



THE WILDLIFE CENTER OF VIRGINIA

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

BY THE NUMBERS: WORLD SNAKE DAY 2023

The Wildlife Center of Virginia reflects on this year's snake patients, their stories, and lessons therein

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

Waynesboro, Virginia – July 14, 2023 Each year on July 16, people all across the globe celebrate snakes – a group of animals that are often underappreciated and misunderstood. Most snake species found in Virginia are naturally reclusive and avoid contact with humans whenever possible, which can perpetuate the negative myths and misconceptions people may have about them. This year, the Wildlife Center of Virginia is reflecting on the snakes that have been admitted during the past 12 months, common circumstances of injury and rescue, and the valuable lessons therein to help people better understand and protect these incredible animals.

Since July 16, 2022, the Center has admitted an approximate total of 50 snakes:

- 1 Black Kingsnake
- 8 Common Gartersnakes
- 2 Cornsnakes
- 1 Dekay's Brownsnake
- 1 Eastern Hog-nosed Snake
- 3 Eastern Kingsnakes
- 1 Eastern Milksnake
- 28 Eastern Ratsnakes
- 1 Northern Watersnake
- 3 Ring-necked Snakes
- 1 Copperhead



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Based on the information provided by eye-witness rescuers and volunteer transporters, the three most common reasons these snakes were admitted to the Wildlife Center included:

1. Young or juvenile snakes failing to thrive on their own,
2. Vehicle collisions, and
3. Attacks from outdoor cats, dogs, or other animals

World Snake Day is a wonderful opportunity to learn more about native snakes and how we can protect them. Visit www.wildlifecenter.org for more information on these patient histories, ways to celebrate World Snake Day, and helpful snake-related tips for keeping wildlife and the environment safe.

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 snake 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.