Call of the Wild

The 27th annual conference on wildlife rehabilitation

November 18-20, 2022

WILDLIFE CENTER OF VIRGINIA

Co-sponsored by the Virginia Department of Wildlife Resources



Welcome to the Wildlife Center of Virginia's 27th annual *Call of the Wild* conference on wildlife rehabilitation!

We're excited to "see" so many of you online this year – thank you for joining us! This is the Center's third online *Call of the Wild* conference, and once again we're happy to see so many wildlife professionals from all over the world come together to learn more about wildlife rehabilitation and medicine. While we still miss hosting everyone in-person and being able to catch up with old friends and meet new colleagues in the field, the online format continues to allow us to host many more people than we could possibly fit in the conference center in Waynesboro! We have more than 300 attendees from 35 states as well as Canada and Europe – all wildlife-minded people who have an interest in learning and expanding their practices.

While we can never replicate being in the same conference space together, there are a wealth of networking opportunities built into the Whova conference application – you just need to take advantage of them! Think of the online features – the virtual meet-ups, the community boards, the interactive Q&A modules in classes and exhibitor "booths" – as a substitute for all of those little valuable "in between class" moments that we experience together at a conference.

All of this wouldn't be possible without our amazing speakers – please take the time to thank them for their time in preparing their materials and presenting this weekend!

Please be sure to fill out your surveys and session feedback – the comments and answers you provide will help us plan next year's conference, in whatever format that may be! The conference is designed for **you**, and we want to hear what you want. We hope you enjoy this excellent learning opportunity as you learn from home – maybe while wearing your favorite animal slippers – and we hope you get a chance to relax and rejuvenate before diving into this next year. Thank you for your participation in the *Call of the Wild* 2022.

CONTACT US

The Wildlife Center of Virginia invites you to share your thoughts, ideas, and suggestions.

The Wildlife Center of Virginia
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wildlife@wildlifecenter.org
Website: www.wildlifecenter.org

Hours of Operation: 9:00 am - 5:00 pm, 7 days a week

Navigating the Conference via the Whova App

Use this program book to find answers to commonly asked questions, read through the program abstracts, learn about your speakers, and more!

Whova Attendee Guide
Everything you need for the conference can be found on Whova! Use your web browser (please note, Chrome is recommended for attending live sessions) or mobile app to access classes, Q&A sessions, community boards, our Virtual Exhibitor Hall, and more! We encourage you to click around and explore this conference app; for specifics on accessing various parts of the app, please visit: https://whova.com/pages/whova-app-user-guide/

This year, our lectures are a mix of pre-recorded sessions, live panel discussions, and live Q&A sessions. Whether the session is live or pre-recorded, utilize the "Session Q&A" tab, located to the right of the lecture window on Whova, to ask questions of the speaker. See a particularly good question from someone else? Click on the thumbs-up "vote" button to up-vote that question. Our moderators and speakers will be reviewing all questions, and the up-vote feature will help them prioritize!

Please note that you can directly access all of the Session Q&As under the "Resources" tab on the lower left of your Whova conference homepage.

Community Boards
Just because we're not together in person doesn't mean we can't chat with each other and catch up! Visit the "community" section of the Whova app to access a variety of topics. You can join a topic conversation about a specific rehabilitation topic, education/outreach ideas, or start your own topic with your fellow attendees.

In this area, you can also schedule or join a virtual meet-up with fellow attendees – have coffee together one morning, or dinner and drinks together in the evening! You may link up your own Zoom or other webinar account if you choose, or use Whova's virtual meeting room for up to 20 people.

Virtual Exhibitor Hall
Stop by the virtual exhibitor hall to see a variety of products and information, and chat with some of the exhibitors! Each virtual booth has a chat window for easy communication with vendors. Some vendors will be scheduling live demos for additional opportunities to interact. Be sure to check out any giveaways or promotions they are featuring!

Handouts
Handouts can be downloaded directly from each session within the agenda. Simply scroll down as you are watching each session and click on the handouts to read and/or save. Handouts can also be accessed by visiting "documents" located in the "Resources" section on the conference homepage on Whova.

Certificates of Attendance
General certificates of attendance will be emailed individually to all participants in early December. Each day of the conference is worth at least nine hours of CE, which will be noted on certificates.

Please note that we are unable to track which particular sessions you attend as a conference participant. If you need to report specific class attendance to your permitting agency, use the grids in this program book to mark and track your attendance. You can also easily maintain this information on the Whova conference app by using "My Agenda". From the Full Agenda page, click "Add to My Agenda" to add a session to your schedule. Don't forget to add the corresponding Q&A session if there is one, which is listed as a separate agenda item. Once you have built your personalized agenda, you can easily print or screenshot "My Agenda" for any additional reporting requirements for your agency.

Veterinary CE: According to Virginia Administrative Code 18VAC150-20-70, approved continuing education credit is given to veterinarians and technicians for courses related to the treatment and care of patients and clinical courses in veterinary medicine or veterinary technology or courses that enhance patient safety, such as medical recordkeeping or compliance with requirements of the Occupational Health and Safety Administration (OSHA). In addition, the *Call of the Wild* conference is sponsored by a state government agency. While the Board of Veterinary Medicine in Virginia does not "approve" continuing education courses or programs, if the course meets the requirements of the regulations, then the Board will accept the continuing education.

Center staff have determined a total of 11.5 hours of lectures are veterinary-taught classes that pertain to the treatment and care of patients, and/or are clinical courses in wildlife medicine. A total of five hours are available Friday, two hours are available Saturday, and 4.5 hours are available Sunday. These sessions are marked with a ** in this program book and in Whova. If you are a veterinary professional, please email edu@wildlifecenter.org for a specialized certificate.

Animal Control Officer CE: 7.5 hours of lectures are approved CE for Animal Control Officer training in Virginia, through the VDACS Office of Animal Care. Please email us at academy@wildlifecenter.org for your designated ACO CE certificate. A total of 1.5 hours is approved for Friday, three hours are approved for Saturday, and a total of three hours on Sunday. These classes are marked with a ++ on the Whova Agenda app and in this program book. If you are an Animal Control Officer, please email edu@wildlifecenter.org for a specialized certificate.

Scholarship Recipients
We're excited to announce that a number of scholarships were awarded this year for conference attendance. A big thank you to the scholarship funders, and congratulations to the recipients!

Sandra Acosta, Annie Beliles, Bonnie Bohnenblust, Alix Buzard, Angie Colarusso, Melissa Descant, Brooke DiPaula, Colleen Dougherty, Jennifer Haynal, Monika Heydt, Lee Ann Hill, Carol Holmgren, Elizabeth Irwin, MacKenzie Jones, Gregory Nason, Biranna Osborne, Jane Pierzga, Jess Schombert, Betsy Shank, Leah Stallings, Heather Wayne, Michele Wellard, and Deb Welter are recipients of the Rehabitat Pennsylvania Rehabilitation Scholarship for permitted Pennsylvania wildlife rehabilitators, veterinarians, and registered transporters.

