



yukon wildlife preserve

November 5, 2021

We are saddened to report the passing of the young female lynx kitten born on June 20, 2021. The other two kittens, both males, are in good health.

The kitten was found deceased on November 4, 2021 at 10:30am. Dr. Maria Hallock, Yukon Wildlife Preserve Veterinarian, conducted an investigation and necropsy. All of Dr. Hallock's findings are consistent with an acute blunt moderate to severe head injury that resulted in severe pain, seizures and death. While all internal organs appeared normal, samples have been taken to submit for histology examination. Among other things, a full investigation ensures the health of other animals at the Preserve is not at risk.

With the evidence available, it is impossible to know more about the specific cause of injury. The Preserve prides itself on providing its animals with large, natural habitats and excellent care. Large, natural habitats provide a rich, dynamic setting for the Preserve's animals. However, the same habitats that allow animals like lynx to express a wide range of behaviours, and afford some privacy to the animals, also have inherent risks.

For example, this past summer, one of the male kitten's legs was injured after getting stuck in a tree. Due to a severely pinched femoral nerve, the kitten had no ability to use its leg. The Animal Care team removed that male kitten from the main habitat for treatment. The kitten spent over a month in the Preserve's Wildlife Research and Rehabilitation Centre while Dr. Hallock treated the injury. The treatments were successful and the kitten regained the ability to use its leg effectively. At that time the mother and two siblings were reunited at the Rehabilitation Centre in late September. The mother and three kittens were successfully returned to the main habitat at the end of October.

"Animals get injured, often fatally, all the time in the wild. but most of the time we don't see it." Said Jake Paleczny, Executive Director. "At the Preserve we see it. And often our team is lucky enough to intervene before it's too late." Dr. Hallock and her team provide excellent care for the more than 175 animals that live at the Preserve.

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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