

## Wildlife. Expert urges Edmontonians to give injured animals space

For 25 years, Kim Blomme has worked to shelter, feed and help heal the city's injured wildlife.

After starting the Wildlife Rehabilitation Society of Edmonton on her acreage, Blomme now works out of the former SPCA building on the north end of the city, giving hurt animals a fighting chance.

"We know their chances are always best in their normal environment," said Blomme. "As soon as they're removed from that, we are reducing that."

As the weather warms, Blomme said spring is one of the most active times of year for the society, who take in animals on a case-by-case basis.

Last year, the society helped 1,600 different animals, ranging from squirrels to goslings, with more than half coming in during June and July.

Even though the society takes in animals, Blomme said a big part of the job is identifying the problem and offering



A newborn squirrel was delivered to the Wildlife Rehabilitation Society of Edmonton after a resident found the orphaned baby in her backyard.

LEAH GERMAIN/METRO

information to residents.

"Number one, try to identify the animal you've come across," Blomme advised anyone who might find an injured animal. "If it's not obviously injured, it's probably better to back off and place a call, get a little more information before intervening."

LEAH GERMAIN/METRO

## Edmonton Fire Rescue. Firefighters responded to over 39,000 calls in 2013

Edmonton Fire Rescue Services responded to 39,713 calls in 2013 — 3,278 for fire and 25,510 for medical calls — marking one of the busiest years on record for the service.

"When someone calls 911 with a fire or medical emergency, it's often the worst day of their life and they are depending on us to be having the best day of our career. Every year, our staff respond,

step up, and provide that service, and I am tremendously proud of the work we did in 2013," said Fire Chief Ken Block.

According to fire services, there were two fatalities last year due to fires and 61 injuries. There were \$65 million in losses from fire and the majority of fires were residential with the number one cause being cooking-related.

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Edmonton vet Dr. Marcia Wayne offers house calls for Edmonton pet owners, with services from euthanasia to regular checkups. LEAH GERMAIN/METRO

# Pet doc goes mobile to help ailing animals

**House call.** Dr. Wayne brings the clinic to pet owners' homes

**Quoted**

"It's basically everything I do in a clinic, except the pets aren't nervous, they're not scared."

Dr. Marcia Wayne on providing vet services in an animal's home



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peaceful goodbye.

"He hated going into the vet, always super stressed out, panting, shedding, all of it," said Kropp, who had rescued Tyson after he had been abused.

"When it came time to put him down, I didn't want to put him in a scenario like that," she continued.

Rather than take Tyson into a clinic for his final day, Kropp enlisted the services of Dr. Marcia Wayne and Wellness Home Vet — an Edmonton mobile vet who makes house calls for her pet patients.

"It's basically everything I do in a clinic, except the pets aren't nervous, they're not scared," Wayne said about her

services, which range from check ups to euthanasia.

Wayne said after working in a clinic for eight years, she got a first hand look at the stress animals undergo for a vet check-up.

"By the time I get to see animals in the exam room, they're scared," Wayne said. "It's hard to do a good exam."

Wayne said her new style of vet check-up appeals to a wide variety of pet parents.

For Kropp, it was the right decision.

"It was just much more relaxing and calming for him," she said. "It was for me as well."

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