Lauren Crossed, Kathleen Handley, Colleen Lok, Margaret Peterson, Amy Rembold, and Lynn Taylor are recipients of the Maryland Wildlife Rehabilitators Association scholarship fund for permitted Maryland wildlife rehabilitators.

To learn more about scholarship opportunities, please contact the Center at edu@wildlifecenter.org.

Door Prizes
A number of companies from around the country have donated door prizes for this year's conference, including all of our wonderful exhibitors. Each day of the conference, we'll randomly draw names of attendees registered that day and will post the winners' names in the Whova App on the community board. Check daily to see if you are a winner!

Session Feedback & Conference Survey
Please let us know what you think about this year's topics and speakers! In each session, you'll find a "rate session" button, which will be available for you to fill out after watching the class. There's also a general conference survey in Whova listed under "Resources." Please let us know what you think – and be sure to let us know what topics you want to hear next year! Your opinions help shape future conferences!

Sponsors
A special thank you to our co-sponsor, the Virginia Department of Wildlife Resources.



Friday, November 18				NOTES
8:30-9:00	**Welcome and Whova Run-down**			
9:00 - 9:40 am	☐ **Yummy or Yucky? Nutritious or Junk Food? Using Human Food in Wildlife Rehabilitation**	9:00 - 9:40 am	☐ **Analysis of Zoonotic Diseases in Pets & Wildlife in the Shenandoah Valley Tick Populations++**	
9:50 - 10:50 am	☐ **Storytelling in Wildlife Education**	9:55 - 11:55 am	☐ **Curious, Creepy, & Common Cases in Wildlife Rehabilitation: Baby Mammals to Adult Everything!****	
11:05 - 11:45	☐ **Ready for Your Close-up? Working with the News Media in Wildlife Rehabilitation**			
12:00 - 1:00 pm	Lunch Break			
1:00 - 1:50 pm	☐ **Collaborative Online Programs: Working Together for Wildlife**	1:00 - 2:15 pm	☐ **Just a Flesh Wound! Unraveling the Mysteries of Wound Healing****	
2:00 - 3:00 pm	☐ **When Nature Calls++**	2:20 - 3:35 pm	☐ **Toxicoses Encountered in a Wildlife Rehabilitation Setting****	
3:00 - 4:00 pm	☐ **I Just Hung Up to Say I Love You: A Front Line Panel Discussion**	3:40 - 4:45 pm	☐ **Pain Management in Wildlife****	

A total of 11 hours of CE (noted with **) is available for licensed veterinarians and veterinary technicians in Virginia based on 18VAC150-20-70, item 2.h. A total of 7.5 hours of CE (noted with a ++) is available for Animal Control Officers in Virginia with approval from the Virginia Department of Agriculture and Consumer Services.

Saturday, November 20				**NOTES**
8:45-9:00	**Brief welcome & Whova Run-down/Reminders**			
9:00-9:30	☐ **Snakes of Virginia: Using Natural History as a Foundation for Rehabilitation**	9:00-10:00	☐ **Rehab Alone (How Not to go Crazy as a Home-based Wildlife Rehabilitator)**	
9:30-10:00	**Outcome-based Wildlife Care as a Conservation Measure**			
10:10-12:10	☐ **Facilitating a Veterinarian-Rehabilitator Partnership ****	10:10-12:30	☐ **Read Me Like a Book: Why Behavioral Cues are Important ++**	
12:30-1:30	Lunch Break			
1:15-1:20	**Relaxation Practice**			
1:30-2:00	☐ **Songbird Rehabilitation: Housing Songbird Patients**	1:30-2:35	☐ **The Importance of Sponsoring Apprentices as a Wildlife Rehabilitator**	
2:10-3:15	☐ **Kindergarten for Wood Ducks: ABCs, Time Outs, & Lots of Snacks**	2:45-3:50	☐ **Emergency Preparedness 101: Keeping Animals Safe When Disaster Strikes++**	
A total of 11 hours of CE (noted with **) is available for licensed veterinarians and veterinary technicians in Virginia based on 18VAC150-20-70, item 2.h. A total of 7.5 hours of CE (noted with a ++) is available for Animal Control Officers in Virginia with approval from the Virginia Department of Agriculture and Consumer Services.				

Sunday, November 21				NOTES
8:45-9:00	**Brief welcome & Whova Run-down/Reminders**			
9:00-10:10	☐ **Introduction to Basic Raptor Techniques**	9:00-10:00	☐ **A Rehabilitation Overview for the Slinky Carnivores: Weasels, Mink, & Fishers**	
10:15-11:05	☐ **Adult Songbird Triage, Common Clinical Presentations, & Treatments****	10:25-11:45	☐ **Wranglin' Raccs: A Beginner's Guide to Raccoon Rehabilitation**	
11:10-12:45	☐ **Principles of Bandage Placement in the Avian Patient: Lecture & Demonstration****	11:45-12:45	☐ **Raising Fawns**	
12:45-2:00	Lunch Break			
2:00-2:35	☐ **An Overview of Highly Pathogenic Avian Influenza: Origins, Prevalence & Its Significance in Wildlife Communities**++**	2:00-3:00	☐ **Bats: The Animal, the Myths, the Reality! ++**	
2:40 - 3:40	☐ **Highly Pathogenic Avian Influenza: A Panel Discussion**++**	3:10-3:40	☐ **Wildlife Rehabilitation after SARS-CoV-2 Emergence: Who Can Get It & What Should We Do?** ++**	

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Friday, November 18

Analysis of Zoonotic Diseases in Pets & Wildlife in the Shenandoah Valley Tick Populations++ [.5 hour]

Suborder *Ixodid*, more commonly known as ticks, are parasitic arachnids found all over the world. Tick hosts include a variety of organisms, the most common being deer, mice, dogs, and humans. Ticks transmit a multitude of diseases by feeding on infected hosts and then passing the diseases onto other hosts such as humans. Students in the Biotechnology Applications class at Harrisonburg High School's Governor's STEM Academy morphologically identified ticks of several different species and analyzed them for the presence of zoonotic diseases -- Babesiosis, Lyme, and Rocky Mountain Spotted Fever (RMSF). The ultimate purpose of this research project was to identify the prevalence of disease-carrying ticks in household pets and wildlife creatures. A total of 150 ticks were collected from three local veterinary clinics -- Ashby Animal, Dayton Animal, and Harrisonburg Animal Hospital -- , as well as the Wildlife Center of Virginia. Tick DNA was then isolated using the Zymo Research Tissue/Insect Miniprep Quick - DNA Kit. Specific disease primers were amplified using PCR and analyzed on agarose gels. Of the ticks collected from the veterinary clinics, approximately 11.1 percent came back positive for Lyme disease, with 16.7 percent from the Wildlife Center of Virginia testing positive. Additionally, 60.9 percent of the veterinary clinic ticks and 58.8 percent of ticks from the Wildlife Center of Virginia tested positive for RMSF. None of the ticks tested positive for Babesiosis.

