

**Wildlife and marine mammal rehabilitation (including displaced and orphaned wildlife care)** Drs. Hans Gelens, Pierre-Yves Daoust, and Marion Desmarchelier

This project provides care for injured or displaced wild birds and mammals that are brought in to the AVC Teaching Hospital by Good Samaritans or officials with the Department of Fish and Wildlife. Required care may include medical management, special procedures (diagnostics, surgery), or, especially with displaced or orphaned animals, temporary housing and supportive care. Severely injured animals are humanely euthanized, as are those for whom appropriate rehabilitation can not be arranged. The ultimate goal for all animals is release back into the wild.

Veterinary students from all four years participate in the care of these animals, as do many faculty and staff. Care for these animals is expensive, with typical costs involving specialty foods, equipment, and supplies (perches, heat lamps, bedding) as well as anesthesia, radiographs and other diagnostics, surgery, and transportation to rehabilitation facilities for longer-term care if required. Donations to support the programme are very welcome ([www.upei.ca](http://www.upei.ca) "To make a donation").



Student Kelly de Haan and Dr. Marion Desmarchelier

A snowy owl, debilitated and unable to fly, was brought into AVC in the winter by Fish and Wildlife officials. After receiving care through this programme, she was released in early June 2010. Shown above (left) in the AVC flight cage, she was weighed (above right) and banded for future identification prior to release (below, after release).

