WILDLIFE CENTER OF VIRGINIA

THE 26TH ANNUAL CONFERENCE ON WILDLIFE REHABILITATION:

Call of the Wild



NOV 19-21, 2021

CO-SPONSORED BY THE VIRGINIA DEPARTMENT OF WILDLIFE RESOURCES AND THE MORRIS ANIMAL FOUNDATION

Welcome to the Wildlife Center of Virginia's 26th annual *Call of the Wild* conference on wildlife rehabilitation!

When we hosted our first online conference last year, we weren't sure if it would be the *only* online *Call of the Wild* conference, or the first of what could possibly be a new twist on a decades-long event. As we get ready to close out 2021, we are reflecting back on another challenging year and preparing to "see" all of you online again! We still miss those familiar faces and opportunities to catch up with each other while meeting new colleagues in the field. But, even if we can't be in the same space with so many wildlife-minded people, we're still excited to bring you this high-quality educational opportunity in its online format, which has broadened our reach and allowed more people than ever to come together virtually to take part in this conference.

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. We hope you'll take advantage of the entire conference experience – from chatting on community boards, scheduling meet-up sessions for coffee or happy hour, shopping at exhibitor tables, joining us for a night of team trivia, and taking part in our scheduled networking events – there are a number of ways to keep connected and have those valuable "in between class" moments together, just as we would in a conference center.

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* 2021.

CONTACT US

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

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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 more 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 with some speakers. 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 catchup! 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 30 people.

Social Activities

Friday. Our Friday evening Virtual Meets are opportunities for wildlife professionals to meet and network with their peers. Whether you're a wildlife rehabilitator, wildlife veterinarian or technician, outreach educator, or some combo of any/all of the above, stop by Whova's Virtual Meets (found under the Community Board) and chat with your colleagues from around the country. These meets are intended to connect seasoned pros and those who are just venturing into the wildlife field for the first time. Ask questions, give advice, and meet and mingle after our first day of learning together. These meets are open to ALL conference participants and begin at 6pm!

Saturday: Join us on Saturday for an evening of wildlife trivia! Trivia questions consist of several rounds of basic trivia questions, a picture round, and an audio round -- all related to wildlife. Teams are limited to four players -- so grab your friends and register your team, or, if you need help joining a team, we're happy to introduce you to other players. You need not be in the same location as your

team members – we will put you together virtually! All you need to participate is your computer (or mobile device) to connect to a private Zoom invite, a microphone, speakers, and a pen and paper.

Space is limited. Please register through the "Wildlife Trivia" session in the Whova Agenda! Prizes will be awarded to the winning team.

Sunday: Our Sunday lunchtime Virtual Meets are oriented around species of interest. Get together with other bird, mammal, or herptile rehabilitators and network with others working with the species you specialize in. Feel free to move from room to room! These meets are intended to connect seasoned pros and those who are just venturing into the wildlife field for the first time. Ask questions, give advice, and meet and mingle as we near the end of the conference weekend. These meets are open TO ALL conference participants and will run during lunch from 12:35 to 1:45pm!

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 after the conference. With recorded lectures available through the end of 2021, each day of the conference is worth at least 10 hours of CE, which will be noted on certificates. Certificates will be emailed during the first half of December.

Thirteen (13) hours of lectures are approved for CE for veterinarians and licensed veterinary technicians in Virginia [based on 18VAC150-20-70, item 2.h]. Please email us at academy@wildlifecenter.org for your designated vet/tech CE certificate for qualifying classes. A total of four hours are available Friday, six hours are available Saturday, and three hours are available Sunday. These classes are marked with a ** on the Whova Agenda and in this program book.

Eight (8) 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 one hour is approved for Friday, three hours are approved for Saturday, and a total of four hours on Sunday. These classes are marked with a ++ on the Whova Agenda app and in this program book.

Please note: we are unable to track which 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.

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, Melissa Descant, Emily Garrigan, Robyn Graboski, Carol Holmgren, MacKenzie Jones, Leah Stallings, Heather Wayne, and Deb Welter are recipients of the Rehabitat Pennsylvania Rehabilitation Scholarship for permitted Pennsylvania wildlife rehabilitators, veterinarians, and registered transporters.

Lauren Crossed and Margaret Peterson are recipients of the Maryland Wildlife Rehabilitators Association scholarship fund for permitted Maryland wildlife rehabilitators.

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 sponsors, the Virginia Department of Wildlife Resources and the Morris Animal Foundation!