Myron Blosser, Harrisonburg High School Governor's STEM Academy, VA, mblosser@harrisonburg.k12.va.us
Mary Elizabeth Vaughan, VA; Sophia Yoder, VA

Yummy or Yucky? Nutritious or Junk Food? Using Human Food in Wildlife Rehabilitation [.5 hour]

Although foraging for native, natural diets is best for wildlife patients, using human foods like donated produce is less labor-intensive and more plentiful. This presentation highlights the dos and don'ts of feeding human foods to wildlife patients. It also covers the whys or why nots through a review of basic wildlife nutrition, including nutrient requirements and digestive systems.

Tamara Johnstone-Yellin, PhD, Bridgewater College, VA, tyellin@bridgewater.edu

Storytelling in Wildlife Education [1 hour]

This presentation is from the Wildlife Care Academy's on-demand course, "Storytelling in Wildlife Education". The entire course is two hours in length; this chapter offers a lecture on how to build an effective story and is followed by an activity and discussion that offers participants the chance to improve their storytelling and communications. Listen to the lecture, complete the activity, and then join in on the discussion! Learn more at WildlifeAcademy.org.

Alex Wehrung, Wildlife Center of Virginia/Wildlife Care Academy, awehrung @wildlifecenter.org

Curious, Creepy, & Common Cases in Wildlife Rehabilitation: Baby Mammals to Adult Everything! [2 hours]**

This interactive, live, case-based extravaganza highlights many of the intriguing case presentations we see in wildlife rehabilitation and how we work through decision-making in these cases. Some are common and some are just downright weird. The first ~45 minutes are focused on baby mammals (rabbits and squirrels!) and then the sky's the limit – case review covers all ages and all species! Come

ready to interact and have some fun!
Renée Schott, DVM, CWR, Wildlife Rehabilitation Center of Minnesota, renee@wrcmn.org

Ready for Your Close-up? Working with the News Media in Wildlife Rehabilitation [.5 hour]
A good news story can bring your work or organization into the spotlight in the blink of an eye -- whether you're ready or not! This presentation is designed to help wildlife professionals work proactively with journalists, reporters, and other news media representatives to accurately share your story, and provides a practical approach to feeling confident in front of the camera.
Alex Wehrung, Wildlife Center of Virginia, awehrung@wildlifecenter.org

Collaborative Online Programs: Working Together for Wildlife [.5 hour]
At one point or another, most wildlife educators consider inviting guests outside of their organization to join them for online programs — it might be for a particular event, or to focus on the wildlife issues and topics your center sees through its work. But how does one reach out to potential guests, what are the benefits they bring to your organization, and just what do *they* get out of it? This discussion covers the Wildlife Center of Virginia's process for planning collaborative programs, including the communication considerations when contacting potential guests and the technology we use to ensure a smooth and high-quality program.
Connor Gillespie, Wildlife Center of Virginia, cgillespie@wildlifecenter.org

Just a Flesh-Wound! Unraveling the Mysteries of Wound Healing [1 hour]**
Many wildlife rehabilitators and veterinarians are constantly amazed at how well some animals can heal, even from gruesome-appearing wounds. This lecture dives into how the magic happens! Discussion includes how a wound should heal, where things sometimes go wrong in that process, and how we can encourage healthy healing. We also explore some of the more popular "goop" and wound treatments available, with a spotlight on this veterinarian's favorite: honey! Join us to chat about the sweet stuff and gain confidence in wound assessment and care.
Emma Winstead, DVM, VA, ehwinstead@gmail.com

When Nature Calls++ [1 hour]
This talk discusses best practices, simple solutions, and de-escalation techniques for answering wildlife calls and dealing with difficult callers. It also offers some basic communication strategies and note-taking processes to help make calls easier and more efficient. Lastly, discussion covers basic public health and safety requirements using state and federal guidelines and highlights some common calls and solutions.
Zachary Mertz, New England Wildlife Centers, MA, zak.mertz@newildlife.org

Toxicoses Encountered in a Wildlife Rehabilitation Setting [1 hour]**
While not as common as trauma-based injuries, wild animals frequently present for rehabilitation due to various toxicoses. These are usually anthropogenic in origin and can be organic vs inorganic, direct vs indirect, and even purposeful vs accidental. In this lecture, discussion emphasizes man-man toxins present in the environment, such as heavy metals (particularly lead), pesticides, oil/diesel, and even some medications. The lecture also highlights natural compounds, such as algae blooms and botulism. Diagnostic evaluation, treatment options, and prognoses are discussed.
Sarah Reich, DVM, Willowbrook Wildlife Center, IL, sreich@dupageforest.org

Pain Management in Wildlife [1 hour]**
This presentation provides an overview of pain management options in avian, mammalian, and herptile species, with a focus on species commonly presented for rehabilitation and their most frequent reasons for admission that can cause pain. Topics covered include why pain management is necessary, how to identify pain, controlled and non-controlled pain medications and their proper use, and other non-pharmaceutical options to controlling pain in a rehabilitation setting.
Sarah Sirica, DVM, MPH, CWR, New Mexico Wildlife Center, sarah@newmexicowildlifecenter.org

I Just Hung Up to Say I Love You: A Front Line Panel Discussion [1 hour]
Now that the phone call is over, how do intake and reception staff cope with the sometimes stressful and chaotic nature of calls fielded in wildlife rehabilitation? This panel discussion focuses on those who provide the crucial first response in wildlife emergencies, their stories, and the methods of self-care they use for maintaining their mental health and well-being. Join several front desk staffers from various organizations as they discuss what happens after the phone call ends and how to best move forward.
Michael Adkins, Wildlife Center of Virginia, madkins@wildlifecenter.org
Dez Brooks, Rockfish Wildlife Sanctuary, dez@rockfishwildlifesanctuary.org
Carly Corbin, Blue Ridge Wildlife Center, carly@blueridgewildlifectr.org
Kathryn Huntress, Southwest Virginia Wildlife Center of Roanoke thehuntressk@gmail.com

Saturday, November 19

Rehab Alone (How Not to go Crazy as a Home-based Wildlife Rehabilitator) [1 hour]
Being a home-based wildlife rehabilitator is very different from working in a wildlife clinic or veterinary setting. This training focuses on some of the challenges of conducting wildlife rehabilitation in a home setting. The training provides some practical solutions to help make solo rehabilitation easier and more efficient. Home-based wildlife rehabilitators should be recognized for their incredible commitment and all the hard work that "rehab alone" entails.
Judith Pasko, Cummington Wildlife, Inc., MA, info@cummingtonwildlife.com

