

## Look, but don't touch! A North American Porcupine

By C. Bogstie

Coming second to only the North American beaver, North American porcupines are one of the largest rodents found in Canada and the US. The "quill pig" as their Latin name translates, has over 30,000 hard, hollow quills which detach easily when touched. Despite popular myth, porcupines cannot shoot their quills and must come into contact with a predator for their quills to be effective.

The North American porcupine has large front teeth, which they use to satisfy a diet consisting of wood, including bark and browse, as well as buds, fruit and, in some cases, the canoe paddles of unsuspecting campers. Some may be surprised to learn that porcupines are very adept climbers and spend much of their time in trees.

On January 5th of this year, a severely underweight and dehydrated male North American porcupine was admitted to AIWC after being discovered in a construction site in southeast Calgary. As a juvenile, he was in very poor health, weighing only 2.5 kilograms (compared to an average weight of juveniles of 5.5 kg). After a very slow reintroduction to food over several days, and a diet largely consisting of fresh browse, he now weighs 4.8 kg – almost double! He has done very well in care and AIWC plans to release him back to the wild in mid-late April, depending on the food source availability and weather conditions.

The successful recovery of injured wildlife is something we will never grow tired of!



*After a few weeks of care - much bigger and moved to an outdoor enclosure*



*The porcupine when he was first admitted*



*Just hanging out*



Box 68, Madden, AB T0M 1L0  
(403) 946-2361  
info@aiwc.ca  
www.aiwc.ca

## Update from the Executive Director

By H. Duvall, Executive Director

Did you know that on April 20th, 2018 we celebrated our 25th anniversary? Since our founding in 1993, AIWC has cared for over 31,000 individual injured and orphaned wild animals.

To celebrate this amazing milestone, we held a 25th Anniversary Celebration event on April 21st at the 54th floor Sky Garden at The Bow in Calgary. We are so thankful for the incredible generosity shared with AIWC for this event.

We'd like to thank The Nickle Family Foundation for donating \$10,000 to support the costs associated with running the event. This ensured that the proceeds went to where it was needed most: supporting the care of injured and orphaned wildlife.

Thank you to all of the local businesses, artists, and individuals who donated items to our silent auction. A full list of sponsors can be found on our website. We cannot thank you enough for lending your support to help make our event a huge success!

Thank you to The Bow and Encana staff for providing the venue. What better way to celebrate such a momentous anniversary than by high in the sky, with a birds-eye view of Calgary? Photos from the event can be viewed on our website.

Of course, without guests, there would be no event, so we'd like to send a massive thank you to all of the attendees! We loved meeting you and sharing AIWC's success with you. It is you, our donors, that provide the support needed for us to realize our mission. Thank you for your continued and devoted generosity!

Last, but by no means least, thank you to all of the staff and volunteers who made this event possible! This event could not have gone ahead without the many hands working together.

We look forward to the next 25 years of caring for injured and orphaned wildlife. Thank you for your wonderful support already in 2018. We hope to continue to rely on your support, especially as we now go into our busy seasons of Spring and Summer. Your support continues to save wild lives in need.

Sincerely,

Holly Duvall, Executive Director

### MISSION:

AIWC is committed to the rescue, rehabilitation, and release of injured and orphaned wildlife. We provide expert advice and education that fosters an appreciation of wildlife.

### Volume 25 / Issue 2 / Spring 2018

Sponsor an AIWC Patient:	3
Muskrat Patient:	3
Education Update:	4
Snowy Owl Release:	5
Spring Wish List:	6
Beaver Patient Update:	6
Garage Sale & Bottle Drive:	7
Myth Busting:	8

EDITORS: J. Kaiser, A. Wingenbach

DESIGNER: D. Cresswell

PRINT: Little Rock Printing

### CONTRIBUTORS:

C. Bogstie, J. Cooke, H. Duvall,  
K. Jansen, J. Kaiser, J. Kozak,  
C. Vavasour-Williams

### PHOTOS:

AIWC, D. Cresswell, J. Kaiser

Submissions/comments may be sent  
to the above address or emailed to  
jennifer.kaiser@aiwc.ca





## Sponsor an AIWC Patient: Red-tailed Hawk (*Buteo jamaicensis*)

By C. Vavasour-Williams

This female red-tailed hawk was found on the ground beneath a row of powerlines near Brooks, Alberta in September 2017. She was seemingly unable to fly, so the concerned finder called AIWC and a rescue driver was sent to transport her to AIWC. Upon arrival, staff began a thorough examination and discovered a fractured bone in her right wing. They applied a splint to her wing to mobilize the broken bone. She spent the first several days indoors where staff could closely monitor the initial healing process of her broken bone. She was then moved to a larger outdoor enclosure where she was able to fly and maintain her flight muscles.

