



Cochrane Ecological Institute
Where Ideas Become Reality



2024 Acknowledgement The Cochrane Ecological Institute (CEI) acknowledges and deeply appreciates the Siksikaitsitapii peoples' connection to their traditional territory. We, as people living and benefiting from Blackfoot Confederacy traditional territory, honor the traditions of people who have cared for this land since time immemorial. In the spirit of Reconciliation, the Cochrane Ecological Institute is especially grateful to spiritual Blackfoot Elder (Grandfather –Aa' wah' staaksa – Kaahsinnoo) Francis First Charger in the creation of the Territorial Acknowledgement Statement

Cochrane Ecological Cochrane Wildlife Reserve Society
(CEI) Development Plan & Update for RENEWAL of Wildlife
Rehabilitation Permit 2025

Table of Contents

Official Name.....	3
Corporate Status	3
Short history.....	3
CEI Mandate.....	3
CEI Recognition	3
Cochrane Ecological Institute and Wildlife Reserve Society Facility NE 35-27-5-W5M Site Plan.....	4
Care Capability	8
Cochrane Ecological Institute has the facilities and expertise to care for	8
CEI STAFF.....	9
CEI VETERINARIAN	9
PERMIT HISTORY OF THE CEI	10
CEI Affiliations	11
List of Universities and Technical Schools that use the CEI	12
Current CEI Advisory Team	13
Facility Operation.....	13
Satellite or Off site Operations	13
Financial Resources.....	13
Additional Requirements	15
Controlled Products	15
Veterinary Medicines.....	15
Safety Training	15
New Projects	15
NEW CONSTRUCTION AND PROJECTS	16

Official Name

COCHRANE ECOLOGICAL INSTITUTE COCHRANE WILDLIFE RESERVE SOCIETY(CEI).
Registered Charity #133629097RR0001

Corporate Status

ESTABLISHED Under the Alberta Societies Act (Corporate Access Number Alberta [REDACTED]
Government of Canada Business Number - [REDACTED]

Short history

Established in 1964, first license to accept wildlife issued in 1967. Charity Initially registered as Wildlife Reserve of Western Canada in 1972 Charity name changed to Cochrane Ecological Institute and Wildlife Reserve Society in 1993

Management: The Cochrane Ecological Institute and Wildlife Reserve Society has been operated since 1967 following the direction of an **Advisory Team**. Current CEI Advisory team members 2025: Dr. Leroy Little Bear, Francis First Charger, Dan Fox, Mike Judd, rancher, Dr. Jake Vesey, Paul D Smith, Dr. Sian S. Waters, Sergei Pazhetnov, Joe Duff, Dr. Kathreen Ruckstuhl, Cody Creelman, DVM, Dr. Barrie Gilbert, Dr. Max Foran, Tracie Unrau, DVM, professor University of Calgary

CEI and Directorate memberships Canadian Committee for the International Union for Conservation of Nature (CCIUCN), IUCN Conservation Translocation Specialist group, IUCN Otter Specialist Group and RSG Human-Wildlife Interactions in Conservation Translocations working group. CEI Director S.S.Waters, Ph.D. Department of Anthropology, Durham University, UK

CEI Mandate

The Cochrane Ecological Institute Cochrane Wildlife Reserve Society is devoted to the preservation and conservation of cultural and biological diversity through education; the reintroduction of extirpated flora and fauna; the rescue, rehabilitation, and release of injured and orphaned wildlife; and the development and implementation of non-intrusive methods of wildlife monitoring and research.

CEI Recognition

Emerald Award: Corporate sector

Order of the Bighorn: Government of Alberta

Environment Canada, Certificate of Merit

Government of Alberta Heritage Award 1980

Calgary Board of Education Certificate of Appreciation

Peter Guthrie, United Conservative Party MLA's Acknowledgement of CEI's Contribution to the Environment (2022)

Blood (Kainai) Tribe Certificate of Acknowledgement 2023

2023 Clio Smeeton, sole Canadian nominated for Indianapolis Prize INDIANAPOLIS, Ind.

Cochrane Ecological Institute and Wildlife Reserve Society Facility NE 35-27-5-W5M Site Plan

The rural property (NE 35-27-5-W5M) is Montane habitat consisting of native conifer and deciduous woodland, open prairie, wetland, three sloughs, was bought in 1964 specifically to undertake the work outlined in the CEI Mandate. The CEI has never been open to the public except by appointment. The property was never logged, ranched or fenced before being bought by the Smeeton family. It has remained unaltered native Montane habitat since 1964.