Snakes of Virginia: Using Natural History as a Foundation for Rehabilitation [.5 hour]
An important part of rehabilitation is utilizing the natural history of an animal to provide suitable husbandry in a captive setting. This lecture highlights how to adapt the care of commonly admitted snake species of Virginia based on their natural history.
McKenzie Stewart, CWR , Wildlife Center of Virginia, mstewart@wildlifecenter.org

Outcome-based Wildlife Care as a Conservation Measure [.5 hour]
As animal care practitioners continue to advance husbandry practices, traditional methodologies are continually being reevaluated with a critical eye on efficacy. When evaluating practices focused on improving welfare or post-release success, environmental enrichment remains a traditional strategy deployed in managed care. It is the supplemental nature of traditional enrichment that lends itself to being overly dependent on inputs from caretakers and lacks relevance to the natural history of the species. By utilizing a tool to highlight relevant outcomes when designing husbandry programs, we have found that animals in managed care can have a more complete experience that is relative to

their adaptations.
Greg Vicino, San Diego Zoo Wildlife Alliance, CA, gvicino@sdzwa.org

Facilitating a Veterinarian-Rehabilitator Partnership [2 hours]**
This presentation addresses the challenges wildlife rehabilitators encounter finding veterinarians in their communities willing to partner with them in treating wildlife patients. Many veterinarians are uncomfortable or unwilling to treat wildlife and are unfamiliar with the legal aspects of these collaborations. Partners for Wildlife fellows researched these barriers and developed a toolkit of resources to help address the identified concerns, including communication templates, federal and state regulations, and relevant resources, along with a video and additional resources directly targeting private- practice veterinarians. This lecture discusses the research, shows the video, and reviews the resources provided in the toolkit. A roundtable discussion/Q&A with the audience follows the presentation.
Peggy Popp, WI, peggy2.423@gmail.com
Leslie Clapper-Rentz, DVM, MN, Clap0011@umn.edu
Laura Johnson, DVM, Tender Care Animal Hospital, WI, lgjson@mwt.net

Read Me Like a Book: Why Behavioral Cues are Important++ [2 hours]
How do you go about being a better observer of animal behavior? And what does a particular behavior mean? Understanding behavior is a component piece for training an animal, whether it is a pet or – what we will be focusing on in this discussion – animals that are used for public outreach. Watching animals can give us a lot of insights on behavior, but can also be confounding and confusing. If we have preconceived notions of what a behavior represents, this cultural fog hinders our ability to act on the behaviors we are observing. And to make matters more interesting, what are some of the differences between species? Or mammal vs bird vs reptile? This presentation discusses how behavior comes about, what the parts of behavior are, and how behavior serves animals. Natural history helps us decode behavior we are seeing, and this talk touches on that aspect as well. Participants are given many opportunities to practice observation skills in this interactive session, and everyone leaves with tools to better observe and read behavior which will assist with training education animals for outreach.
Gail Buhl, Partners for Wildlife, The Raptor Center at the University of Minnesota, gailbuhl@umn.edu
Melissa Moore, The Raptor Center at the University of Minnesota, moor2365@umn.edu
Jackie Kozlowski, Tracy Aviary, UT, JackieK@tracyaviary.org

The Importance of Sponsoring Apprentices as a Wildlife Rehabilitator [1 hour]
This discussion highlights the role that experienced rehabilitators can play as a sponsor for new apprentices, with an emphasis on the importance of educating new, interested people. The lecture includes an overview of how Animal Education and Rescue Organization (A.E.R.O) structures their relationships, curriculum, and expectations, and includes troubleshooting issues and discussing new, innovative ways to interact and teach, even for those far away.
Olivia LoBalbo, A.E.R.O Animal Education and Rescue Organization, VA, olivialobalbo@aeroanimalrescue.org

Songbird Rehabilitation: Housing Songbird Patients [.5 hour]
This presentation is a chapter from the Wildlife Care Academy's on-demand "Songbird Rehabilitation" course. Discussion includes housing and environmental husbandry for wild

songbirds under rehabilitate care, including housing for multiple stages of orphaned songbirds.
Wildlife Care Academy, Wildlife Center of Virginia, academy@wildlifecenter.org

Kindergarten for Wood Ducks: ABCs, Time Outs, & Lots of Snacks [1 hour]
Learn how to increase the survival rates of Wood Ducks while caring for this difficult-to-rehabilitate species. The lecture includes protocols using behavior modification, duck setups, and additional rehabilitation skills, all with the goal of getting woodies to learn how to be woodies. Information on Hooded and Common Mergansers is also included.
Linda Bowen, CT, linda@cmsincorporated.net

Emergency Preparedness 101: Keeping Animals Safe When Disaster Strikes++ [1 hour]
As the recent destruction of Hurricane Ian in Florida highlighted, we are vulnerable to extreme events. In this workshop, learn how to protect yourself and the animals in your care during an emergency. This presentation will discuss best practices in emergency preparedness and demonstrate how to create your own emergency plan to be prepared if disaster strikes. There will be ample time for questions and scenario discussions.
Julie Barron Morrill, jbarronmorrill@gmail.com

Sunday, November 20

Introduction to Basic Raptor Techniques [1 hour]
Raptor patients present a unique challenge, as they are both aggressive in nature and fragile in structure. Though some aspects of companion bird medicine may apply to raptor patients, the goals for raptor species are often quite different than the objectives for companion species. Presented here is a discussion devised for veterinary assistants/technicians/nurses, and anyone else that may benefit from a basic level of raptor medicine. Items for discussion include such mechanisms as basic methods of handling/restraint, venipuncture, intubation, and radiographic positioning for raptor species. Other points of discussion include techniques for medication administration, feeding, bandage application, and tail guard application.
Marcia Gannon, Southeastern Raptor Center, AL, mdt0010@auburn.edu

A Rehabilitation Overview for the Slinky Carnivores: Weasels, Mink, & Fishers [1 hour]
This lecture provides an introduction to the rehabilitation of weasels, mink, and fishers, including how they are the same and how they are different (from each other and other mammals). Discussion includes a brief natural history on each species and how it may impact time in a rehabilitation facility, care guidelines from infant to release, responding to callers, and using the provided resources to make informed care management decisions.
Peggy Popp, WI, peggy2.423@gmail.com

Adult Songbird Triage, Common Clinical Presentations, & Treatments [1 hour]**
Adult songbirds (members of the suborder *Passeri*) commonly present to rehabilitators for a variety of reasons. This lecture discusses the most common clinical presentations of adult songbirds and how to triage these animals. Additional topics addressed include head trauma, wounds, fractures, and subcutaneous emphysema and treatment recommendations for these common presenting complaints.
Olivia Schiermeyer, DVM, Wildlife Center of Virginia, oschiermeyer@wildlifecenter.org