Unfortunately, her injury prevented her from migrating south for the winter; the bone had not healed fully by the time the last of the wild red-tailed hawks left the province. She spent the coldest winter days comfortably indoors but has since been moved back outside as the warmer spring weather has returned to keep up with her flight conditioning. When the wild red-tailed hawks return to Alberta this spring she will be released in a rural area.

Sponsoring this hawk, or any other current AIWC patient, helps with the costs directly associated with their care and rehabilitation. As part of your sponsorship, you will receive a certificate, a glossy 8×10 photograph of your patient, and a tax receipt for the full amount of the sponsorship. Thank you for helping us to keep them forever wild!



*Red-tailed hawk closeup*



*Red-tailed hawk getting flight practice*



*Red-tailed hawk in indoor enclosure*

## AIWC to Release Muskrat in Great Spring Condition

By J. Cooke

A juvenile muskrat found in a ditch during a February cold snap has recovered well in AIWC's care. Staff who examined him found no injuries other than lethargy, likely from exposure to the severe weather. The muskrat was settled into his own quarters, a small wooden shelter situated over a tub of water in AIWC's clinic. There he quickly recovered and has returned to normal feisty muskrat behaviour. He spends his days swimming and chewing on carrots and other foods, and he quickly grew from 870 grams when he was admitted to 1.3 kgs!

Muskrats are native to North America and are well adapted to living in marshes and wetlands, where they make lodges out of cattails or other vegetation. They are social animals, living in large family groupings, but they are also territorial, using their musk glands to serve as a warning to interlopers. A muskrat's diet varies from vegetation such as waterlilies and roots to small fish, snails and even young birds. In winter, muskrats build insulated domes over holes in the ice, which they keep open.

When warmer weather arrives, AIWC staff will release this healthy muskrat into an area near water, where he will hopefully go on to find and claim his own territory.



*Juvenile muskrat in his pool*



## Education Update: Evening Owl Walks in the Weaselhead

By K. Jansen, Education and Community Engagement Coordinator

Though most of AIWC's education programs in the past have been focused on indoor or classroom learning, this March our education team had the opportunity to do something a little different.

There is something very special in being able to experience wildlife in person, and nothing truly fosters a deeper appreciation for our local animals than seeing them in their natural habitat. With March being one of the best times of the year to see owls, this turned into a perfect opportunity to partner with the Weaselhead Preservation Society, as AIWC lead two evening owl walks through a section of South Glenmore Park and the Weaselhead Natural Area itself.

Looking for owls in their natural habitat is often an exercise in extreme patience. Owls can hear much better than humans can, and by the time a human has gotten close enough to see an owl, the owl sometimes flies off in the opposite direction. However, listening for owls can be a much more rewarding activity, as long as the group you're with is willing to stand and wait for a while! Luckily, the members and guests of the Weaselhead Preservation Society who joined us on these walks were great at this; at various spots along the trail, we stopped and reviewed several different owl calls, then spent some minutes listening and hoping to hear some signs. We were even lucky enough on our second hike to hear a saw-whet owl (pictured below) – one of the smallest owl species in Alberta!

Owls leave behind many different signs that we can use to identify them, whether it is pellets, feathers, or even plunge holes. If you are interested in learning more about owls, you can book one of our education programs for yourself at <https://www.aiwc.ca/education/topics/>, or by calling 403-946-2361. If you'd like to explore the area we went to on our owl walk, you can also check out the Weaselhead Preservation Society's website at <http://theweaselhead.com/>!



*A recent saw-whet owl patient*



*Photo credit to @weaselheadpark on Twitter*





# Snowy Owl Returns to the Wild

By J. Kaiser

After 46 days in care, this snowy owl was ready for release back to the wild!

The owl's rescuer witnessed him collide with a powerline near High River and – thinking quickly – was able to contain him in a box so help could be sought. The finder brought the owl to a local veterinary clinic for transport to AIWC, where he later became our 17th patient of 2018.



