



yukon wildlife preserve

August 8, 2025

On June 17, 2025, the Yukon Wildlife Preserve received a baby male moose from Conservation Officer Services. He was estimated to be a couple of weeks old.

The moose was found near Atlin, BC and picked up by a member of the public. A deceased adult cow moose, likely hit by a vehicle, was sighted in the vicinity. Conservation Officer Services collected the moose from the member of the public and brought it to the Preserve on June 17, 2025.

The Preserve works closely with CO Services, who have the experience to assess and take appropriate action in wildlife emergencies in the field. CO Services have ultimate authority over all wildlife coming into the Preserve for rehabilitation or rescue.

A physical examination by Veterinarian Dr. Cassandra Andrew revealed the moose was in good health and relaxed. The Preserve's Animal Care team began bottle feeding the moose 5 times a day, with the first feeding at 6am and the last at 10pm. Since then, the moose has gone from drinking 2 litres of milk (a special ungulate milk replacement formula) over 5 feedings each day to 6 litres over 3 feedings. By the end of August he'll be drinking 8 litres a day. At that point weaning will begin, and the number of feedings each day will start to decrease. More and more of his diet will come from solid food as the summer continues.

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 currently able to hand raise and safely release large ungulates back into the wild, so Atlin will stay 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.

"It's always preferable for a moose like this to have the opportunity to grow up with its mom in the wild," says Paleczny. "Our team here feels a deep responsibility to honour the gifts Atlin provides us and really make sure his life with us helps cultivate reciprocal, respectful relationships between us and the wildlife we coexist with."

The young male moose, now known as "Atlin" will eventually be introduced to the Preserve's other 2 moose. Both were orphaned rescues. "Watson" was found near Watson Lake, Yukon in 2019 and "Jake" was found near Jake's Corner, Yukon in 2023.

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 cultivating reciprocal, respectful relationships between people and the natural world through accessible, impactful experiences with northern wildlife and landscapes. As ambassadors of the Yukon Wildlife Preserve's animals, lands, and operations, the operating society proudly displays 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 our animals successfully meets the stringent criteria of Canada's Accredited Zoos and Aquariums, of which the Yukon Wildlife Preserve is a long-time member.

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