



## THE WILDLIFE CENTER OF VIRGINIA

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

### THE WILDLIFE CENTER OF VIRGINIA PREPARES FOR “BABY SEASON”

Learn the facts and know when to help baby bunnies, songbirds, and opossums this spring

#### FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE ####

Waynesboro, Virginia – March 23, 2023 Staff, students, and volunteers at the Wildlife Center of Virginia are preparing for the very busiest time of year -- baby season! Spring is a time for new life; many species of wild animals are giving birth or laying eggs and caring for young throughout much of the season. It's also the time of year when people are more active outside, too. As the warmer weather approaches, humans spend more time in their yards and gardens and in the great outdoors. This increased activity level of both humans and wild animals can put us all in more direct contact with one another. There are a number of misconceptions about young wild animals and what's best for their survival; learn from the experts at the Wildlife Center about how to best help young animals this spring.

If you see a young wild animal you believe is in danger, it's best to first ask questions before intervening. Despite our natural inclinations, the best chance of survival for a young uninjured animal is often to leave it in its parents' care. Use [these infographics](#) to determine when and how to best help common baby wildlife you may find in your own back yard, and [visit this section of our website for more advice](#). Remember, feeding wildlife can often cause more harm than good.

[Help young wildlife by keeping your cat indoors.](#) The 11-year study conducted by former veterinary director Dr. Dave McRuer vividly illustrates how much of an impact outdoor cats have on wildlife. The study examined nearly 21,000 patient records, including 11,144 small mammals and 9,777 small birds, admitted between 2000 and 2010. Of this total, 2,970 patients were confirmed cat-attack victims. Most patients admitted after interaction with a cat came in between April and September, with the majority of patients admitted in May and June.

On March 29 at 9:00 a.m., join the Center online for a virtual program that takes an in-depth look at the natural histories of the most commonly admitted young patients—squirrels, rabbits, opossums, songbirds, white-tailed deer fawns, and more. During this special live-action Cam event [with audio!], viewers will be able to peer over the shoulders of the Center's rehabilitation team while listening to two outreach staff members give a play-by-play describing what's taking place and on which patients. Topics of discussion will include how to tell if these young animals need help, common causes of admission, and what you can do to help keep them safe during this early stages of their lives. Make sure to bring your questions for an interactive discussion! Free and open to the public, registration is not required. The virtual program will be streaming on both the Center's [website](#) and [Facebook page](#).



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For more information and to arrange an interview, contact Public Affairs Manager Alex Wehrung.

**Press Availability:** To schedule an interview, contact Public Affairs Manager Alex Wehrung. Wildlife Center of Virginia staff are available Monday through Friday during regular business hours for virtual interviews about bird 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.*