

# Arguile

Barred Owl (*Strix Varia*)

Gender: Male

Age: 7 (approximate)



## Fun Facts About Barred Owls:

- The most serious predatory threat to Barred Owls are Great Horned Owls. Though the two species often live in the same areas, a Barred Owl will move to another part of its territory if a Great Horned Owl is nearby.
- Fossils of Barred Owls that are at least 11,000 years old have been found in Florida, Tennessee, and Ontario.
- Barred Owls don't migrate, and typically stay within a six mile radius of their home.
- Young Barred Owls climb trees by grasping the bark with their bill and talons, flapping their wings, and walking their way up the trunk.

## Typical Barred Owl Species Behavior:

- Barred owls roost quietly in forest trees during the day; however, you may hear an occasional call in daylight hours. At night they hunt small animals & rodents and gives the typical Barred Owl call: "Who cooks for you? Who cooks for you-all?"
- **Habitat:** Heavily wooded areas near water and wooded swamps. They require dense foliage for daytime roosting, and large trees with cavities for nesting.
- **Diet:** Barred owls prefer mice, but will also eat small mammals, birds, reptiles, fish, and insects. Primarily active at night, hunting during the day can be seen on dark cloudy days or in mating season. They may perch over water and drop down to catch fish, or even wade in shallow water in pursuit of fish and crayfish.
- **Lifespan:** The oldest recorded Barred Owl in the wild was at least 24 years old.

## Why is Arguile in Captivity?

Arguile was found in June of 2011 as an immature in Lake Jackson, Texas. It was thought that his wing was caught between the wooden slats of a fence. He suffered extreme bruising and trauma to his left wing which resulted in damage to some of the muscles in his wing. Due to the loss of muscle tissue and nerve damage, his left elbow became stiffened making him unable to fly long distances. It was also discovered that he had an old naturally healed fracture of the right leg. His right foot was dislocated at the ankle joint and when it healed, it caused his foot to twist inward, making it difficult for him to perch. He was rehabbed at the Gulf Coast Wildlife Rescue in Texas and was transferred to the Organization for Bat Conservation on December 15, 2011, and then to the Stage Nature Center in February 2018.

## What Makes Arguile Special?

While Arguile is not as fond of people as his roommate Sam, he is very gentle during medical check-ups and when his beak and talons need to be trimmed. When you look at him, you get the feeling from his stare that he is deeply focused on you and has so much more going on in his owl head than you know. Even though Arguile has limited use of his right foot, which one would think would cause him to stay lower in his home, he loves to be at the highest point possible with the sun shining on his face.