



yukon wildlife preserve

July 7, 2023

The Yukon Wildlife Preserve received two baby orphaned moose in late May 2023. The Preserve's Veterinarian, Dr. Maria Hallock, reports both moose are healthy and eating well.

The first calf arrived May 18th from the Carcross area. His mother had given birth to twins, but this one was left behind. The property owner monitored for 24 hours in hopes the mother would return before calling CO Services.

The second calf arrived May 22nd from Jake's Corner. It was found in a ditch alongside the highway with a fracture in its back left foot/ankle (left distal metatarsus). In this case the mother was still with the calf; however, the calf would not have survived in the wild with this injury. Dr. Hallock and her team initially immobilized the fracture with a splint and later put on a cast. The cast was removed in late June and the young moose is starting to use his leg more. Although the healing has gone well so far, he will likely walk with a slight limp.

In an unfortunate turn of events, the first calf slipped, breaking some ribs and his back leg (left proximal metatarsus) just days after the other calf's cast came off. Observation cameras in the Rehabilitation centre captured the moment. Dr. Hallock was able to put a cast on the leg. The calf's future was quite uncertain for the first several days after the cast went on due to post-anaesthetic complications and the severity of the injuries.

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, "That said, we aren't able to hand raise and safely release large ungulates back into the wild." 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 long hours with feedings every three hours from 6am to 9pm. If all goes well from here, they will be eating more and more solid food through July. Milk-replacer feedings will decrease over time to twice a day in August and once a day in September. They will be introduced to the Preserve's other moose in September or October of 2023. They will eventually join some of the Preserve's male moose in a large habitat that is currently behind-the-scenes.

The Yukon Wildlife Preserve currently has 5 moose - all are orphaned rescues from 2014 to 2021. "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 these 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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