Friday, November 19				**NOTES**
8:30	**Welcome and Whova Run-down**			
9:00 - 9:55 am	**The Role of Wildlife Rehabilitators in One Health****			
10:00-11:30 am	**Patient Updates in Wildlife Rehabilitation**	10:00-11:30 am	**Quality of Life for Ambassador Animals**	
11:30 - 12:43	**Wildlife Rehabilitation in the Era of Online Video Content**	11:30-12:30	**Teaching Foundation Behaviors & Why They Matter**	
12:35-1:45 pm	Lunch Break & Wildlife Center Hospital Tour			
1:45 - 2:45 pm	**News & Updates from Virginia Department of Wildlife Resources++** **			
2:50 - 4:50 pm	**Over Capacity! Dealing with a Rapid Influx of Patients****	2:50 - 3:35 pm	**Advanced Virtual Programming**	
		3:40-4:05 pm	**Organizing Your Wildlife Education Message**	
4:55 - 5:25 pm	**Building and Fostering Your Support Network**	4:10-5:20 pm	**Grant-Writing Strategies That Work**	

Saturday, November 20				NOTES
8:30-8:45	**Brief welcome (Amanda and Maggie) & Whova Run-down/Reminders**			
8:45 - 10:00 am	**A Look into the Canine Distemper Outbreak & Bird Mortality Events in Northern Virginia Through the Lens of the Field Response++**	8:45 - 9:35 am	**The Physiologic Effects of Acute & Chronic Stress in Captive Wildlife** **	
10:00-11:35 am	**Fluid Therapy in Wildlife Lecture & Demonstration** **	10:00-11:15 am	**Triage Tips: Setting Patients up for Success from the Beginning++** **	
		11:15-11:40 am	**Effective Disinfection for Common Wildlife Diseases++** **	
11:40-1:00	Lunch Break & Wildlife Center Education Ambassador Tour			
1:00-2:20 pm	**Evaluating Habitat for Release: A Practical Guide**	1:00 - 1:45 pm	**Woodpeckers of Virginia: Using Natural History as a Foundation for Rehabilitation**	
		1:45 - 2:15 pm	**Drug Withdrawal Times & Prohibited Medications++** **	
2:20 - 3:25 pm	**Updates, Advances and New Ideas to Help Your Fostering Program**	2:15 - 3:20 pm	**Standards in Wildlife Rehabilitation: What's New & Why Should I Care?** **	
3:25 - 3:50 pm	**Take a Habitat Walk!**			
3:50 - 4:50 pm	**Working Together for Wildlife: The Apprentice/Mentor Relationship**	3:50 - 4:40 pm	**Anesthesia Complications & Troubleshooting** **	

Sunday, November 21				Notes
8:45 - 9:00	**Brief welcome (Amanda and Maggie) & Whova Run-down/Reminders**			
9:00-10:20 am	**Bat Rehab for Dummies!**	9:00-10:20 am	**Working with Ducks: Best Practices and Lessons Learned++**	
10:20 - 11:15 am	**Rehabilitating the Virginia Opossum**	10:20 - 11:30 am	**Common Conditions in Adult Waterfowl++** **	
11:35-12:35	**Successfully Rehabilitating Eastern Cottontails: Avoiding Stress & GI-related Mortalities**	11:35-12:35	**Raptor Physical Exam: Lecture & Demonstration++** **	
12:35-1:45 pm	Lunch Break & Social Rooms			
1:45-2:45 pm	**(Mostly) Small Flying Things and How to House Them Panel Discussion**	1:45-2:45 pm	**Basics of Amphibian Rehabilitation** **	
2:45 - 3:00 pm	Meditation Break!			
3:00 - 4:00 pm	**Mental Health & Self-care: A Community Conversation++**	3:00 - 4:10 pm	**The Box Turtle Patient: Creating a Supportive Environment for Recovery**	

Friday, November 19

The Role of Wildlife Rehabilitators in One Health [1 hour]**
One Health is a concept that connects the health of animals, people, and the environment. This talk focuses on what rehabilitators can do to support One Health and includes examples of what is being done at Blue Ridge Wildlife Center.
Jen Riley, DVM, Blue Ridge Wildlife Center, VA

Patient Updates in Wildlife Rehabilitation [1 hour]
Every wildlife rehabilitator faces a familiar question when a member of the public brings in an animal: "Is there any way you can let me know how it's doing?" Providing updates on patients can be a time-consuming and sometimes difficult process, but there are many potential benefits to giving detailed explanations of the care we provide to animals and the outcome of each case. This discussion covers the Wildlife Center of Virginia's process for responding to requests for patient updates, including how to structure a patient update, communication considerations, and practice sessions to develop your skills.
Connor Gillespie, Wildlife Center of Virginia

Quality of Life for Ambassador Animals [1 hour]
How does one quantify quality of life for ambassador animals? This talk introduces animal welfare concepts as a baseline framework for quality of life. Discussion includes how to make something that can be very subjective more objective. Participants leave with tools to get started on baseline measurements and learn how to use the information to help make informed decisions on management and care of individual animals.
Gail Buhl, Partners for Wildlife, The Raptor Center at the University of Minnesota, MN

Caring for Nature in a Digital Age: Wildlife Rehabilitation in the Era of Online Video Content [1 hour]
The rise of online video content has had a major impact not only on society, but also on the field of wildlife rehabilitation. In this presentation, we explore the major creators and curators of this content, discuss the impact that it is already having on our field, and consider what steps we as rehabilitators can take to be prepared for this new reality.
Benjamin Cole, The Wildlife Center of Virginia