Wranglin' Raccs: A Beginner's Guide to Raccoon Rehabilitation [1 hour]
What on earth is a trash panda? Can you get rabies from looking at a raccoon? Why should you rehabilitate them? And why do they (adorably) wash their hands so much?! Join us for a fun exploration of the basics of raccoon rehabilitation. We'll bust some myths and learn how to successfully rehabilitate raccoons, from rescue to release. Let's get racc'd!
Sarah Cooperman, CWR, Rockfish Wildlife Sanctuary, VA sarah@rockfishwildlifesanctuary.org

Principles of Bandage Placement in the Avian Patient: Lecture & Demonstration [1.5 hours]**
In this presentation, the core basics of bandage techniques for the avian patient are reviewed and demonstrated. Discussion includes the principles of bandage placement, indications for specific bandage types, and a review of important considerations for avian patients as it relates to husbandry and the overall rehabilitation plan. The importance of non-medical and prophylactic bandages is also highlighted, along with their role in captive avian patients in a rehabilitation setting.
Jess Ransier, LVT, CWR, Wildlife Center of Virginia, jransier@wildlifecenter.org
Rachel Wolffe LVT, CWR, Wildlife Center of Virginia, rwolffe@wildlifecenter.org
Karra Pierce, DVM, CWR, Wildlife Center of Virginia, kpierce@wildlifecenter.org

Raising Fawns [1 hour]
This talk highlights White-tailed Deer fawn rehabilitation protocols and procedures that are set forth and followed by the Wildlife Center of Virginia, in conjunction with the Virginia Department of Wildlife Resources. Discussion includes almost all aspects of fawn care including: housing, progression, diagnostics, and criteria for release.
Liz Noderer, CWR, Wildlife Center of Virginia, enoderer@wildlifecenter.org
Elka Hutcheson, Wildlife Center of Virginia, ehutcheson@wildlifecenter.org

An Overview of Highly Pathogenic Avian Influenza: Origins, Prevalence & Its Significance in Wildlife Communities++ [.5 hour]**
Highly Pathogenic Avian Influenza (HPAI) is a highly transmissible zoonotic disease that has garnered increased attention this year as an outbreak has been decimating commercial and backyard poultry flocks across the U.S. This talk highlights what avian influenza is, where it comes from, what species it can affect, what symptoms to look out for, and the significance of this disease in the wildlife rehabilitation setting.
Marit Bakken, DVM, Wildlife Center of Virginia, mbakken@wildlifecenter.org

Bats: The Animal, the Myths, the Reality!++ [1 hour]
Please join a fun and informative exploration of a (still!) very misunderstood animal. This class explores aspects of bat life such as when bats do what, which bats are doing what (hint: it's probably not a Little Brown Bat, even if it's little and brown), why bat boxes do not get you bats, why adult bats need to go home, basic age identification (wait, is it an adult bat?), and more. Yes, this session IS for rehabilitators because we hear a lot of not-quite-right legends and lore from our wonderful rehab community regarding bats, but anyone and everyone who wants to know more about the furry flyers in our night sky are welcome to attend!

Pro tip: There are pop quizzes and prizes involved. Get a jump on the competish with these resources: Bat Conservation & Rescue of Virginia's Guide to Bats (tinyurl.com/4d99ua94) and our

endangered species and bat pup information (https://www.virginiabats.org/bat-id/)
Leslie Sturges, Bat Conservation & Rescue of Virginia, lsturges@virginiabats.org

Highly Pathogenic Avian Influenza (HPAI) Panel Discussion [1 hour]**
Join us for a guided discussion on how various centers have responded and adapted to Highly Pathogenic Avian Influenza in 2022. The panel features representation from various centers across the country and aims to highlight that there's no one-approach-fits-all.
Karra Pierce, DVM, CWR, Wildlife Center of Virginia, kpierce@wildlifecenter.org
Sarah Reich, DVM, Willowbrook Wildlife Center, IL, sreich@dupageforest.org
Marcia Gannon, Southeastern Raptor Center, AL, mdt0010@auburn.edu

Wildlife Rehabilitation after SARS-CoV-2 Emergence: Who Can Get It & What Should We Do? **++ [.5 hour]
The COVID-19 pandemic changed many aspects of life around the world, including how wildlife rehabilitation is performed and how home rehabilitators and large centers operate. SARS-CoV-2 is widely understood to be a variant of a coronavirus found in animals that made the jump to infect humans – also known as a zoonotic disease. This is an aspect of rehabilitation that has been known and mitigated for decades, but what about the complementary problem of reverse zoonosis – when humans can pass the disease to animal species? This presentation covers which species we think are susceptible and what can we do to decrease risk.
Sarah Sirica, DVM, MPH, CWR, New Mexico Wildlife Center, sarah@newmexicowildlifecenter.org

Speaker Bios

Michael Adkins is a native of Norfolk, Virginia, and has lived in Charlottesville since 2015. After spending most of the last decade travelling the country as a touring musician, Michael discovered his passion for animal welfare while working at a local domestic shelter. He is excited to continue learning about the natural history and behavior of wild animals through his experiences at the Wildlife Center and while exploring the beauty of central Virginia. He and his wife Madie enjoy hiking around the area with their two adopted dogs and frequenting Shenandoah National Park several times a year. Michael is a snake enthusiast and loves observing and identifying them for his friends and neighbors. He hopes to use his knowledge and appreciation of snakes to help educate his community about the important benefits snakes provide to our ecosystem.

Dr. Marit Bakken is originally from Appleton, WI. She grew up being inspired by the amazing wildlife and scenery she saw on her family's vacations across the U.S. and decided she wanted to work with wildlife in some aspect, whether that be research, medicine, or policy. Dr. Marit went to Iowa State University, where she majored in animal ecology and minored in psychology. She spent her summers working for the Iowa DNR and doing research on small-mammal distribution and honeybee behavior and physiology. She returned to Wisconsin for veterinary school at the University of Wisconsin-Madison, where she did research with the USGS National Wildlife Health Center on HPAI in mesopredator species. After graduation, Dr. Marit completed a small-animal rotating internship at VCA Valley Animal Hospital and the Reid Park Zoo in Tucson, AZ, and learned all about living in the desert for a year. She's delighted to come to Virginia for the wildlife

veterinary internship and hopes to combine her love for wildlife rehabilitation, emergency medicine and surgery, wildlife research, and education. She loves all native species, but her absolute favorites include bats, waterfowl, and amphibians. At home she enjoys hanging out with her husband Jered and their crew of one tripod dog (Harold), two cats (Casper and Clara), and one guinea pig (Mellie) as well as hiking, exploring local cuisine and historical sites, reading, and playing piano.

Myron Blosser is the director of the Harrisonburg High School Governor's STEM Academy and the science coordinator for 9-12 Harrisonburg City Public Schools.

