

“A Shout Out to Mayor Nadolski and Ogden City Team

April 26, 2024

We start with the "Down and Dirty" of the Wildlife Rehabilitation Center of Northern Utah's (WRCNU) unexpected notification of eviction, back in early 2023.

The “Dirty” part is simply that, the past Caldwell Administration dumped a no warning eviction on WRCNU starting with an email in January 2023. That notice started a 6-month eviction clock that the Center was not expecting nor prepared for.

It's hard to spell out the immediate stress this put on all our plans for 2023 (and beyond) and came just as we were gearing up for the seasonal onslaught of “Baby Season”; an estimated 3,500 wildlife patients in need.

WRCNU estimates that 3,000 – 4,000 human impacted animals went without the proper treatment and care in 2023 due to having to stop taking patients to prepare for this move.

Even today, until our doors are reopened, the numbers continue to go up.

Our community (YOU) came down strong and hard on the Caldwell Administration and had it not been for this support we would have been in a far worse position.

YOU, our community, and supporters put enough pressure on the City of Ogden to allow us a foot in the door for a hard-earned short extension giving us some breathing room and allowing just enough time to wait for the new, and MUCH improved, Mayor Nadolski Administration to come to our aid.

Thank you to our huge support network, literally nationwide, and our great partnerships across the state for all you did to help give us that stay of eviction.

We also truly appreciate our Rehabber Partners who took on an increased workload to support us, our communities AND of course our wildlife in need.

Mayor Nadolski pledged, almost from the moment he became a candidate, to do everything he could to help remedy this injustice while also staying transparent to his need to work with both non-profits that were involved in this Caldwell decision.

The outcome was not perfect from WRCNU's standpoint, but we got so much more support than we ever got from the past Administration.

We were allowed, for the first time, truly meaningful and worthwhile communications with the City, thanks to Nadolski's team.

These communications, including those with the NEW Chair of the Dinosaur Park Foundation (Shane Lyon) allowed us the time and means to plan and give WRCNU hope without fear of a total collapse.

Here is what Nadolski's Team has done for WRCNU:

- The City gave WRCNU permission to remove usable items (sinks, cabinets, counters, WRCNU upgraded LED lighting, etc.). Items that would otherwise have been destroyed.
- The City amassed several crews to help us dismantle items we could repurpose from the old animal shelter and move them. One crew was 10-15 men from various departments who dismantled and moved two entire kennel rooms and relocated the materials to a future location where we can rebuild some of the much-needed raptor caging we would otherwise have lost—this team was incredible!

- The City provided funding for 6-months' worth of storage (500 sq/ft) allowing WRCNU to obtain a climate controlled unit for sensitive museum and other items as well as a second "normal" unit for items we could not store on-site at the new temp facility—truly appreciated.

Our ability to take in and rehab animals (raptors specifically) requires outdoor acclimation/flight enclosures. In 2009, we started with four "hand-me-down" enclosures and by 2019 we had added 14 more new enclosures.

Sadly, some were too large and or too old to make a move plus the available/permitted space was very limited to place them.

- The City worked out a plan with WRCNU to save 7 of our best enclosures. The City's heavy equipment operators came in and worked almost a full shift to move our enclosures. Ogden's Urban Forestry crew made quick work of trees/branches that would have prevented access and transport.

This crew removed each enclosure, transported them (intact), then positioned them (to our needs) on the new property. This task required experts, and this crew was just that—they too were amazing.

- The City's Administration and the Planning Department worked with WRCNU in just a few days to speed up the approval process for placement of the above mentioned enclosures and are working on an approval for a conditional waiver to the original parking requirements due to loss of space.

Without all these team players working together along with WRCNU, we would have lost a lot of valuable and necessary assets that we just didn't have the means to save on our own—we saved many thousands of dollars by being able to reuse a lot of what we've used and/or put into the animal shelter over the past 13 years.

- We would also like to acknowledge that over the past 13+ years, WRCNU has had the pleasure to work directly with many of these same Ogden City departments. Parks and Cemetery primarily, as well as the Water Department among others.

We've always known these workers to be professionals and it's good to see they are now working for a professional Administration as well.

Mayor Nadolski, PLEASE pass on our true appreciation and heartfelt thanks to every one of your professionals who took part in turning this undesirable decision into the best we could hope for under the circumstances—THANK YOU!

Now Wildlife Rehabilitation Center of Northern Utah looks to the future, to open our doors once again, treat and care for human impacted wildlife and GROW to our full potential.

Please take this journey with us, we promise it will be worth your while."