

# Barred Owl Release

An adult Barred Owl was brought to the Wildlife Center on January 25, 2010. It was found in Kirtland Hills on the ground. On examination it was found that the owl was alert and defensive; however, had trauma and blood in both of its eyes. The owl was immediately put on a steroid which reduces any swelling in the eyes and helps clear up any blood. After the treatment, the owl was not responding as well as we hoped. It was then taken to Dr. Grezenda, who specializes in eye trauma at Northview Animal Clinic. She confirmed that both of the owl's retinas were torn. She recommended putting the bird on five more days of steroids to see if there would be any further improvement. On February 2, 2010, the care staff re-examined the owl and at this point we did not see much of an improvement.



We could tell the owl could see us, however the reaction time seemed slow. As a last ditch effort, we transferred the owl into one of our large outdoor flight cages on February 6, 2010 to see how it would maneuver in the cage. The owl flew remarkably well and landed on a perch without any hesitation. To test its eyesight further we fed the owl live mice to make sure it would be able to hunt. The owl passed this test also, catching all the live mice.

After a few weeks of careful observation, it was confirmed that the Barred Owl was able to be released. On March 12, 2010 we took it back to where it came from and released it back into the wild.



Lake Metroparks Wildlife Center  
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