*Shortly after admission with a bandaged wing*

Upon exam, AIWC staff discovered that he was suffering from soft tissue damage in his left wing and trauma to both eyes.



*Snowy owl in outdoor enclosure*

His wounds were bandaged, and after approximately a month of medical treatment and supportive care in our clinic, his injuries healed and he was moved to an outdoor enclosure to condition for release.

Because snowy owls spend their summers in the arctic and migrate to southern Alberta for the winter, it was important that he was releasable in time for his spring migration back up north. Luckily, his quick recovery meant his second chance began one wintery afternoon in late March.



*Snowy owl closeup*



***Want more AIWC articles?***

***Read our weekly blog!***

Visit <http://www.aiwc.ca/news-and-events/blog/> to read more about AIWC patients and events!



# Spring Wish List

By H. Duvall

Below you will find our most needed items to help us through our busy season from May until August.

Items can be dropped off at our centre throughout the month of May, any day of the week, from 9:00 a.m. to 5:00 p.m. When you arrive, please provide a copy of your receipt for the items purchased and donated, and we will send you an in-kind tax receipt for your donation!

If you have any questions, please contact us at 403-946-2361 or at [info@aiwc.ca](mailto:info@aiwc.ca).

## Produce:

- Fresh/frozen blueberries
- Mountain ash berries
- Saskatoon berries
- Oranges
- Apples
- Carrots
- Yam/sweet potato
- Lettuce
- Kale
- Corn on the cob
- Frozen corn kernels
- Snap Peas
- Mushrooms



## Cleaning Supplies:

- Paper towels
- Kleenex
- Toilet paper
- Extra-large garbage bags
- Recycle bags
- High efficiency laundry soap (unscented and phosphate free)
- Dish-washing liquid
- Bleach
- Hand soap
- Mops
- Mop buckets
- Brooms and dustpans

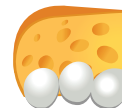


## Misc. Supplies:

- Good quality cat or kitten dry food
- Long-handled butterfly nets
- Heating pads
- Small whisks

## Meat/Dairy:

- Lean ground beef
- Smelt fish
- Eggs
- Yogurt
- Cottage cheese



## Did you know?

Over 1,000 wildlife babies are admitted to our centre each year! These supplies will go to support their well-being until they can be released back to the wild. Thank you for your support!

# Beaver Patient Update

By J. Kaiser

After spending much of the winter tucked into the den they built in our outdoor enclosure, our two long-term beaver patients have emerged for the spring! They are now busy swimming, grooming, and playing in the snow! It won't be long now until they are ready to be released together to the wild this spring.



## AIWC's 2nd Annual Garage Sale & Bottle Drive!

Did you know we are accepting gently used, saleable items in preparation for our garage sale on June 23rd? If you have any items you would like to donate, we are accepting item drop-offs at our facility at these times:

**Saturday, May 26: 11:00 a.m. to 2:00 p.m.**

**Saturday, June 2: 11:00 a.m. to 2:00 p.m.**

We are happy to accept the following items: small working appliances, tools, dishware, artwork, frames, books, jewelry, home décor, pet accessories, chairs, garden tools and equipment, camping equipment, and sporting equipment.

Please no: clothes, magazines, large furniture, large exercise equipment, electronics such as box style TVs, children's stuffed toys, or child car seats.

All proceeds from our garage sale will go towards supporting wildlife. Last year we admitted over 1,400 wild animals and we need your help in order to provide them with necessary care.

Directions to AIWC are on our website: <https://www.aiwc.ca/contact/>

Call us at 403-946-2361 or email us at [info@aiwc.ca](mailto:info@aiwc.ca) if you have questions. Thank you!

**Mark your calendars and come out to  
AIWC's Garage Sale & Bottle Drive  
at AIWC, on Saturday June 23rd 2018!**

Drop in anytime between 10:00 a.m and 3:00 p.m.

Bring your returnable glass & plastic bottles, as well as your pop cans, juice & milk cartons!



Enjoy refreshments while you search for your garage sale treasure!

We look forward to seeing you — rain or shine.  
(Cash and credit card accepted for purchases)



*Follow AIWC online!*

Like us on Facebook and follow us on Twitter (@AIWC) and Instagram (@albertawildlife)!







