



Meet Your Wild Neighbours!

COMMON, FEARED, WEIRD AND REVERED!

TWC's Education Program is generously supported by:



Toronto Wildlife Centre

EST. 1993



TWC Fast Facts

- ▶ Open daily since **1993**
- ▶ **Up to 6,500** sick, injured and orphaned wild animals admitted yearly with the ultimate goal of returning them back to the wild once healthy
- ▶ More than **300** different species admitted
- ▶ **~40,000** calls handled by hotline staff yearly
- ▶ **~1,000** wild animals rescued yearly
- ▶ Up to **5,000** children, youth and adults educated each year through public presentations and events; **thousands more** through our other communication channels
- ▶ TWC is a **charity** and operates on **donations** – we are **the only hospital** for wildlife in Toronto





What's the most unusual wild animal that you have seen in your neighbourhood?

Wild Animals Live Everywhere!



- ▶ The Greater Toronto Area is home to, or on the migratory route of:
 - ▶ 410 bird species
 - ▶ 38 mammal species
 - ▶ 24 reptile and amphibian species
 - ▶ 110 butterfly species
 - ▶ 200 spider species
 - ▶ 364 bee species
 - ▶ 100 fish species

Who belongs in a city?



Wildlife in the urban ecosystem:

- Wild animals are part of our communities; beneficial
- Green space like parks, ravines, neighbourhoods
- Have not come from elsewhere – cities have built up around them
- As they struggle to survive living closely with humans, they face unique threats

Common Species

- ▶ Certain species tend to thrive in urban and suburban areas more than others – well adapted to city life
 - ▶ Availability of appropriate shelter and food
- ▶ Still face unique threats as a result of sharing space with people
 - ▶ Spring - Trapping and relocating
 - ▶ TWC promotes peaceful co-existence and tolerance



Trapping and Relocating Wildlife

- ▶ Not a humane alternative
- ▶ Separates mothers from babies
- ▶ Relocated wildlife often do not survive in the new location





Trap Induced Injuries

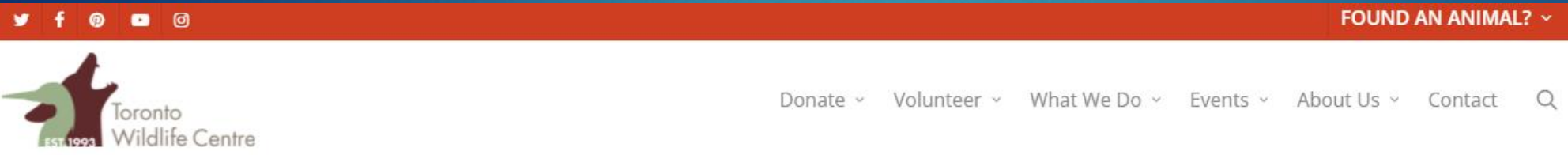


A photograph of two brown bears resting together in a nest. The bears are lying down, with their heads close together. The nest is lined with a grey material, and a blue cloth is visible in the background. A green rectangular box with white text is overlaid on the image.

Keep Wild Families Together

Tolerance & Humane Harassment

www.torontowildlifecentre.com



Common Raccoon Problems

I have a problem with a raccoon...

- [Aggressive Raccoons](#)
- [In garbage cans](#)
- [Out during the day](#)
- [Sleeping on my balcony or roof](#)
- [Digging up the lawn](#)
- [Living in my attic](#)
- [Living in my shed or garage](#)
- [Living under my deck or shed](#)



Feared and Misunderstood Species

- ▶ What words would YOU use to describe a coyote?



How would you describe a coyote?



- ▶ Media often uses negative terms such as:
 - ▶ Aggressive
 - ▶ Stalking
 - ▶ Preying
 - ▶ Attack
 - ▶ Brazen
 - ▶ Wiley
 - ▶ Nuisance
- ▶ Natural behaviours of coyotes:
 - ▶ Protective
 - ▶ Escorting
 - ▶ Hunting for food
 - ▶ Encounter
 - ▶ Curious
 - ▶ Intelligent
 - ▶ Part of our urban ecosystem – here to stay!

Feeding

Myths and misconceptions:

- Leaving food out in a location away from my home will ensure the coyotes are full and don't come to my yard
- Coyotes that live in the city have nothing to eat and will starve if I don't feed them
- Coyotes don't belong in cities – why is it MY responsibility to keep these spaces clean?



Pet Safety



Sonic



Chico

Pet Safety Tips!