As required by the M.D. of Rocky View's municipal Game Farm license (1967, still valid) the entire property is encircled by two miles of 8 ft high (including overhang) perimeter fence with two access gates: north gate from Township Road 280 and east gate access from a private toad allowance. The two miles of perimeter fencing consists of a Game Fence supported by metal uprights with a ground wire and 2 ft. overhang, plus provision, if needed for a single strand electric fence.

In 2025, following the advice of Alberta Environment and Protected Areas staff, the following areas previously included in the CEI's approved Facility plans (see Permit History) have been removed from the 2025 CEI Facility Site Plan

100 acres of mixed woodland, open country, wetland and slough.

The western 3.5 acre ungulate area enclosure which shares north/south fencing with Happy Tails retreat has been removed from the CEI Facility Plan Site plan.

all areas to which the bison, *B.b. athabascea* potentially might have entry have been removed from the 2025 CEI Facility Plan site plan illustration

The tiny house and the Main house and Garage have been removed from the 2025 CEI Facility Plan Site plan

A fenced ¼ acre area with pond west of the main house (removed from Facility Plan illustration) has also been removed the 2025 CEI Facility Plan site plan

The 2 round enclosures for gallinaceous birds have been removed from the 2025 CEI Facility Plan site plan illustration.

Two chain link panel enclosures inside the straw bale area have been from the 2025 CEI Facility Plan site plan.

In partnership with Environment and Sustainable Resources Department, Fish & Wildlife Branch the CEI accepted reared and successfully returned to the wild (monitored post release) orphaned Black bear cubs

from 1985-2012. Reports were provided to ESRD by both Fish & Wildlife Branch officers and CEI personnel. Since the Alberta Orphaned Black Bear Cub Rehabilitation Protocol was written (2018) the CEI has always complied with permit Part 6 Black Bear Cubs; section 6.3.6 and I Handling and Essential care by “ensuring that each cub will have no more than 2 human caregivers during the entire time the cub is held at the Facility, from admittance to release.” Alberta Orphaned Black Bear Cub Protocol, PUBLISHED BY APEA AND AMMENDED FROM TIME TO TIME

The multi-use arboreal 4.5 acre enclosure 14 is distance monitored by CCTV and was deliberately built in isolation so that it could not be seen from any other facility on, or removed from, the CEI 2023 Facility Plan, or from any other property or road. This is why the Alberta Environment and Protected Areas require that their personnel, when inspecting CEI facilities, need to be either transported safely or protected by an electric fence in order to inspect isolated enclosure 14. AEPA inspectors were concerned that the rescued wildlife within enclosure 14 would be able to see humans and proposed that the 8 ft high chainlink fence (plus its groundwire and electric fence) should also have an impermeable specialized fabric addition.

No humans except those permitted in the permit can gain access to NE35-27-5-W%M Authorized humans are 2 human caregivers responsible for each bear cub (Part 6 of permit section 6.3.6 and Protocol) As per authorization 6.3.8 (a) these are the only humans seen by the captive animals, except for (b) the veterinarian named in the facility plan, (c) AEPA staff and (d) wildlife guardians, no other humans can approach isolated enclosure 14.

A special fundraiser has already been initiated to obtain the funding for specialized fabric which is visually impermeable but allows wind to blow through it.

Following the 2025 advice of Alberta Environment and Protected Areas staff, the following areas previously included in the CEI's approved Facility plans (see Permit History) will remain on the CEI Facility Site Plan

The 2 miles of 8ft Game fence plus overhang which surrounds the property NE-35-27-5-W5M will remain on the 2025 CEI facility plan illustration

Drop cloth on entry to current aviaries is acceptable to AEPA, (Erin Miller Erin.Miller@gov.ab.ca.) Future aviaries will be built with double entry doors.

