

"My first look at a baby beaver"

Even though we are no longer doing wildlife rehabilitation, the animals we have helped over the years are never far from our minds. In fact they are the reason we believe so strongly in our new education program - to give them a voice. As a tribute we want to keep sharing the stories of some of the amazing animals we met over the years.

This little bundle of attitude arrived at the Center covered with punctures, likely mauled by a dog. This was my first look at a baby beaver, and there are no words

Beaver Facts

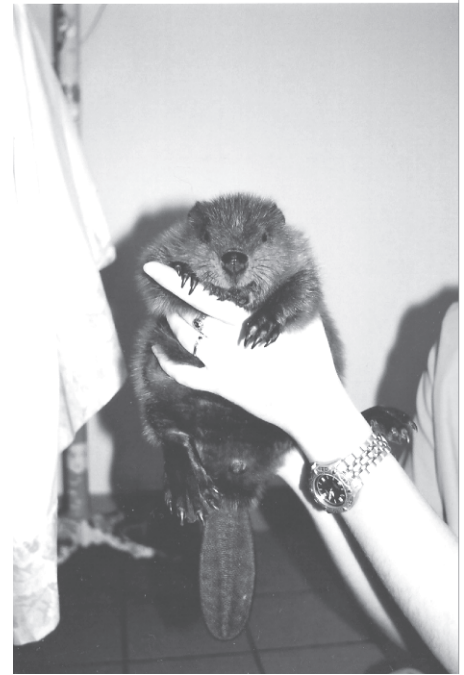
- Beavers play a key role in the creation of wetlands, which in turn are critical to a healthy ecosystem.
- Like man, beaver are amazing engineers, erecting ingenious dams and lodges for their families.
- Family is very important to beavers who mate for life and tend to their young for two years.
- When young, mom will sometimes ferry kits on her back while swimming, or on her broad tail while on land.

to describe how adorable this little creature was. An immediate vet trip was in order, where his wounds were treated. They were not as bad as we had thought but he did end up with a very bad haircut! With some antibiotics and care he would be just fine.

Little beaver seemed to be running the show from the get go- all other animals at the Centre had a feeding schedule, when it was feeding time they ate. Well not little beaver! I took him home for late night feeds, I would try him at 11:00 pm - not hungry; 12:30 am, nope not yet; 1:30 am eureka - he ate. I quickly realized little beaver's feeding schedule was "whenever little beaver wanted to eat!". I now joke that this was good practice for motherhood.

Next came his post dinner swim. Sometimes he would splash and play, other times he would enjoy a leisurely swim. When finished, he would put his tiny paws on the edge of the plastic tub, look over at me and let out a little whistle. It reminded me of a little bell you would ring for the butler to come. He never let us forget who was in charge.

After all of his hard work came a well-deserved rest. Sometimes he would even fall asleep in my arms while I was drying him off. What a wonderful gift it



was to sit and hold this little bundle of fluff with the soft webbed feet.

After a month little beaver was feeling much better, even his funny haircut was starting to grow out. This meant he got to go to another facility to be raised with other beavers. I was a bit worried about how little beaver would adjust to his new environment. Who was I kidding; our little bundle of attitude did just fine. We got updates on his care and he was successfully released back into the wild.

There's a mouse in the house!

Detailed help for dealing with wildlife problems is a free click away at www.wildlifeproblems.ncf.ca. Here is an example of a topic covered on the site.

It doesn't seem right that something that weighs less than an ounce can so often outwit us humans. Whether we live in the city or in the country, most of us have non-paying tenants in the form of mice each winter. Each fall mice seek out warm spots to spend the winter. Just as predictably they move to a more natural setting in the spring. Here are some tips on what to do when you have a mouse in the house:



- Given their size it is almost impossible to prevent mice from entering your attic. Good news is that you can prevent them from entering your house proper or living space.
- Check for access points into your living space, such as under kitchen and bathroom sinks where the

pipes pass through the drywall; baseboards especially in closets; where services enter through the wall; under doors leading from the garage or basement.

- Animal proof access points using metal lath, which can easily be bent and forced into holes and nailed to flat surfaces.
- In spaces too small for metal lath, waterproof stainless steel or copper scouring pads can be used. Never use steel wool as it rusts and disintegrates quickly.
- Food will attract mice into kitchens so be sure all food, including garbage is secured.

See *Mouse* on page 4...