



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 IN DUBLIN

Following four weeks of veterinary care and rehabilitation, this Bald Eagle is ready for life back in the wild.

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

Waynesboro, Virginia – November 14, 2022 On Wednesday, November 16, the Wildlife Center of Virginia will be releasing an adult Bald Eagle that has been a patient at the Center since mid-October. The eagle will be released at 1:00 p.m. by Center President and Co-Founder Ed Clark at Claytor Lake State Park [6620 Ben H. Bolen Drive, Dublin, VA 24084].

The release is free and open to the public. Attendees are asked to RSVP at rsvp@wildlifecenter.org. Visit the Wildlife Center's [Event Calendar page](#) for more information on the release location and directions.

The eagle to be released on Wednesday was rescued from Pulaski County on October 14. A private citizen found the adult Bald Eagle grounded at a landfill in Dublin, VA, unable to fly. A Giles County Animal Control Officer was called to the scene, and rescued the bird shortly after. The eagle was transported to the Wildlife Center of Virginia the following morning.

No obvious injuries were found, and radiographs did not show any internal trauma. Blood work, however, revealed the likely cause of the eagle's inability to fly—the bird had a subclinical lead level of 0.14 ppm lead in its system. Though technically a low level, [even this small amount of lead is capable of causing severe health issues for eagles and other raptors](#), including incoordination, lethargy, difficulty taking flight, and eventually death. The eagle may have been at the landfill scavenging food because it was feeling the effects of lead toxicosis, and the landfill presented an easy source of food for the weakened bird. Lead toxicosis is an increasingly common cause of eagle admissions to the Center, and currently the subject of many scientific studies throughout the United States.

Additional information about the eagle's case history is available at: <https://www.wildlifecenter.org/critter-corner/current-patients/bald-eagle-22-3402>

For more information and to arrange an interview, contact Public Affairs Manager Alex Wehrung. A collection of high-quality photographs of this eagle and other wildlife species seen at the Center are available upon request.

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 interviews about eagle 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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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.