The moveable duckling enclosure which enables ducklings to graze on fresh grass will be noted as 'moveable' in the 2025 CEI Facility Plan Site plan illustration

An electric fence will be put in place from Happy Tails facility to the mixed Arboreal species 4.5 acre enclosure (17 on 2025 CEI site plan) to enable AEPA personnel to walk safely out to this enclosure. This will depend upon the ground thawing, until that happens CEI will drive AEPA personnel out to examine enclosure 17.

Following the 2025 advice of Alberta Environment and Protected Areas staff, the following policy changes, policies previously included in the CEI's approved Facility plans (see Permit History) by both the federal Government and the provincial Government (1967 -2024), will be initiated.

No rescued and rehabilitated indigenous species will be released on NE-35-27-5-W5M

[Redacted]

As has always been the case, no indigenous wildlife in need of rehabilitation will be taken in to Happy Tails retreat building. If a member of the public shows up at the kennel with an indigenous wild animal in need of treatment and rehabilitation, the animal will be taken by staff directly to CEI.

CEI will notify AEPA if contacted by a member of the public on a potential or actual human/wildlife interaction.

CEI will notify AEPA if contacted by another authorized Wildlife Rehabilitation Facility and requested to accept overflow wildlife from that authorized wildlife facility.

The storage building at the back of the interpretive centre , in compliance with the CEI Exit plan is full of assembled plastic crates for wildlife removal in case there is danger from a potential wildfire, is on the 2025 CEI Facility Plan Site plan illustration

In future: following the Deer Fawn Policy (Methods for rehabilitating orphaned deer fawns, as approved by the Fish and Wildlife Division, June 2010) sent by Brett Boukall, AEPA, to CEI (2023), CEI will notify AEPA on receipt of a Deer fawn from any source.

[Redacted]

There is no "case by case" requirement referring to Schedule A. With the exception of Alberta Orphaned Black Bear Cub Rehabilitation Protocol, page 6.

Notification will be made to AEPA, respecting Section 4 of Schedule A (4.3.1) if wildlife is brought in to CEI out of veterinary hours.

As it is a requirement of the IUCN reintroduction Specialist Group and the AEPA Orphaned Black bear Cub Rehabilitation Authorization, consistent and long term funding for Veterinary fees, animal care and captive management, animal feed, construction and repair, office costs, taxes, and employee wages must be available.

[Redacted]

Access to the CEI's main buildings compound is fully fenced (8ft Game fence, chain-link panels, provision for electric fencing if necessary). The gate that controls entry to the CEI offices and Wildlife

Rehabilitation Facilities is a locking automatic gate controlled by a frequently changed access code. This fencing prevents any access to CEI Property by unauthorized individuals.

Land used under this facility plan shown in Figure 1. Location of CEI facilities on site are shown in Figure two.

Facility Buildings, Enclosures and Facilities



Figure 1: Land used by CEI which relates to the Facility plan.

