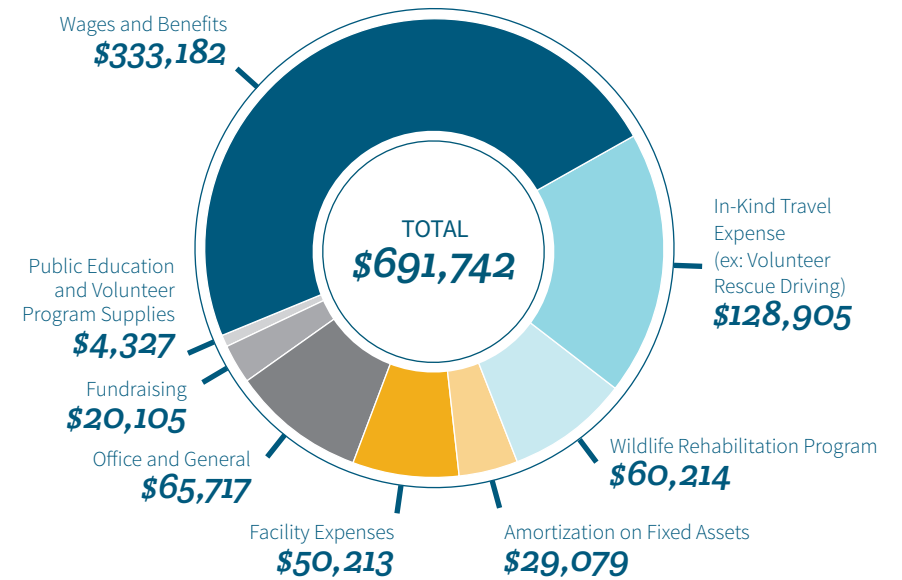


These are unaudited financials from 2017. Audited financials will be available by mid-June 2018.



One of the youngest striped skunk kits ever to be admitted to AIWC. She came into care after being caught by a cat.

EXPENSES



These are unaudited financials from 2017. Audited financials will be available by mid-June 2018.



Young red squirrel being hand-fed formula. At this age, she was fed every 3 hours until she was able to eat on her own.

THANK YOU

AIWC relies on the generosity of our community in order to support our operations and give wildlife in need the second chance they deserve.

On behalf of the Alberta Institute for Wildlife Conservation, and Alberta's wildlife, we wish to express our thanks and gratitude to all who have contributed to our important cause in many different ways, and we encourage all Albertans to share in our deep appreciation of our wild neighbours.

Best regards,

The Board of Directors





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