

ANNOUNCING THE 2010 SEASON AT PROCYON WILDLIFE

PROCYON WILDLIFE 7073 Second Line, Tottenham, ON, L0G 1W0 - 905 936 3184 www.procyonwildlife.com



Our Mission: Procyon Wildlife is dedicated to working with our communities in an effort to help wild animals in need of care. Our goals are to rescue, rehabilitate and safely release these animals and to promote public appreciation for wildlife preservation.

Welcome to Procyon Wildlife 2010!

OMG, we had such an exciting year in 2009! Our first year as a federal charity was filled with firsts and busier than ever. Thanks to our numerous, overworked volunteers and our generous donors we cared for twice as many animals as we had the year before. We rearranged, renovated, and, oh yes, rehabbed at a phenomenal rate. Thank you everyone who helped us make 2009 a very successful season.

On to 2010... We have so many new plans for the coming year- memberships, merchandise, and full time volunteers from overseas. Keep your eyes on this website for all of the details.

If you're reading this newsletter, it's because you're already a member or a volunteer. Welcome and thank you for joining us! Because a lot of the new services we have for you are new to us as well, we greatly value your input and suggestions. We look forward to hearing from you!

Here's to an exciting new year. Together we can make Procyon Wildlife more successful than ever!

Cynthia Post, DVM

What's New in 2010:

- A 5-acre deer enclosure will be built on land leased to us at no charge by Cathie Brenner and Scott Anderson.



- Additional outdoor enclosures will be built for raccoons and other small mammals.



- Travel Works Volunteers from Germany will work with us year-round.



- We will install X-ray equipment that was recently donated by Koch Spine Centre in Hamilton.



- Memberships are available .



Our Accomplishments in 2009:

- The dedication of our 80 Volunteers enabled us to admit and care for over 600 wild animals. Most of these animals were released back into their natural habitats but some of them are still with us for the winter to be released in the spring.
- Under the supervision of our Site Coordinator, Jeff Wilson, our volunteers built many new outdoor enclosures for fawns, raccoons, squirrels and rabbits. We recently completed an indoor small mammal nursery.
- We received generous monetary donations from Supporters and from Wildlife Rescuers. Many Veterinary and Pet Supply companies provided us with much needed food and supplies.
- Volunteer Lisa Piellusch designed, built and maintains the Procyon Website.



Working For Wildlife; What you can do to help:

- Contact us at info@procyonwildlife.com to find out how you can help.
- Become a Volunteer. Come to our Orientation Meeting February 20 at 1:00 pm.
- Become a Member. Find out how by visiting our website: www.procyonwildlife.com
- Donate to our ongoing Bottle Drive. Bring your empty beer and wine bottles to us; proceeds from refunds will help us care for the wild animals.
- Think Recycle: Bring us your used printer cartridges. We will refund them for proceeds that will help the animals.
- Keep an eye on our Website Calendar for upcoming events and fund-raisers.



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Procyon Wildlife braces for the next 'baby boom' By Wendy Soloduik

Procyon Wildlife Veterinary and Rehabilitation Services, owned by Cynthia Post, DVM, in Tottenham is preparing for the next wave of animals to fill their ever increasing number of cages. In 2009, thanks to a base of over 80 "dedicated, amazing and spectacular" volunteers, Procyon had a wonderful season, helping more than 600 orphaned, sick or injured wild animals. This is a huge increase, since just the year before (2008), with only about a dozen volunteers, the Centre was able to take in just 50 animals for care. Volunteers, who participate in very aspect of the Centre, including animal care, building cages and fundraising, are the heartbeat of Procyon – the only wild animal rehabilitation centre from here to Bracebridge, and south to Toronto. "I can't forget to thank all of the generous donors who gave us veterinary supplies, animal food and contributions when bringing in animals for care," says Post, "and because of this generosity we were able to care for more animals then ever. It was really busy, almost insane around here (laughs), but we couldn't have had the impact we did without all of the time, resources and money – and obvious love people have for animals." Although most of the 600 animals Procyon took in have been re-released (back into the geographical area where they were found), some will stay for the winter and then be released in the spring.