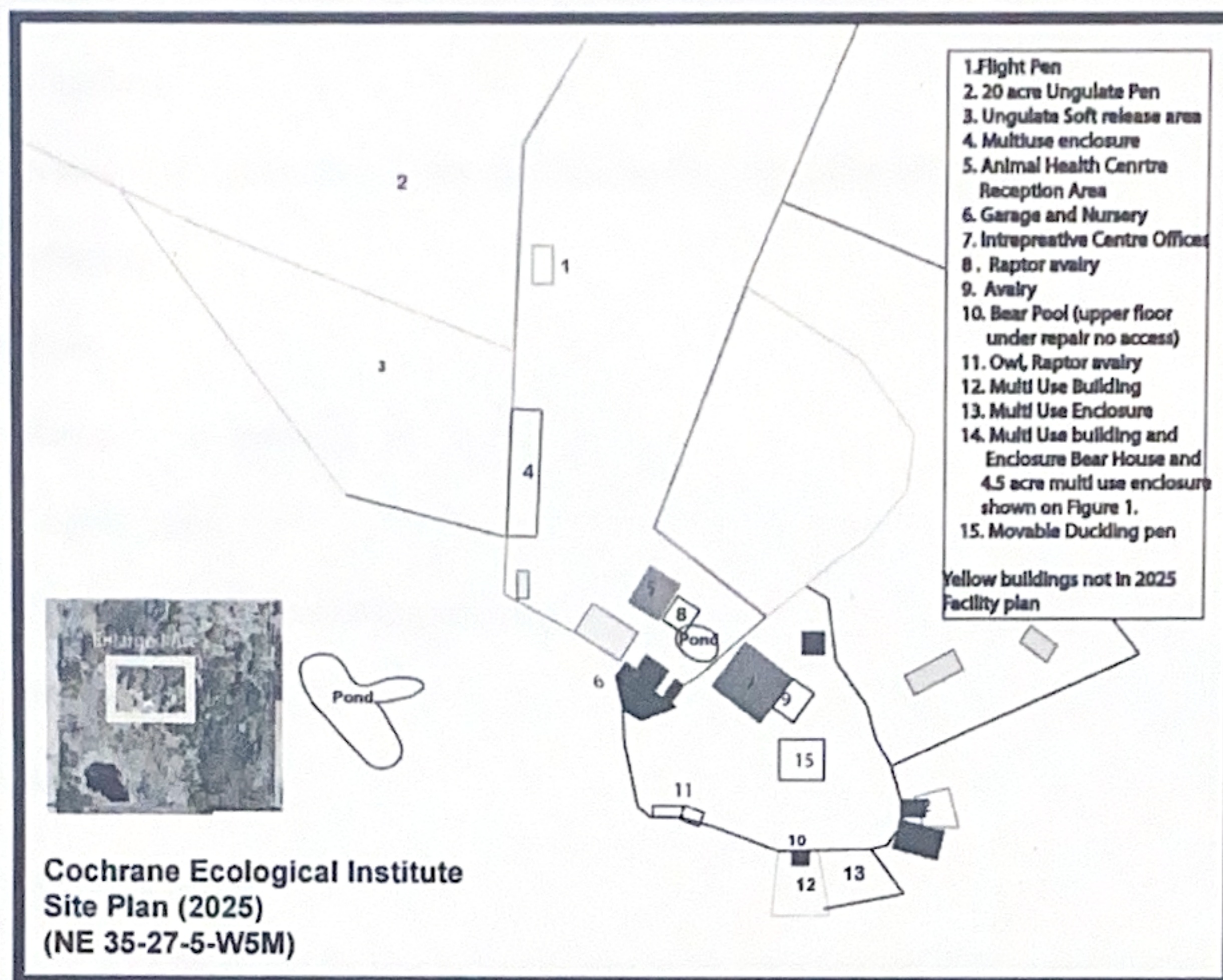


Figure 2: Location of CEI Wildlife Rehabilitation Facilities on NE-27-35-5-W5M.

Care Capability

Please refer to the site plan above for locations of individual buildings and enclosures. All enclosures comply with, and exceed, the minimum standards approved by AESRD in 1999 approved by the Minister and published in the Alberta Wildlife Act and Regulation (2000)

Specific fundraising drives for the construction of species specific enclosures have been undertaken since the founding of the CEI (1967). As result the CEI is unique in Alberta in having large enclosures specifically designed and capable of containing a wide variety of large indigenous species, and smaller specifically designed enclosures for smaller terrestrial species. The CEI also has an Animal Health Centre, AHC, which contains intensive care facilities and a small water facility with skimmer designed to treat oiled birds. In addition, there is space available within the AHC for terrariums and/or aquariums.

Cochrane Ecological Institute has the facilities and expertise to care for the following groups of animals.

- Passerine Birds, - Under Canadian Wildlife Service Permit
- Waterfowl, - Under Canadian Wildlife Service Permit
- Raptors (including Owls)

- Shore Birds, - Under Canadian Wildlife Service Permit
- Ungulates,
- Native Cats (Including Lynx and Bobcat but excluding cougar),
- Mustlids,
- Bears,
- Rodents (all species),
- Lagomorphs,
- Native Canids (excluding wolves),
- Amphibians
- Reptiles

CEI STAFF

ALL CEI Staff and Interns have all been inoculated against Rabies and Tetanus. [REDACTED]
 the CEI is done by Clio Smeeton, Catriona Matheson, Ken Weagle, [REDACTED]

Since 1991, CEI Staff have successfully undertaken the required IWRC courses and received requisite qualifications. Clio Smeeton was commissioned by Eden Conservation Trust, World Animal Protection and ZooCheck to write a book on wildlife rehabilitation HEART'S EASE COMES IN A BOX, Rescuing wildlife in the foothills of the Rockies ISBN 978-0-9866189-0-1

The facility volunteers are local volunteers participating in CEI projects, Event Management, Administration, Facility Maintenance, and Happytails Pet Retreat. These volunteers do not get involved with wildlife feeding or management in any way, and never feed or handle wildlife.