- ▶ Keep cats indoors, on leash (no more than 3 feet), or in a predator proof outdoor enclosure when visiting the outdoors (e.g. “catio”)
- ▶ Keep dogs on a leash (no more than 3 feet); pick up small dogs if a coyote is nearby
- ▶ Coyotes cannot differentiate between a pet and wild animal – both appear as prey



Sarcoptic Mange





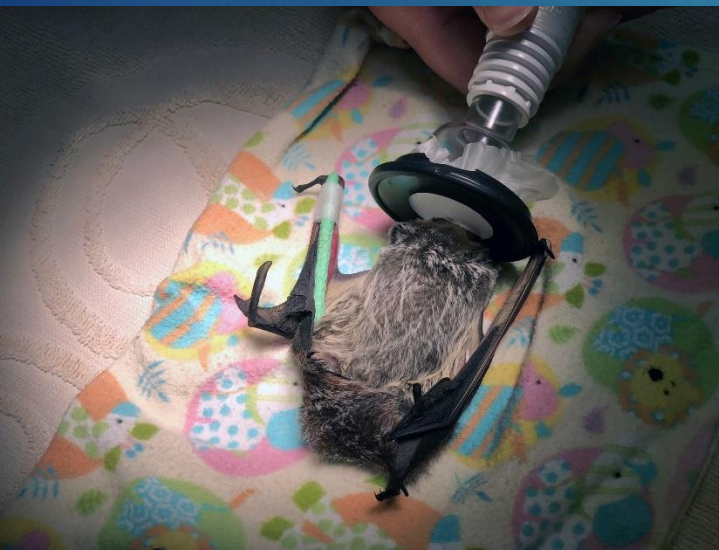
Creatures of the Night!

MICHAEL DURHAM/MINDEN PICTURES



Did You Know?

- Bats are the only mammal that can fly.
- They live a long time — 20 to 30 years!
- Bats have friends and their own language. They use a series of buzzes, clicks, and trills to communicate with one another.
- Bats in Ontario need our help! Three bat species in Canada are listed as endangered: little brown bats, northern long-eared bats and tricolored bats



This hoary bat is put under anaesthetic to stabilize a broken bone in their wing.

Injured bats, and bats found outside in the winter, need immediate attention.



Canada Bat Box Project!

Ssssssnakes!

- ▶ Did you know?
 - ▶ Ontario has 17 species of snakes and only 1 is venomous!
 - ▶ The Massassuga Rattler
 - ▶ Snakes are timid
 - ▶ Snakes are not slimy
 - ▶ Snakes don't chew their food
 - ▶ They eat voles, mice, lizards, frogs, tadpoles and bird eggs
 - ▶ Snakes need your help!
 - ▶ Roads are a threat
 - ▶ Habitat is disappearing
 - ▶ Species at risk: blue racer, Butler's gartersnake, Eastern foxsnake, Eastern hognosed, Eastern ribbonsnake, gray ratsnake Lake Erie watersnake, Massassuga rattler, Queensnake



“Weird” Species



Awesome Opossums!

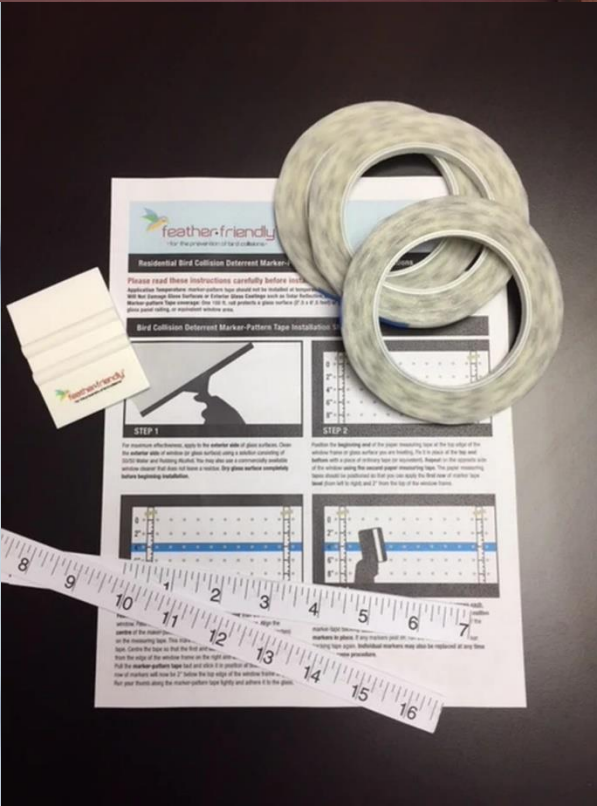
- ▶ Established populations across Ontario
- ▶ Nomadic
- ▶ Don't tend to den in one spot
- ▶ Famous for eating ticks!
- ▶ Not aggressive – defence is “playing possum”, showing teeth
- ▶ Ontario's only marsupial!
- ▶ When they need help:
 - ▶ Cold winters – frostbite
 - ▶ Babies found alone



American Woodcock

- ▶ Migratory bird – winters in south of USA
- ▶ Long beak probes the soil for earthworms, using its flexible bill tip to capture prey
- ▶ Large eyes allow it to see above while foraging on the ground
- ▶ Windows a big threat during migration
 - ▶ Save the birds!
 - ▶ Mitigation techniques:
 - ▶ www.featherfriendly.com
 - ▶ www.flap.org





▶ Trumpeter Swan

- ▶ Conservation success story!
- ▶ Population were severely depleted by over 125 years of commercial swan skin harvest; thousands of skins were shipped to Europe between 1772 and the late 1800
- ▶ Restoration programs across USA from 1930s to 1960s
- ▶ Trumpeter Swan Society continues this work today
- ▶ Lead poisoning, habitat loss, power lines, and occasional shooting continue to affect the population
 - ▶ TWC admits many tangled in fishing line and hooks



Revered Species



Questions?