Linda Bowen is licensed by Connecticut's Department of Energy and Environmental Protection, specializing in bat rehabilitation and is also permitted by USFWS (for 20 years) to rehabilitate migratory birds, specializing in waterfowl, particularly wood ducklings and other difficult species. Her work with bats has been published as coauthor of the nationally recognized protocol Rehabilitating Bats with White Nose Syndrome which is available for free download at www.bats101.info. Linda authored the chapter on bats in the NWRA Topics in Wildlife Medicine: Orthopedics and Medical Management of Wildlife Species: A Guide for Veterinary Practitioners published by Wiley-Blackwell, as well as the section on bats recently published by NWRA/IWRC Standards for Wildlife Rehabilitation. Tabitha's Tale is her children's book about bats which is also available through her website www.bats101.info. She has published articles in several state and national rehabilitation journals and has lectured at several wildlife conferences across the U.S. and Canada.

Dez Brooks works at Rockfish Wildlife Sanctuary as a wildlife rehabilitator. They've been in the animal care field for four years, primarily in rehabilitation but with a few zoo internships under as well. Dez is really excited to be working more on training Rockfish's team of ambassador animals, while continuing to raise and care for wild animals at the same time. Two of their favorite animals are opossums and goats, which they have been lucky enough to work with in lots of different capacities.

Gail Buhl has worked professionally in the ambassador animal world for more than 30 years. Her professional career has focused on presenting and training animal ambassadors to present to the public on the glove and in flight programs. She teaches at conferences across the country and coordinates and presents workshops on ambassador animal training and presentation. She is involved in one-to-one mentoring with organizations and individuals. Gail has been a team member and supervised four very diverse collections and programs. Gail is one of the editors for "A Guide for the Care and Use of Program Animals" 2nd Edition, NWRA 2018. Currently, Gail is the Partnership Coordinator for the Partners for Wildlife Initiative at The Raptor Center at the University of Minnesota.

After spending a year getting certified in canine and feline nutrition, and eight months traveling the country working with livestock and dabbling in beekeeping on various farms, **Maliah Carroll** realized her true passion was working with wildlife. Maliah found her love for wildlife rehabilitation at the Stanislaus Wildlife Care Center located in the central valley of California, near her hometown. Uprooting to Virginia for a wildlife rehabilitation externship in 2021, Maliah fell in love with the state and its diversity and became a permanent employee at the Center as a front-desk coordinator. Currently working on her B.S. in wildlife biology and ecology she hopes to one day partake in

conservation efforts all around the world. In her free time, Maliah enjoys reading about anything to do with the natural world, such as entomology, anthropology, herpetology, and volcanology. Maliah also has a great love for horror films and the arts, performing music and poetry locally. Maliah looks forward to getting her rehabilitation permit and certifications during her time at WCV.

Dr. Leslie Clapper-Rentz has been involved in wildlife rehabilitation for more than 25 years. She has served as a small-animal/exotics veterinarian in private practice and as a consulting veterinarian for individual wildlife rehabilitators, as well as for Wildwoods Wildlife Rehabilitation and the Great Lakes Aquarium. She is currently the program director/instructor for the Veterinary Technician program at Minnesota North College—Ely campus.

Sarah Cooperman is the Interim Director at Rockfish Wildlife Sanctuary (RWS) in Shipman, Virginia. She has been rehabilitating at RWS for more than four years and is a Certified Wildlife Rehabilitator through the International Wildlife Rehabilitation Council. Sarah is particularly passionate about environmental communications and manages the Sanctuary's social media and other written materials. Her favorite species to work with include big brown bats, groundhogs, Blue Jays, and Yellow-billed Cuckoos.

Carly Corbin is the office managerat Blue Ridge Wildlife Center and has been with the organization for almost two years. A few of Carly's favorite patients from the hospital have included vultures, tree frogs, and baby striped skunks. Carly was previously a professional organizer and enjoys creating new systems to increase productivity and efficiency in the variety of departments within the Center.

Marcia Gannon provides veterinary nursing support for exotic and wildlife species through Auburn University College of Veterinary Medicine. During her 22 years within the field of veterinary medicine, Marcia has had the opportunity to work with a variety of species, including raptors, exotic companion animals, marine mammals, sea turtles, and more. Marcia is currently pursuing a degree in veterinary nursing and has further education in the biological sciences.

Connor Gillespie is the outreach coordinator at the Wildlife Center of Virginia. As part of the outreach team, Connor's main role is to set up and present a variety of public programs to promote positive attitudes toward wildlife and emphasize how the personal choices we make affect the health of the environment.

Kathryn Huntress joined the Southwest Virginia Wildlife Center of Roanoke in 2017 as an intern. She then volunteered and became staff in 2019. Kathryn thinks of the center like family and focuses on wildlife education and conservation. Her favorite thing about working with wildlife is not just the opportunity to help save them but also to help educate the public. Kathryn is extremely grateful for the opportunities the center has allotted her.

Elka Hutcheson was born and raised in Michigan near the city of Detroit. She completed her Bachelor of Science in biology in 2021 at the University of Michigan in Ann Arbor. Her first experience with wildlife was at the Wildlife Center of Virginia where she completed a rehabilitation externship and fell in love with wildlife. Elka continued to advance in the field, working at many different wildlife centers including C.R.O.W. (Clinic for the Rehabilitation of Wildlife), the Bird Center of Michigan, and Howell Nature Center. After graduating, she joined the Wildlife Center staff as a seasonal assistant in the summer of 2022. She stayed on to become the rehabilitation intern

from 2022-2023 and is extremely excited to continue learning. Elka loves all wildlife species but is very fond of working with skunks, amphibians, and any raptors. In her free time, Elka enjoys going birding and herping! She also loves to crochet and has recently learned how to pin and preserve insect specimens as a hobby.

Dr. Laura Johnson has been a private-practice small-animal/avian veterinarian for more than 35 years. For most of that time, she has also been a licensed wildlife rehabilitator, working mainly with raptors. She is the consulting veterinarian for several wildlife rehabilitators and facilities in Southwest Wisconsin.

Dr. Tamara Johnstone-Yellin (she/her/hers), Associate Professor of Biology and Environmental Science at Bridgewater College, has worked with mule deer, the endangered Columbia Basin pygmy rabbit, elk, and ground squirrels in captive and field settings with a research focus on nutritional ecology. Dr. JY completed her M.S. (2004) and Ph.D. (2010) at Washington State University, followed by post-doctoral research at Washington State University and with the Forest Ungulate Research Network. She teaches courses in ecology, wildlife management, environmental science, and perceptions of wildlife. Tamara's ongoing research in nutritional ecology and DEI in the wildlife profession involves undergraduate students. She collaborates with the Wildlife Center of Virginia, the Department of Wildlife Resources, the US Forest Service, and the Wildlife Society on research and co-curricular programming.

Jackie Kozlowski is a senior bird trainer at Tracy Aviary in Salt Lake City, Utah.

Olivia LoBalbo is the founder of A.E.R.O Animal Education and Rescue Organization in Virginia. A.E.R.O is a group of 30 licensed wildlife rehabilitators, apprentices, and caregivers that work together to help animals and grow the rehabilitation community.