CEI VETERINARIAN

The Environment and Protected Places (EPP) September 1, 2024 the approved CEI Veterinarians are; Dr. Cody Creelman, FenVet Clinic, 2880 Main St SE #1001, Airdrie, AB T4B 3G4, Dr. Creelman is a large animal veterinarian and Fen Vet is a large animal Clinic, and Dr. Tracy Unrau a wildlife veterinarian who is now a Professor at the University of Calgary, on the CEI Advisory team and the approved veterinarian for the CEI. Her Clinic is Arrowhead Veterinary Centre 118 2 Ave W, Cochrane, AB T4C 2E7.. The veterinarians from Fen Vet and Arrowhead Veterinary Centre come out to the CEI if required. In addition, the CEI takes injured wildlife for treatment to Calgary Wildlife Rehabilitation Society's veterinary Clinic. The CEI Veterinary Advisers are Cody Creelman, DVM and David Couper, DVM (Dr Couper of the RSPCA has been invited to join the CEI Advisory Team).

PERMIT HISTORY OF THE CEI

For 54 years (1967 to date), as Alberta's government departments and regulations have continued to evolve, the CEI (Smeeton, WRWC, CEI) have applied for and received the following Operating Permits:

- MD of Rocky View Big Game Farm License [REDACTED]
- 1974 the Federal Government issued the CEI a permit enabling CEI to keep Trumpeter swans, *Cygnus buccinator*.
- 1976 The CWS issued the requisite permits to the CEI to enable Wood bison, *B.b. athabasca*, to be maintained and bred for eventual reintroduction on federal land. Federal government, CWS, required a double fence be put in so the wood bison could not encounter domestic cattle passing either on the road or neighbouring fields.
- Provincial FWD Short Form Contracts to accept all indigenous wildlife for rehabilitation and release on behalf of the Alberta Government
- Provincial FWD Temporary Shelter Permits (*Vulpes velox*, *Ursus americanus*, *Enhydra lutris*, *Alces alces*, *Cervus Canadensis*, etc., etc.)
- At the request of the Alberta Department of the Environment and the federal Canadian Wildlife Service and based upon the CEI's approved Development Plan ([REDACTED]) the CEI was issued a Alberta Zoo Permit [REDACTED]. The CEI was not then (1994) and is not now (2025) open to the public (except under severely controlled conditions) nor is the CEI a Zoo. The issuance of a Zoo Permit [REDACTED] to the CEI was a combined federal & provincial government decision and was issued in conjunction with:
 - Provincial AESRD/AEP Wildlife Rehabilitation Permits
 - CWS Aviculture Permits
 - CWS Migratory Bird Salvage permits
 - CWS Scientific Migratory Bird Rehabilitation Permits
 - Provincial FWD Scientific Research Permits
 - Federally, CFIA, approved Quarantine Facilities
 - Fish Culture license, Government of Alberta
 - Blackfoot Tribal Fish & Game Permits
 - Inter-provincial indigenous wildlife transport permits
 - Inter-provincial wildlife import and export permits
 - International wildlife import and export permits
 - International wildlife transport permits

- Federal Species At Risk Act, SARA, Permits
- April 27th 2018 AEP letter of approval for the acceptance, rearing and release of orphaned bear cubs. “On the basis of the Department’s review, the Cochrane Ecological Institute is able to meet the requirements under the Alberta Orphaned Black Bear Cub Protocol and is hereby approved to rehabilitate orphaned bear cubs under the age of 12 months to a maximum of 10 cubs a year.” (Letter, April 27, 2018 Rob Simierietsch)
- AEP revokes permit # 59502 issued June 1 2021 and restores Permit # 59500 issued March 30th 2021).

