

Getting Started: Rescues

Volunteers are needed to rescue and transport animals throughout the year. Spring and summer are the busiest, as wildlife is more abundant during this time, especially baby animals.

What You Need

Having a basic equipment kit will ensure that you are prepared for many rescues. Basic equipment includes:

- Blanket
- Leather gloves
- Disposable gloves
- Cardboard box and/or pet crate, with a clean towel or blanket
- Large net

Volunteer Portal

The [Volunteer Portal](#) is a valuable resource for volunteers. This is where you sign up for hotline and rescue shifts, and access contact lists and information such as the WRSOS Volunteer Manual. You should receive log in information via email after attending orientation and becoming a member.

Sign up for a Rescue Shift

The main page on the Volunteer Portal shows the hotline and rescue shifts for the week/month. To sign up for a shift, click your username in the top right corner and select “MyWRSOS”. You then click “Availability” to enter your shift. You can sign up for a shift if someone else is also signed up – as they may be in a different area.

Rescue Shift Process

Signing up for a rescue shift means that you are available during that time for any rescues in your area. You will be the first person the hotline volunteer will contact for rescues. There may be none, or several for any given shift. You may respond to a call, and after assessing the situation decide the animal should not or cannot be removed – this is okay. If you are ever unsure, contact an experienced rescue volunteer.

WRSOS Rescues on Facebook

This Facebook page is used by volunteers to facilitate rescues and transportation of wildlife. It is a great idea to check the page regularly, or when a notification for the page appears.

General Information

Animals cope with threats by using the ‘fight, flight or freeze’ response. Always be prepared and process with caution. You can contact experienced rescue volunteers if you are unsure of a

situation or need some advice on capture techniques. If you are not comfortable doing a rescue – do not do it!

Tips for Rescues

- Keep onlookers and pets away.
- Move slowly, gently, quietly, and avoid eye contact.
- If an animal requires a group to rescue it, assess the situation and don't spook the animal.
- Capture techniques will vary between different animals. If unsure, check the [WRSOS Volunteer Manual](#) or call an experienced rescue volunteer.
- Do NOT give food or water to an animal.

Transport

Transportation of wildlife is needed all throughout the province. Requests for transportation will be posted to the WRSOS Rescues Facebook page.

Tips for Transports

- Place in box slightly larger than the animal.
- Do not blast the AC in summer, or heat in winter.
- Do not play the radio and minimize conversation.
- Immediately take to target veterinarian or rehabilitator.