



yukon wildlife preserve

May 26, 2021

On May 24, 2021, the Yukon Wildlife Preserve received a baby male moose from Conservation Officer Services. The Preserve's Veterinarian, Dr. Maria Hallock, reports the young moose is very small - likely only a couple of days old - but appears to be healthy and is eating well.

After finding the young moose on May 24th, a member of the public ended up taking the moose back to their home. They called the Preserve, which referred their call to CO Services. CO Services collected the moose and brought it to the Preserve on the evening of May 24th.

It can be difficult to assess when an animal is in need of intervention. The Preserve works closely with CO Services, who have the experience to assess and take appropriate action in wildlife emergencies in the field. "Our instincts often tell us to jump right in and do something to help - we want to do the right thing," said Jake Paleczny. "But the situation may not be as it seems. We never recommend people take it upon themselves to take wild animals out of the wild. Call CO Services!" CO Services have ultimate authority over all wildlife coming into the Preserve for rehabilitation or rescue.

The young moose was energetic and well hydrated when it arrived. After a brief physical examination, Dr. Hallock was successfully able to feed the moose a milk replacement formula. Animal Care staff are now working on minimizing stress to the moose and ensuring he's stable and feeding well.

The Preserve is home to Yukon's only Wildlife Rehabilitation centre. "Our goal is to give animals a second chance in the wild," said Paleczny, "We are not able to hand raise and safely release large ungulates back into the wild, so his future now lies with us." Taking the place of a mother requires close-contact conditioning to reduce the animal's stress around humans. As fully grown adults the lack of caution or fear of humans can make them dangerous in the wild.

The Preserve's Animal Care team is working around the clock with feedings every three hours from 6am to midnight. He appears to be healthy right now, but we don't know the circumstances leading up to this occurrence - including whether or not there are underlying health conditions.

If all goes well from here, he will be eating more solid food by late June. Milk-replacer feedings will decrease over time to twice a day in August and once a day in September. He'll be introduced to the Preserve's other moose in September or October of 2021. He will eventually join two of the Preserve's male moose in a large habitat that is currently behind-the-scenes.

The Yukon Wildlife Preserve currently has 5 moose - four of which were orphaned rescues between 2014 and 2020. "It's always preferable for a moose like this to have the opportunity to grow up with its mom in the wild," says Paleczny. "But our team is working hard to provide the best life we can for this little moose."

Raising a baby moose is costly - both for the intensive amounts of staff time and expertise to successfully nurture an animal; but also for the supplies, like milk replacer, required to provide appropriate nutrition. The Preserve's wildlife rehabilitation program relies almost entirely on public donations. To support this young moose and the Preserve's ongoing ability to accept and care for Yukon's most vulnerable animals, visit 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 the Preserve's animals successfully meets the stringent criteria of Canada's Accredited Zoos and Aquariums, to which the Yukon Wildlife Preserve is a long-time member.

For more information:

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