CEI Affiliations

- Canadian Committee for the IUCN (*CCIUCN*) Species Survival Commission. International Union for the Conservation of Nature, IUCN
- IUCN Otter Specialist Group
- Reintroduction Specialist Group International Union for the Conservation of Nature, IUCN
- IUCN Human Dimensions Working Group HDWG I(MBeR)-ADApT

Since its founding in 1967 the Institute has partnered with:

- Flora & Fauna Preservation Society
- ACEE: Alberta Council for Environmental Education
- Treaty 7 First Nations
- Blackfoot Confederacy
- WGPPS: Weaselhead/Glenmore Park Preservation Society, www.talkaboutwildlife.ca
- CSN: Calgary Science Network, www.calgarysciencenetwork.ca
- ACFA: Association canadienne-française de l’Alberta , www.acfa.ab.ca
- CEAC: Cochrane Environmental Action Committee, <http://www.cochrane-environment.org>
- Canada World Youth, <http://www.cwy-jcm.org>
- FCSS: Cochrane Family & Community Support Services
- CBE: Calgary Board of Education
- CSSD: Calgary Catholic School District, www.cssd.ab.ca
- BEC: Banff Education Centre, www.bec.ca
- AEN: Alberta Environmental Network, www.aenweb.ca
- RCEN: Canadian Environmental Network, www.cen-rce.org/eng/index.html

- Y2Y: Yellowstone to Yukon Conservation Initiative, www.y2y.net
- Destination Conservation
- University of Calgary Faculty of Communication & Culture
- University of Calgary
- University of Regina
- European Universities as external supervision of Degree candidates
- Naturalists Alberta FAN:
- Ann and Sandy Cross Conservation Area, www.crossconservation.org

List of Universities and Technical Schools that use the CEI expertise and facilities for Internships:

Agrocampus Ouest, France 3 B.Sc equivalent. Agronomy (VetAgro Sup) Clermont-Ferrand, Internships Van Hall Larenstein University of Applied Sciences Queen's University, Belfast, 1 M.Sc. 1 Ph.D. University of Alberta, M. Sc. University of Copenhagen, 1 M.Sc. and Ph.D. candidate University of Calgary, Faculty of Environmental Design, 3 M.Sc. and 1 Directed studies project University of Calgary Faculty of Communication & Culture: Group Practicum for 10% of final Degree University of Reading, 1 M.Sc. University of Edinburgh, 2 M.Sc. University of Cologne, Germany, Practicum University of Eberswald, Germany, International Forestry Programme, 4 Internships Universities of Cambridge and Oxford, 2 Undergraduate research projects University of New Hampshire, Undergraduate research project University of Sheffield, 2 Undergraduate research projects University of Berne, Research project University of Trent, ON, one M.Sc. University College Ghent, Belgium, Practicum University of Waterloo, ON. One practicum & research project Southern Alberta Institute of Technology, Film, IT & GIS Practicums University of Bristol, Veterinary Practicum Glasgow Veterinary College, Veterinary Practicum University of Barcelona, 2 Veterinary Practicums Colleges of Leicester, Suffolk, Newton Rigg, NC Diplomas Institute of Technology, Tralee (ITT), Co. Kerry, Ireland, Practicum Roskilde Tekniske Skole, Roskilde, Denmark. Practicum Northern College, Haileybury, Ont. Practicum Faculty for Veterinary Medicine of the University Leipzig, Practicum Charles University in Prague Czech Republic, 1 Practicum University of Siegen, Practicum Georg-Simon-Ohm-University of Applied Science GERMANY, Practicum University of Applied Sciences, Deggendorf, Germany, Practicum Karlshochschule, international University Germany, Practicum University of Napier, Edinburgh, Scotland, UK, 1 graduate practicum Rosenheim university of applied sciences, Germany, Practicum Institute of Technology, Karlsruhe, Germany, Practicum Rheinische Friedrich-Wilhelms-Universität Bonn (University) Germany, Practicum University College Dublin, Ireland, Practicum Lycée Henri Queille, Neuvic, France Intern University of Mount Royal, Calgary, Practicums Ludwig-Maximilians-University, Munich, Germany, Practicum Athlone Institute of Technology, Ireland, Practicum Northern College Veterinary Technician Program, Practicum University of Ottawa, Ottawa, Ontario, Practicum McMaster University. Hamilton, Ontario, Practicum University of Berne, Switzerland, Veterinary School Practicum Purpan Ecole d'Ingenieurs, France, 2 Internships LEGTA La Peyrouse Périgueux – France, practicum University of the West of