"Our job is to do what we can for these babies. Most are orphans who cannot fend for themselves, others have been injured on roadways or by other animals and some are ill. Once they are better, and some, sadly, do not recover, we want them to go back to their natural environment." Procyon Wildlife takes in raccoons, squirrels, cotton tail rabbits, fawns, weasels, skunks and even porcupines. At any one time, all of the cages are full – and babies stay inside until they are old enough to be moved to the outdoor cages. They "climatize" to being outside again until their release date. All of the animals are vaccinated for rabies. Procyon is once again looking for volunteers (look for a full page announcement in next week's edition of *The Times*). Volunteer orientation will take place on Saturday, February 20 at the Wildlife Centre, located at 7073 2nd Line of New Tecumseth beginning at 1 p.m.

"We look forward to meeting with new volunteers, as well as welcoming back quite a number of volunteers from last year," adds Post. New at Procyon this year – Procyon has formed an agreement with a group called 'Travel Works' out of Germany that provides young Europeans with volunteer and travel experiences.

Procyon will have four of these volunteers working full time at the Centre. "We're really excited about that," says Post. "This means that our local volunteers will have the added experience of meeting new people from other countries while getting assistance during their shifts here."

In 2009, thanks to volunteers, four new squirrel cages were built, as well as a fawn enclosure, six new outdoor raccoon cages and an indoor mammal room.

"This year, we have plans to build a five acre deer enclosure so we can keep our fawns until they are mature and ready to be re-released adds Post, "this is very exciting." "I am eternally grateful to all the volunteers, who spent hours of their time working and taking care of the animals," concludes Post. "I also want to thank those who continued to give, despite the economy." Procyon Wildlife will be selling memberships this year through their volunteer base and on their new website – www.procyonwildlife.com. These memberships will provide privileges that will help both the animals and the buyer. For more information on Procyon Wildlife please call the shelter direct number at 905 936-3184.

Shelter stories from 2009:

Max' the fawn – survived a traumatic head injury and has made a full recovery.

'Squirrel' – found almost frozen to death, was resuscitated and then released

'Mortimer' the raccoon – although Mortimer did pass away, he will be remembered fondly by all of the volunteers.

"Not all of our animals make it, but at least coming here is their *only* chance of survival. Either they're too sick, too injured or orphans. At least they will have a fighting chance if they can get here."





Year 1 at Procyon - The Experience of a Volunteer.

I have many memories of my first year of volunteering at Procyon. I enjoyed working with the raccoons in particular. I remember one night I was in the back room feeding the raccoons when I heard the door open and the sound of a baby raccoon squealing. I came out to see what the commotion was about and met a family who had brought in an injured raccoon. He had fallen off a bridge and landed on his face. His jaw was broken and several teeth were missing and he was obviously in quite a bit of pain. He was frightened and did not want anyone to hold him. I went over to pat him and he jumped on my shoulder and crawled around under my hair. He became very quiet nuzzling up against my neck. We left him there for a few minutes to settle him down.

But this little guy did not want to come out from the security he felt under my hair and screamed at anyone who tried to pry him away. We did eventually get him into his own cage, but he was lonely and because of his injuries, he could not suck from a bottle. We fed him for weeks through a syringe until the bruising and swelling subsided. He grew into a bit fat healthy adult, still missing teeth, but every bit as lively as the others.

Another night, late in the season, we were short staffed and I took the raccoon feeding room while my partner took the squirrels. It was going to be a long night, but many of the raccoons were now able to feed themselves and were consistently using the litter box. This made work a bit faster, but it also made for some interesting adventures because the older raccoons are quite mischievous. Because of their size and strength, they are capable of getting into a lot of trouble. That evening was a classic case of me against them. A cage of seven decided they were leaving the cage as soon as they had the opportunity. When I opened the door to pull the first one out, another proceeded to crawl up my arms, another attached himself to my leg while yet another jumped on my head. It became like a Laurel and Hardy skit. When I pulled one off of me, another jumped on in its place and each time I opened the cage to put one in, two more promptly ran out. This continued for about ten minutes until someone heard my laughter and came to my rescue.

Joan Del Tin

