



## yukon wildlife preserve

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February 19<sup>th</sup>, 2015

### **Yukon Wildlife Preserve gives orphaned female moose calf a future.**

Whitehorse, Yukon – The Yukon Wildlife Preserve (YWP) is pleased to announce a new permanent resident! YWP's new female moose is now 9 months old and weighs about 150kg's. Her name is "JB" in recognition of the youngest member of YWP's Animal Care Team, Justine Benjamin, for her hard work and passion in caring for this unique individual. JB is currently on view to the public visiting the Yukon Wildlife Preserve. She is temporarily residing in an area next to the moose habitat while she makes a transition to her permanent home in the large 36 acre marsh habitat with YWP's 7-year old bull moose. "Moose are iconic Canada," said Executive Director, Greg Meredith. "And for all the wonderful animals we have, people are most excited about seeing moose."

JB arrived in late May 2014 from Burwash Landing via Conservation Officer Services. Only a few days old, she was found wandering near a residence without her mother. "She was dehydrated, really weak and couldn't stand up" said YWP's Wildlife Curator, Dr. Maria Hallock, who went on to say that the tiny moose was "...sad, sad looking." Staff at the Yukon Wildlife Preserve began a very demanding feeding schedule in the absence of its mother; bottle feeding every 3 hours and providing 24/7 supervision. "It was a lot of work," said Dr. Hallock, "every baby is a lot of work, but it's definitely harder when you're not her real mother!" Over the next several weeks the moose started to show real signs of improvement, nibbling on browse including grasses, fireweed and an alfalfa-hay mix.

Moose are extremely susceptible to stress so Dr. Hallock limited JB's care to a few key staff. Select Animal Care Staff devoted time to nursing and walking the moose – encouraging JB to discover her new surroundings at the YWP's Wildlife Rehabilitation and Research Centre. To make JB more comfortable, a pool was set up for her to play in and soon after staff noticed mock charging behaviour and play including jumping and running.

"As Yukoners, we deserve to be very proud about what Danny Nowlan started and with the partnership between our non-profit society and the territorial government," said Meredith. "It's a unique facility – in the world – and we are very proud and honoured to be stewards of this wonderful resource."

### **Yukon Wildlife Preserve**

- Opened to the public in June 2004.
- The Yukon Wildlife Preserve Operating Society is a not-for-profit society, led by an annually elected, volunteer, Board of Directors.
- Features 12 species of Yukon wildlife in large, natural habitats, which can be experienced by visitors through guided bus tours, walking, skiing and biking.
- Located at the YWP, the Wildlife Rehabilitation and Research Centre works in partnership with Environment Yukon's Animal Health Unit and Conservation Services to rehabilitate injured and orphaned wildlife.

- The Society funds its programs and services through memberships, visitor admissions, fees from commercial photographers, as well as donations, corporate partnerships, grants and a multi-year contribution agreement with Environment Yukon.
- For more from the Yukon Wildlife Preserve, please contact:

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7 Attached photos.

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