

# PAWS & CLAWS

## living with wildlife

By Donna DuBreuil

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[www.wildlifeinfo.ca](http://www.wildlifeinfo.ca)

The United Nations has declared 2010 the International Year of Biodiversity. In celebration, The EMC, in partnership with the Ottawa-Carleton Wildlife Centre, will feature some fascinating stories and helpful tips on living with wildlife over the coming months in this column.

But first a little about the Centre. It's almost 23 years old, during which time it cared for more than 10,000 wild mammals, the majority of which were orphaned or injured due to development and habitat loss. They consisted of 24 different species, ranging from river otters to deer. The Centre also handled more than 100,000 calls from Ottawa residents seeking information on how best to resolve a human-wildlife conflict.

So it has a lot of first-hand experience. Since 2005 it has used this experience to launch a Wildlife Education School Program taken to 1,000 or more area students each year, offers Community Outreach and Awareness Programs through a wide variety of events, a website which provides detailed solutions for specific wildlife conflicts and



works with other community organizations to develop constructive strategies on behalf of progressive environmental goals.

Although it's no longer able to do wildlife rehabilitation due to unworkable government regulations, the Centre is making a difference at the most fundamental level – helping people co-exist with wildlife.

Ottawa residents are extremely fortunate to have an abundance of greenspace and an amazing variety of wildlife in this region. In fact, there are few other large cities in the world that would be able to offer residents and visitors so many different species to view and appreciate.

You might spot a long-tailed weasel in Andrew Haydon Park, a river otter sliding down the bank of a Carp creek

or a skunk sauntering down a street in the Glebe late at night. Don't worry, they only spray if really threatened.

So, stay tuned to this space. You will find the answers to questions like what animal weighs less than a pound at birth but grows to over 300 pounds as an adult, what different purposes does a squirrel's tail serve and what mammal is considered to be the 'imp of the forest night'. Along with answers, you will find helpful suggestions for dealing with conflicts so that we can all enjoy 'Living with Wildlife'.

In the meantime, remember this is the height of the birthing season for wildlife. Do not take any action before first checking [www.wildlifeinfo.ca](http://www.wildlifeinfo.ca) for effective advice.

## Pet Adoptions



#3666 SAMPSON D/S/H Neutered Male  
6 years



#3664 EMMA D/M/H Spayed Female  
2 years



#3545 SAICHI D/S/H Spayed Female  
10 months



### PETS OF THE WEEK

#### #3696 THUMPER & #3697 BUTTERCUP

Thumper and Buttercup were brought to the shelter to find a new home after a family member developed severe allergies. They are both great cats, Thumper is a large, medium length hair, eleven year old, neutered and declawed male, and Buttercup is a short haired, 6 year old, spayed female. They have been companions for the past four years, and we would like to see them adopted together, the shelter would be willing to reduce the adoption fee for the right home. They are affectionate, friendly cats, they love attention, both are very clean and quiet. Thumper & Buttercup would be best suited in a quiet home, where they will be kept as strictly indoor cats. This adorable pair came from a home where they were loved very much, so Thumper and Buttercup are scared, confused and missing their family, please consider taking them out of the shelter and into your heart and home.



**Arnprior Humane Society**  
**613-623-0916**

Please note: Arnprior Humane Society has many other companion animals available for adoption. Featured animals are adopted quickly!  
To learn more about adopting an animal from the Arnprior Humane Society  
Website: [www.arnpriorhumanesociety.ca](http://www.arnpriorhumanesociety.ca)  
Email: [district.spea@bellnet.ca](mailto:district.spea@bellnet.ca) • Telephone: 613-623-0916