



yukon wildlife preserve

July 13, 2019

We're sad to report that "Faro", one of the two moose calves in our rehabilitation centre, has passed away. "Watson", the other moose, remains in good health.

"Faro" arrived in late May, 2019. He experienced several health complications within days of his arrival. These included general weakness, ataxia (uncoordinated muscle movements) and mild pneumonia. Dr. Maria Hallock, Yukon Wildlife Preserve Veterinarian, provided treatment and the symptoms resolved after approximately 10 days. From there the moose continued to develop normally until early July.

On July 2nd he collapsed suddenly while running around in their outdoor paddock. Over the following days the young moose exhibited partial paralysis which drastically limited his ability to stand and move around. As a result of these symptoms he sustained new injuries and his health continued to decline. By July 6th it was clear that there was no hope of recovery. His pain medication was no longer effective and he his condition had become unmanageable. At that time Animal Care staff sedated and euthanized the moose.

"Our Animal Care staff are very saddened," said Jake Paleczny, Executive Director. "Even though we know how uncertain the future is for animals in rehab, our staff put their hearts and souls into raising and caring for animals like Faro. It's been very emotional and challenging for the staff who were right there through it all."

In the following week Dr. Hallock investigated several possible causes. Thanks to All Paws Veterinary Clinic, YG's Animal Health Unit Veterinarian, and the Equine Specialist Veterinarians (from Alberta visiting Whitehorse) for their additional expertise and efforts through this. Despite Dr. Hallock's efforts and those of our local colleagues, the causes remain unknown.

Rehabilitation of orphaned moose calves is notoriously challenging. They don't come to us with a medical history. That means it's impossible to know how their life history (diet, previous injuries, genetic predispositions, etc) will impact their future.

Fortunately, "Watson", the other male moose, remains in good health. He expressed distress in the day following "Faro's" passing but has continued to eat well and stay engaged in his surroundings. In the coming days and weeks he'll be moved to a larger outdoor habitat. He will continue to remain out of view of the public to minimize any unnecessary stress through this sensitive period.

Thanks to the support of donors and our local community (like our local Vets), Animal Care staff were able to meet this challenge head on. When the news about these two moose originally broke in mid-June the Preserve received more than \$600 in donations. Support like this is critical to the Preserve's ability to accept and care for Yukon's most vulnerable animals. More information is available at <http://donate.yukonwildlife.ca/>.

The Yukon Wildlife Preserve is a zoological institution and a non-profit charity dedicated to connecting our visitors with the natural world. As ambassadors of the Yukon Wildlife Preserve's animals, lands, and operations, the operating society proudly maintains populations of 11 species of Yukon wildlife in large natural habitats. The society also conducts educational programming and funds a wildlife rehabilitation program for Yukon's injured and orphaned wildlife. The facilities and the level of care provided to our animals successfully meets the stringent criteria of Canada's Accredited Zoos and Aquariums, to which the Yukon Wildlife Preserve is a long-time member.