



## THE WILDLIFE CENTER OF VIRGINIA

P.O. BOX 1557 • WAYNESBORO, VIRGINIA 22980 • 540-942-WILD • FAX 540-943-WILD

### THE WILDLIFE CENTER OF VIRGINIA SERVES THANKSGIVING MEALS FOR DOZENS OF WILD ANIMALS

Nearly 100 wild “guests”, current patients at the Center, receive Thanksgiving meals alongside veterinary and rehabilitative care.

#### FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE ####

Waynesboro, Virginia – November 21, 2022 Staff at The Wildlife Center of Virginia are checking ingredients and updating their guest list. Currently, the Center’s veterinary and rehabilitation teams are expecting to provide care, and species-specific meals, for approximately 98 animals on Thanksgiving Day. A sampling of which species are currently being cared for at the Center, including information on their histories, treatments, and plans of care, can be found at <https://www.wildlifecenter.org/critter-corner/current-patients> or through links featured on the organization’s homepage at [www.wildlifecenter.org](http://www.wildlifecenter.org).

On November 24, the Center anticipates to be caring for approximately 77 patients and 21 education animals. Wildlife rehabilitators will be preparing and delivering meals, as well as cleaning enclosures and updating patient records. Compared to the summer months when the Center had nearly 300 patients to serve on a daily basis, a guest list of 98 will be comparatively “easy” to handle.

Turkey, mashed potatoes, and cranberry sauce aren't on the Wildlife Center menus – instead of a traditional family-style Thanksgiving meal, the Wildlife Center crew will make dozens of species-specific diets, which cater to each species' needs and each patient's particular desires.

While the rehabilitation staff are busy in the kitchen, Center veterinarians will provide medical care for patients in need – distributing and administering medications, cleaning wounds and changing bandages, completing daily checks, and other medical procedures – and remain ready for any new patients that might arrive. New patient admissions are always a possibility, any day of the year. By the time the staff go home to their Thanksgiving dinners, all 98 animals will be fed, watered, and cared for.



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The Center is able to provide quality healthcare to wild animals in need through the generosity and support of caring individuals. We send our supporters and friends our best wishes for a wonderful holiday. Our patients are thankful for their support ... and we are too!

**Press Availability:** To schedule an interview, **contact Outreach Coordinator Connor Gillespie.** Wildlife Center of Virginia staff are **available Tuesday, November 22 through Wednesday, November 23 during regular business hours for virtual interviews** about patients, online events, and their education and outreach work. A collection of high-quality photographs of patients and ambassador animals are available upon request.

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### PRESS CONTACT

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*The Wildlife Center of Virginia is an internationally acclaimed teaching and research hospital for wildlife and conservation medicine. The nonprofit Center has cared for more than 90,000 wild animals, representing 200 species of native birds, mammals, reptiles, and amphibians. The Center's public education programs share insights gained through the care of injured and orphaned wildlife, in hopes of reducing human damage to wildlife.*