

# elves

Special Needs Society

**Accepting  
enrollment  
09/10 school year**

**Program Unit Funding (PUF)  
2 1/2 - 5 1/2 years old**

**Contact our office @ 780-454-5310**

# The heart of rehab

VOLUNTEERS TO THE RESCUE FOR WILDLIFE



As Edmonton's only urban wildlife rehabilitation centre, caring for injured and orphaned animals year-round is no easy task.

That's why Dana Brettelle, volunteer co-ordinator for the Wildlife Rehabilitation Society of Edmonton (WRSE), is quick to credit the volunteers at the society for their amazing work.

"Volunteers have a huge role here," she explains. "We value our volunteers and the difference they make."

Brettelle notes that volunteers like Dawn Doell, Brenda Hagen and Cathie Leavins are just the few of the many who help out at the society, particularly as facilitators who help orient new volunteers.

#### DIFFERENT ROLES

Brettelle explains that in addition to their general duties, the women are also responsible for facilitating volunteer orientation night where prospective volunteers are given a tour of the facility, and learn about the animals and the different roles at the organization.

While all three volunteers have different backgrounds, they have a shared interest and passion for animals.

"I wanted to do something worthwhile," says Leavins, a stay-at-home mom. "There's a sense of pride, especially when you know that what you're doing is helping these animals get better."

Hagen, who works in a rural veterinary clinic, was often the staff member responsible for calling the WRSE to pick up an injured animal.

"I wondered what happened to them once they left my care, how successful was rehabilitation and was there a way I could help?"

For Doell, a student studying sciences at the U of A, volunteering at the society is about having a link to wildlife.

"You have a chance to learn about the animals that come in and become educated about how to help wildlife."

Unlike a humane society that cares for dogs or cats, Doell emphasizes that volunteers at the society actually

have very little contact with the animals. "Talking to them or being near them can be very stressful since they are injured and not used to human contact."

Due to the size of the facility, the WRSE mainly cares for birds and small mammals, like foxes, hares and squirrels.

"You don't have to have any experience working with animals. We have everyone from biologists to moms who help out in their spare time," says Brettelle.

For Leavins, one of the perks of volunteering is the flexibility. "You don't have to make a huge commitment. Anyone who wants to spend time here can do so because it's easy."

The only requirement is that volunteers are 18 years of age and immunized.

If volunteering isn't an option, Brettelle encourages members of the public to support the WRSE by taking part in their annual Run Wild for Wildlife event that helps raise funds for the organization on Oct. 25.

The next volunteer orientation night takes place on August 19, but pre-registration is required to attend.

The women hope others like themselves who have been interested in helping animals and giving back to the community will consider volunteering for this worthwhile organization.

#### A GREAT FEELING

"Being able to help an injured or sick animal is an honour and responsibility," says Hagen. "Yes, there are sad moments, but seeing that bird fly off, or releasing the fox back to the wild gives a feeling of satisfaction that far outweighs the not-so-good experiences."

To learn how you can help the Wildlife Rehabilitation Society of Edmonton, visit [www.wildlife-edm.ca](http://www.wildlife-edm.ca).

For more information or suggestions for story ideas, contact Evelyn Pham, communications co-ordinator at [epham@volunteeredmonton.com](mailto:epham@volunteeredmonton.com), call (780) 732-6655 or check out [www.volunteeredmonton.com](http://www.volunteeredmonton.com).



If you don't get it,  
they will.

**THINK... CRIME PREVENTION**

Remove your valuables or thieves will.

Over the past three years, EPS investigated approximately 27,126 vehicle thefts and 45,324 reported theft from vehicles.

#### What You Can Do:

- Don't leave your vehicle running.
- Take extra keys out of your vehicle.
- Remove all personal items from your vehicle.
- Remove the ignition key and activate the steering lock.
- Lock your doors and close all windows.
- Park in well-lit areas at night.
- Report any suspicious activity to police.

#### What the EPS is Doing:

EPS created TRAP (Targeted Response to Auto Theft Prevention) to reduce the number of vehicle-related crimes in Edmonton by targeting chronic offenders.

EPS is working collaboratively with community stakeholders to promote public awareness and education to reduce vehicle crime.

#### Be Aware of Licence Plate Theft:

Licence plate theft is also occurring in our city. Criminals will use stolen licence plates to avoid being identified. Installing a licence plate with a nut and bolt can make your vehicle less vulnerable.

**Contact the Edmonton Police Service  
9-1-1 for a life-threatening emergency or a crime in progress  
780-423-4567 to request police (non-emergency)**

For more crime prevention information, visit: [www.edmontonpolice.ca/crimeprevention](http://www.edmontonpolice.ca/crimeprevention)