



## yukon wildlife preserve

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December 10, 2021

We are saddened to report the passing of a young male lynx kitten. On December 6, 2021, the deceased male lynx kitten was found by Animal Care staff on their regular rounds. The Preserve had a litter of three lynx kittens born June 20, 2021 - two males and one female. The [female lynx passed away Nov 5, 2021](#). Of the two male lynx kittens - the recently deceased kitten was not the one who sustained a leg injury earlier in the year and required extensive rehabilitation to regain the use of his leg.

YWP Veterinarian Dr. Maria Hallock has begun a thorough investigation and conducted a necropsy, however; the results of the necropsy are inconclusive so far and additional testing is required before any conclusions can be drawn. However, initial results from the necropsy suggest the cause of death is different from that of the female lynx kitten last month.

Tissue samples are being sent out to a lab for a series of tests that will hopefully shed more light on what happened. Lab results will likely not be available until closer to Christmas. Following flooding in Abbotsford, the Preserve's normal lab has closed, necessitating shipping samples to a lab in Saskatoon and delaying turn around times.

Animal Care staff observe each of the lynx daily. They are observing them to look for any signs of potential health problems, and to ensure they each receive food. The day prior (Dec 5), Animal Care staff observed the kitten eating and without any signs of health problems.

"This is a frustrating and emotional turn of events for Dr. Maria," said Executive Director Jake Paleczny. "Our Animal Care team is incredibly passionate about providing the very best care for our animals here. To see their efforts - and their passion - confounded by a series of unrelated incidents is really hard. They are doing everything they can to understand what happened."

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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