



yukon wildlife preserve

February 10th, 2015

Yukon Wildlife Preserve to send rehabilitated swans south for release.

Whitehorse, Yukon – This fall, the Yukon Wildlife Preserve (YWP) gave two young swans a second chance. The tundra swan arrived on October 4th, 2014, underweight and weakened by parasites. The trumpeter swan arrived October 30th, 2014 with a soft tissue injury and underweight. With treatment from YWP staff, the two swans recovered quickly, returning to normal weight. Despite the size difference, the swans happily shared an indoor space at the YWP's Wildlife Research and Rehabilitation Centre.

The Yukon Wildlife Preserve is the only facility authorized to rehabilitate migratory waterfowl in Yukon. Despite a quick recovery, releasing the swans has not been straightforward. These migratory birds missed their migration. Without a suitable location for them to overwinter, the best solution was to send them to southern British Columbia where there is open water and overwintering swans. The swans were set to leave in early December 2014, but an outbreak of avian influenza in BC put all import permits on hold.

With avian flu contained, the swans will make a late migration to Vancouver via Air North, Yukon's Airline on Wednesday, February 11th, 2015. When the swans arrive at the airport, a transport volunteer for the Wilderness Rescue Association of BC (WRA) will pick them up and bring them to the WRA's Care Centre in Burnaby. WRA staff will give them a full physical exam. Staff will keep the swans at least 3 days to monitor and assess if they're ready for release. Through contacts with local birders the WRA will find a suitable area for release where a flock of swans is located.



Yukon Wildlife Preserve

- Opened to the public in June 2004.
- The Yukon Wildlife Preserve Operating Society is a not-for-profit society, led by an annually elected, volunteer, Board of Directors.
- Features 12 species of Yukon wildlife in large, natural habitats, which can be experienced by visitors through guided bus tours, walking, skiing and biking.
- Located at the YWP, the Wildlife Rehabilitation and Research Centre works in partnership with Environment Yukon's Animal Health Unit and Conservation Services to rehabilitate injured and orphaned wildlife.
- The Society funds its programs and services through memberships, visitor admissions, fees from commercial photographers, as well as donations, corporate partnerships, grants and a multi-year contribution agreement with Environment Yukon.
- For more from the Yukon Wildlife Preserve, please contact:

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Wildlife Rescue Association

- Established in 1979 to rehabilitate wildlife affected by human activity and provide education to the public on co-existing with urban wildlife.
- Located on Burnaby Lake, the Care Centre treats animals and provides temporary refuge before releasing animals back to their natural habitat.
- Public education and outreach includes a wildlife helpline, the EarthFest community festival, year-round nature camps, and hundreds of presentations and displays throughout the Lower Mainland.
- Around 80% of funding comes through donations and without funding and support from members of the public, local business and the wider community.
- For more from the Wildlife Rescue Association, please contact:

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