Zachary Mertz is the Executive Director of the Birdsey Cape Wildlife Center in Barnstable, Massachusetts, and serves on the executive committee of the New England Wildlife Centers. In this role, Zak uses The Center's platform of wildlife care to teach students of all ages about the natural world and to provide professional training experiences to wildlife rehabilitators and veterinary care professionals. Zak also currently serves on the Board of Wildlife Rehabilitators Association of Massachusetts and on the board of the Orenda Wildlife Land Trust. He also holds both state and federal rehabilitation permits and regularly works with more than 200 species of wildlife.

When 14-year-old **Melissa Moore** saw her first hawk on the glove, she knew what she wanted to do with her life and career. She began volunteering at the World Bird Sanctuary shortly after. Since that time, she became a master-level falconer in her 20s and has worked professionally with ambassador animals since 1986. She supervised bird shows at the Milwaukee County Zoo, Franklin Park Zoo, Black Hills Reptile Gardens, and Sea World of Ohio. As Curator of Birds at the Reptile Gardens, Melissa also developed many outreach programs incorporating ambassador animals of varied species. In addition to previously serving on the boards of the NWRA and IAATE, she also has been Executive Director of two wildlife centers, and currently is Education Director at The Raptor Center. Her passion is sharing her experiences to enrich the lives of ambassador animals and their caretakers.

Julie Morrill has more than twenty years of experience in emergency and disaster preparedness and has developed emergency response and business continuity plans for clients in a variety of industries and jurisdictions nationally and internationally. She joined the Wildlife Center of Virginia's board of directors in January 2021. Additionally, Julie is a Krav Maga and personal safety instructor. She teaches courses all over the world.

Liz Noderer was born and raised in Carmel, Indiana, a large suburb of Indianapolis. She graduated early from Purdue University in 2018 with a B.S. in interdisciplinary agriculture with minors in wildlife science and natural resources/environmental science. Liz's love of wildlife started while she was in college, when she began volunteering and later interning at Providence Wildlife Rehabilitation Center in Westfield, Indiana. During her time there, the director of the center began teaching and providing her with a base knowledge and tools to pursue a career as a wildlife rehabilitator. After graduating, Liz took a six-month position at the Miami Seaquarium, where she worked closely with the staff to take care of and monitor resident and rehabilitating manatees and sea turtles. From there, she became a fellow at C.R.O.W (Clinic for the Rehabilitation of Wildlife) in Sanibel, Florida for six months, working with all native Florida species. After moving from Florida, Liz completed a season at the Indianapolis Zoo as a macaw trainer to assist with training and running the free-flight shows. Liz also worked as a veterinary technician before joining the Wildlife Center as a wildlife rehabilitator in the fall of 2021. Liz's hobbies include drawing, painting, watching new shows with her fiancé, and hanging out with her bird, Green Bean. Liz enjoys working with young mammals and all birds (especially waterfowl) and is excited to have the opportunity to work with a wider variety of native mammals.

Judy Pasko has been a licensed wildlife rehabilitator in Massachusetts for more than 16 years. She holds a Massachusetts state permit and a federal permit for the rehabilitation of songbirds, waterfowl, and game birds. Judy is the founder of Cummington Wildlife, Inc., which is a small non-profit specializing in lagomorphs and songbird rehabilitation. Her facility is located in her home in Cummington, MA. She is an active board member of the Wildlife Rehabilitation Association of Massachusetts (WRAM).

Dr. Karra Pierce grew up on the west coast of Canada, near the city of Vancouver. She completed her Bachelor of Science in biology at the University of Victoria on Vancouver Island. During this time, she started working as a staff wildlife rehabilitator at a large wildlife rehabilitation center. Here, Dr. Karra fell in love with wildlife rehabilitation and wildlife medicine. Following her undergraduate degree, Dr. Karra moved to Saskatoon, Saskatchewan to attend the Western College of Veterinary Medicine to become a wildlife veterinarian. During this time, she continued to dedicate herself to working with wildlife. After receiving her Doctor of Veterinary Medicine, she did a one-year small-animal rotating internship at the Western College of Veterinary Medicine and then joined the team at the Wildlife Center of Virginia. In her time at the Wildlife Center, she has held the position of veterinary intern, senior veterinary intern, research fellow, and is currently the director of veterinary services. Dr. Karra loves teaching interns, veterinary students, and wildlife rehabilitators from all over the world about wildlife rehabilitation and wildlife medicine. She enjoys all aspects of her job but is particularly fond of treating all things tiny. You will often find her creating micro-bandages and miniature splints for her littlest patients. Her professional goals are centered around advancing the profession of wildlife rehabilitation and learning as much as we can from the patients that come

through our doors. Dr. Karra spends her free time with her ever-changing menagerie of pets and her partner, Dr. Patrick, who is also a veterinarian.

Peggy Popp has been an independent Wisconsin home-based wildlife rehabilitator since the mid-1980s, specializing in orphaned small mammals. Her background is in chemistry and animal behavior, her passion is mustelids, and she works as an environmental chemist to support her wild orphans.

Jess Ransier is originally from Baldwinsville, New York, a small suburb outside Syracuse. She graduated in 2015 from Unity College, with a B.S. in Captive Wildlife Care and Education and a minor in Zoology. After graduating from Unity, she completed a six-month fellowship at the Clinic for the Rehabilitation for Wildlife (C.R.O.W.) in Sanibel, FL, which solidified her love of wildlife and veterinary medicine. After completing her fellowship at C.R.O.W., Jess went back to school to pursue a degree in Veterinary Technology at Genesee Community College in Batavia, New York. Upon graduation from GCC, Jess joined the WCV team and completed the 13- month diagnostic LVT internship during the 2018-2019 season. She was then subsequently hired as one of the full-time LVT staff in July of 2019 and is now the LVT supervisor, which is one of three full-time LVT positions. Jess loves working with all wildlife but is especially fond of Barred Owls. In her spare time, Jess enjoys spending time outdoors with her beloved dog, Bonnie, and working on small projects around the house with her husband Anthony.

Dr. Sarah Reich is the head veterinarian and manager of rehabilitation and research at Willowbrook Wildlife Center in the Chicago suburbs. While she may reside in the Midwest, she is originally from Massachusetts and is a New Englander at heart. She completed her veterinary education at the University of Illinois Urbana-Champaign; after completing an emergency internship in Milwaukee and a wildlife medicine and conservation internship at Tufts Wildlife Clinic, she returned to her alma mater to direct the Wildlife Medical Clinic. In 2019, she started at Willowbrook and hasn't run away yet. She is particularly interested in orthopedic and soft tissue surgery, wound management, and opossums.