Box 68, Madden, AB T0M 1L0  
(403) 946-2361  
info@aiwc.ca  
www.aiwc.ca

## AIWC MEMBERSHIPS

### *Renew Your Membership for 2018!*

AIWC memberships expired on March 21, 2018. By purchasing an annual membership, you support local wildlife, conservation, and education at AIWC for a yearly fee of \$35 per person or \$45 for a family.

#### Your membership fee entitles you to:

- A mailed, paper copy of The Recovery Review, our quarterly newsletter;
- Our emailed ENews;
- Discount prices on AIWC merchandise and events;
- Discounts at local businesses; and
- The opportunity to participate at the AIWC Annual General Meeting.

#### There are four easy ways to purchase or renew your membership:

- Complete and mail in the membership section of the insert attached;
- Complete the secure online form at [aiwc.ca](http://aiwc.ca); or
- Call 403-946-2361

## SUMMER HOURS

Beginning May 13, AIWC will be open every day from **9:00 a.m. to 7:00 p.m.** to admit wildlife in need of care.

For after-hours assistance, please refer to our website for more information:

[www.aiwc.ca/wildlife-hospital/after-hours-assistance/](http://www.aiwc.ca/wildlife-hospital/after-hours-assistance/)

## WILDLIFE HOTLINE: 403-946-2361

## Myth Busting: Feeding Injured Wildlife

By J. Kozak

For many of us, it is second nature to reach for a comforting snack or beverage when we're feeling sick or injured. Or to have a big meal if we haven't eaten in a while. When people come across sick or injured animals, it can sometimes be instinctual to ensure that, once they are contained and safe, they have access to food and water. However, this is usually not a good idea!

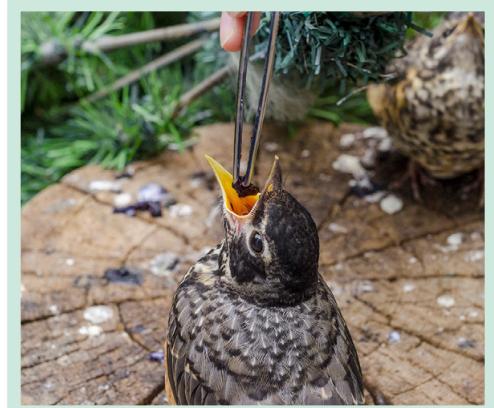
If you come upon a wild animal in distress, and who may appear to need help, the most important thing you can do is not rush to a conclusion. Because the animal has not been properly examined, it is impossible to fully diagnose the extent of any injuries.

Providing food or water to an injured or stressed animal can actually risk making their condition much worse, by leading to choking, trigger digestive concerns, or even cause aspiration pneumonia, which is a condition where food or liquid is inhaled into the lungs. Wild animals who haven't eaten in a long time, for example, and become severely underweight, dehydrated, and malnourished (emaciated) cannot go right back to eating regular amounts of solid foods; they must carefully and gradually be reintroduced to a proper diet by trained wildlife rehabilitators.

Wildlife also have very unique diets and requirements in order to keep them healthy and aid in their recovery. When animals are under the care of staff at AIWC, they are fed according to AIWC's nutritional manual. The manual lists the food needed for each species, and AIWC is regularly stocked with food, supplies, and formulas to meet the dietary needs of over 100 different species. For long-term patients, their diets will be adjusted and varied to provide enrichment. It is always important to ensure an animal is offered a species-appropriate diet, and if in doubt, it is best not to offer them anything until they can receive proper care.

Not to mention, offering a wild animal food or water can cause a mess! If you have contained an animal in a box or crate and they are waiting for transport to AIWC, it is best not to add any food or water dishes to their temporary housing – it almost always ends up spilled, and all over the patient themselves!

Like any other emergency situation, when you find an animal you think may need help, the first step is to call AIWC's Wildlife Hotline for guidance (403-946-2361). This will put you in touch with AIWC staff or a trained volunteer who can help ensure the animal receives proper care and support.



*Young American robin patient being fed*

### GO GREEN IN 2018!

Receive the Recovery Review straight to your inbox, saving paper and postage!

To add yourself to the email distribution list, please send an email to [info@aiwc.ca](mailto:info@aiwc.ca)