



THE WILDLIFE CENTER OF VIRGINIA

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

WILDLIFE CENTER OF VIRGINIA TO RELEASE BALD EAGLE AT BERKELEY PLANTATION

Following two months of rehabilitation, this Bald Eagle is ready for life back in the wild.

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

Waynesboro, Virginia – May 23, 2022 On Wednesday, May 25, the Wildlife Center of Virginia will be releasing an adult Bald Eagle that has been a patient at the Center since late-March. The eagle will be released at 1:00 p.m. by Center President Ed Clark at Berkeley Plantation in Charles City [12602 Harrison Landing Road].

The release is free and open to the public. Attendees are asked to RSVP at rsvp@wildlifecenter.org. Attendees should plan on parking at Taps Field. For detailed directions, visit the Wildlife Center's [Event Calendar](#) page.

The eagle to be released on Wednesday was hit by a car in Henrico County. The eagle was scavenging a deer carcass on the side of the road, and, when it attempted to fly away, it was struck by the vehicle. A Henrico County police officer was dispatched to the scene and found that the eagle was unable to fly and appeared to have trauma to its left wing. The officer captured the eagle, and a volunteer transported the bird to the Center later that day.

Center veterinarians suspect that the eagle was failing to thrive due to [lead toxicity](#); they found that the eagle had elevated blood lead levels and was in poor overall condition. The eagle received fluids, anti-inflammatories and pain medication, and was started on chelation therapy to reduce lead levels.

The eagle has spent the past month in a large flight pen, recuperating and practicing flying. Center veterinarians have determined that the eagle is now ready to be released back into the wild. Additional information about the eagle's case history is available at:

<https://www.wildlifecenter.org/critter-corner/current-patients/bald-eagle-22-0261-0>

Eagles ingest fragments of lead ammunition found in deer and other animals that have been shot, or in the gut piles left behind by hunters. A lead fragment the size of a grain of rice will kill a Bald Eagle. Additional information on lead toxicity in Bald Eagles is available at:

<https://www.wildlifecenter.org/how-do-raptors-get-lead-poisoning>



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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.