England (UWE), Bristol, UK, Practicum University of Education Weinarten, Germany, Practicum Copenhagen's Adult Education Centre, Practicum Julius- Maximilians Universität Teacher for Special Education, Practicum California State University, Northridge, Bachelor of Arts in Deaf Studies, 1 Graduate Practicum University Van Hall Larenstein NL University of Ghent Hogue Belgium

The facility also has two levels of volunteers. The first are local volunteers who help with Event Management, Administration, Facility Maintenance, and Happytails Pet Retreat. These volunteers do not get involved with wildlife feeding or management in any way, and never feed or handle wildlife.

Current CEI Advisory Team

CEI Advisory Team: Dr. Leroy Little Bear, Francis First Charger, Dan Fox, Mike Judd, rancher, Dr. Jake Vesey, Paul D Smith, Dr. Sian S. Waters, Sergei Pazhetnov, Joe Duff, occasional input Dr. John Beecham 2021-02-23, Dr. Kathreen Ruckstuhl, Cody Creelman, DVM, Tracie Unrau, DVM, professor University of Calgary, Dr. Barrie Gilbert, Dr. Max Foran. Invited David Couper, DVM RSPCA

Facility Operation

Hours of Operation To Receive Injured Wildlife 24 hrs /day 365 days /year Contact phone Numbers 403 932 5632

email cei@nucleus.comand/or
ken.weagle@nucleus.com

Satellite or Off site Operations

NONE

Financial Resources

The funds for the day to day operations of CEI come from our social initiative Happytails Pet Retreat owned by Clio Smeeton and Ken Weagle. The table below shows the Financial Statement for 2024 as submitted and accepted by the Alberta Government. Please note this does not include and personal or corporate donations during these periods which are in addition to the table. Other financial Statements are available from Alberta Corporate Registries.

Additional Requirements

The insurance policy for the property are separate policies for the farm and the kennel and CEI all policies carry \$5,000,000 in liability. The policies are issued by Western financial Group, Cochrane AB. For other permits we hold please see the corporate section above.

Controlled Products

As result of the CEI's ethical policy, the CEI does not use controlled Products for cleaning or for other reasons. Therefore no Material Safety Data Sheets (MSDSs) for controlled products are kept at the CEI. For veterinary medicines, see below.

Veterinary Medicines

When wildlife is in need of proscribed veterinary medicine, labelled containers will be kept in the fridge in the main house or at HappyTails. Notes at the animal's enclosure will state where the containers are. Sharps to be deposited in specified containers for disposal. Container to be kept with medication for the specific animal and, once course of treatment is completed, container transferred to HappyTails

Safety Training

Training in safe handling procedures for wildlife and knowledge of how to use the capture and handling equipment is provided for all Employees, Interns and Students at CEI.

Transportation plan for Wildlife Transport to and from CEI

When injured or orphaned wildlife is transported to CEI for rehabilitation or for evaluation it will be in compliance with the Wildlife rehabilitation Permit.

New Projects

In 2025-2026 CEI is planning for several of projects. The execution of these plans will depend on the continued financial support of private and corporate donors:

Construction of an electric fence passage area from Happytails Pet Retreat Facility to the Bear Facility built in 2021 to provide for safer passage for AEPA employees when inspecting facility. Timing: once ground is thawed. In the meantime the AEPA Staff will be transported safely in vehicle.

Any new construction of aviaries will incorporate double entry access.

NEW CONSTRUCTION AND PROJECTS

In 2025-2026 CEI is planning for several projects. The execution of these plans will depend on the continued financial support of private and corporate donors:

Access to upper storey of Bear Pool Building is closed as it has been since 2022. Maintenance on Bear Pool Building: This will include upgrading 120 ACVOLT electrical system for electric fence. Installing new stairs and railing to observation area. Replacing window glass in downstairs window with Acrylic covering.

Electric fence on the outside of the Bear Enclosure built in 2021 to prevent buffalo from direct contact with enclosed wildlife.