



yukon wildlife preserve

July 25, 2023

We are sad to announce that after a series of injuries, Dr. Maria Hallock made the difficult decision to euthanize one of the two orphaned moose calves over the weekend.

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.

In an unfortunate turn of events, this calf slipped, breaking some ribs and his back leg (left proximal metatarsus). 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. However, the calf pulled through.

Moving around with a cast can be challenging. Unfortunately, the calf injured that same leg again, damaging ligaments. Even with this damage, the outlook still looked positive.

Late in the day on July 21st, the calf broke its other back leg. The Preserve's Animal Care Team speculates that the unusually loud thunder and lightning may have startled the young calf. Dr. Hallock casted the newly broken back right leg and removed the cast from the back left leg. Dr. Hallock's hope was that the previous injuries had healed enough to allow the moose to bear weight on the left leg. The young moose did well through the night and part of the next day before it broke its left ankle. With both back legs compromised there was no way to maintain a suitable quality of life. Ruminants like moose need to stand for their digestive system to function properly. This would have made it impossible for the calf to stand, lay down or move around.

The Animal Care Team was able to come in to say their goodbyes before the young moose was euthanized. "It's heartbreaking for the staff who worked with this moose day and night for months," said Executive Director Jake Paleczny.

Fortunately the other moose calf that arrived May 22nd with a broken back left leg is doing well. He will move to a larger outdoor habitat in the coming days. If all goes well he will be introduced to the Preserve's other moose in September or October of 2023. He 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.

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 10 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.



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For more information:

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