Dr. Olivia Schiermeyer grew up in Culpeper, Virginia, and always knew she wanted to be a veterinarian. She completed her Bachelor of Science in biology at the University of Mary Washington, then earned her Doctor of Veterinary Medicine degree at the Virginia-Maryland College of Veterinary Medicine. During her veterinary education, Dr. Olivia completed externships with several wildlife rehabilitation centers in the U.S. and Guatemala. Her experiences with wildlife as a student solidified her love of the field of wildlife rehabilitation medicine and for all of our wild creatures. After receiving her DVM, Dr. Olivia spent two years working as a shelter veterinarian in Wisconsin before moving back to Virginia. Dr. Olivia loves treating all of our native wildlife but is particularly fond of songbirds, bats, and snakes.

Dr. Renée Schott is currently the Medical Director at the Wildlife Rehabilitation Center of Minnesota (WRCMN), the busiest wildlife rehabilitation hospital in the world. She has been involved in wildlife rehabilitation since 2002 and has worked at WRCMN since 2010. In addition to teaching at wildlife and veterinary conferences all over the country, Renée is involved in teaching courses at the University of Minnesota-College of Veterinary Medicine, is a Course Instructor for the International Wildlife Rehabilitation Council, and is a former board member of National Wildlife

Rehabilitators Association. Renée has recently started a transformational coaching business on the side to help those who care for animals battle burnout and compassion fatigue.

Dr. Sarah Sirica grew up in King George, Virginia. She completed her Bachelor of Science degree in biology at Bridgewater College in Virginia. Her Doctorate in Veterinary Medicine and Master of Public Health were completed at the University of Tennessee College of Veterinary Medicine in 2013. The focus of her Master's program was on the One Health Aspects of Rabies Virus in South Africa. She was in small-animal private practice and a volunteer wildlife vet until 2020, when she started an internship at the Wildlife Center of Virginia, which led her to a full-time position at the New Mexico Wildlife Center as the staff veterinarian. Dr. Sirica enjoys general medical and surgical care of all wildlife, and doesn't like to pick a favorite animal! She also enjoys teaching veterinary students and rehabilitation interns. Her favorite topics include wildlife disease, wound management, and population medicine.

McKenzie (Mac) Stewart was born and raised in Orlando, Florida, where she grew up camping and spending time outdoors. She earned her BS in natural resource conservation from the University of Florida in 2017 and has since worked in wildlife conservation and rehabilitation across the southeast. Mac particularly enjoyed a year spent in south Florida working on several field research projects, including a native rodent population study and a project tracking and capturing invasive Burmese pythons and Argentine Tegus in the Florida Everglades; this is where her love for reptiles began! Mac moved to Philadelphia in 2019 to work as a veterinary technician with companion animals, but she quickly realized her true passion was working with wildlife. This led her to move to Virginia for a seasonal position with Rockfish Wildlife Sanctuary, just across the mountain from the Wildlife Center. She was thrilled to join WCV's permanent rehabilitation staff in the fall of 2021. Although Mac loves working with many kinds of wildlife, she is particularly fond of Virginia Opossums, herons, Ospreys, and all snake species. Outside of her work at WCV, Mac enjoys exploring the hiking trails around Charlottesville, playing board games with her friends, and spending time with her cat Theodore and her snake Kevin.

Leslie Sturges is the president of the Bat Conservation & Rescue of Virginia, a bat conservation, rehabilitation, and education organization. She has been hand-raising bats for more than 20 years.

Mary Elizabeth Vaughan graduated from Harrisonburg High School in June 2022 with an advanced diploma in the HHS STEM Academy. She studied tick zoonotic diseases for her STEM capstone with teacher Myron Blosser. Mary Elizabeth is currently a first-year linguistics major at the University of Massachusetts Amherst. A supporter of the Wildlife Center of Virginia since middle school, she is excited to make her conference debut at the 2022 *Call of the Wild* Conference.

Greg A. Vicino is the curator of Applied Animal Welfare at the San Diego Zoo Wildlife Alliance. Mr. Vicino studied Biological Anthropology at UC Davis where he focused on non-human primate, husbandry, behavior, welfare, and socialization. Previously, he held positions at the California National Primate Research Center, UC Davis, the San Diego Zoo, and Al Ain Zoo, U.A.E. Mr. Vicino focuses on integrated management strategies, in which all animals receive the benefit of every specialty at each facility. By emphasizing the frequency and diversity of behavior, he and his team have worked on developing integrated management strategies that exploit the adaptive relevance of behavior and making behavior meaningful for managed populations. This strategy is designed to be

applicable to all species both captive and wild and he has extensive experience in the Middle East, Hawaiian Islands, and East Africa, applying these concepts to in-situ conservation programs and rehab/re-release sites.

Alex Wehrung is the Public Affairs Manager at the Wildlife Center of Virginia. As a member of the outreach department, Alex works to create meaningful and lasting relationships with the public in a variety of ways, such as communicating with news media representatives, creating website and social media content, and presenting educational programs.

Dr. Emma Winstead was born in Virginia but raised in Venezuela, Egypt, Germany, and Greece. Always fascinated by science and hoping to contribute to conservation, she received her B.S. in Biomedical Engineering from the University of Virginia. While there, she was lucky to learn from the Wildlife Center of Virginia as a rehabilitation student and then volunteer. She received her DVM in 2019 from Tufts University where she divided her time between wildlife and domestic species. Following graduation, she completed a rotating internship at an equine hospital and went on to spend the bulk of the pandemic working with cats and dogs in private practice in Virginia Beach. She is excited to be back volunteering with wildlife, and to return full-time to wildlife medicine in the coming months. Outside of veterinary medicine, she maintains a love for the ocean, hiking, horses, and anything involving her six-year-old cattle dog, Roo.

Rachel Wolffe grew up in Short Hills, New Jersey, a suburb of New York City. Her love of all creatures and the outdoors led her to attend the SUNY College of Environmental Science and Forestry. She graduated with a B.S. in conservation biology. After graduating, she moved to Lexington, Virginia with her family. Rachel then went back to school to pursue a degree in Veterinary Technology through Blue Ridge Community College. While in vet tech school, she started volunteering at the Wildlife Center, first with the rehab department, and then with the treatment team. After graduating from vet tech school, Rachel spent some time in small-animal medicine but realized that her passion is for wildlife and conservation. This led her back to the Wildlife Center for a 12-week externship during the summer of 2021. Rachel is very excited to be continuing as the Vet Tech Intern for 2021-2022. While she does not have one favorite animal, she is especially fond of reptiles and amphibians. In her free time, Rachel enjoys reading, baking, and hiking in the beautiful Blue Ridge Mountains with her dog Tilly.

Sophia Yoder recently graduated from Harrisonburg High School this past spring. While attending Harrisonburg, she was President of the Governor's STEM Academy from 2021-2022. During the same year, Sophia completed her senior capstone by doing research on ticks and zoonotic diseases under the direction of Myron Blosser. Sophia is currently a first year at the University of Virginia, studying biology.

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