Teaching Foundation Behaviors & Why They Matter [1 hour]
Although teaching maintenance behaviors to our animals may seem basic, and at times unnecessary, in reality these practices are some of the most important ones to establish. This talk focuses on the importance of teaching a scale and crate behavior for both exhibit and ambassador birds. We explore how, once solid, these behaviors can positively impact every aspect of our animals' lives, including improving welfare, decreasing stress, maximizing control for the individual, and voluntary participation in medical care.
Jackie Kozlowski, Tracy Aviary, UT

News & Updates from Virginia Department of Wildlife Resources ++ [1 hour]**
Join us for a live panel discussion with state wildlife veterinarian Dr. Megan Kirchgessner, and JD Kleopfer, Virginia's state herpetologist. Both DWR officials will have brief presentations on current

respective work, including updates and related changes that have taken place in 2021, including wildlife disease monitoring and updates, as well as important legislative changes that took place in 2021. There will be plenty of time to ask questions; feel free to submit your question through the Whova Q&A panel ahead of time to ensure Dr. Megan and JD have time to address it!

Meghan Kirchgessner, DVM, Virginia Department of Wildlife Resources
JD Kleopfer, Virginia Department of Wildlife Resources

Over Capacity! Dealing with a Rapid Influx of Patients [2 hours]**
Every rehabilitator will be faced with a time of the year in which the number of animals exceeds the carrying capacity of the resources. In this interactive, live session, we discuss why we must keep below capacity and strategies we can implement to stay under capacity before, during, and after a rapid influx of patients.
Renee Schott DVM, CWR, Wildlife Rehabilitation Center of Minnesota, MN

Advanced Virtual Programming: Shifting Gears for the Coming Years [.5 hour]
During 2020, wildlife and environmental educators (along with the rest of the world) experienced one of the field's most significant paradigm shifts in recent memory – classrooms were empty, and chatrooms were plenty. One and a half years later, what have we learned from transitioning to virtual and online programming? This lecture provides an in-depth examination of the educational techniques and platforms utilized by the Wildlife Center to reach online audiences, an evaluation of effectiveness, and discussions focused on preparing individuals and organizations for the future of virtual programming.
Alex Wehrung, The Wildlife Center of Virginia

Organizing Your Wildlife Education Message [.5 hour]
When we are so passionate about our work, it can be hard to condense our thoughts, knowledge, and call to action to make them impactful for the audience. Learn some tips and tricks and easy ways to mix and match your programs depending on your audience, the environment, and the animal.
Debbie Sykes, Nashville Wildlife Conservation Center, TN

Grant-Writing Strategies That Work [1 hour]
Effective grant-writing can be a great way to earn funds for new or established wildlife rehabilitators, but it can feel overwhelming. This presentation takes participants through each element of a successful wildlife grant application. Learn innovative strategies to find funding and how to align your needs with agency priorities. Most importantly, this session focuses on how to convert ideas into concrete plans. This includes forming grant-ready Specific Aims ready to slip into your next application.
Amanda Healan, PhD, Nashville Wildlife Conservation Center, TN

Building and Fostering Your Support Network [.5 hour]
In the world of wildlife care, self-care and mental health awareness are essential. We hear a lot about setting boundaries and leaning on our support network for help when we need it, but we rarely discuss HOW to go about doing that. Have you ever failed to realize you were burning out until it was too late? Have you felt like you are so overwhelmed that you don't even have time to figure out who to ask for help, or what they can even do? This short presentation introduces and guides

participants through a three-part activity to identify, categorize, and make connections with your support network so that you know exactly WHAT kind of help you need, WHO to contact, and WHEN to reach out.
Maggie McCartney, Wildlife Center of Virginia

Saturday, November 20

Something Seems Off: A Look into the Canine Distemper Outbreak & Bird Mortality Events in Northern Virginia Through the Lens of the Field Response++ [1 hour]
At the end of November 2020, something started happening with raccoons in Arlington County, Virginia. Animal Control Officers were responding to elevated calls for sick raccoons appearing in the northside of the county. The raccoons coming in were showing symptoms we had never seen before. We were able to clinically confirm this to be the start of a canine distemper outbreak that quickly spread through the region. And then on May 18, 2021, the Animal Control Team began receiving an increase in the number of calls regarding sick/injured juvenile birds, specifically Common Grackles and Blue Jays. Eye issues were reported in what otherwise looked like healthy juvenile birds, causing blindness and the birds to land and stay on the ground. Other agencies and localities across the region and state reported similar issues quickly thereafter. This lecture will discuss the first signs, the next steps, and the ongoing efforts for these two large-scale wildlife disease outbreaks through the lens of the Arlington County Animal Control Team.
Jennifer Toussaint, Animal Welfare League of Arlington, VA

The Physiologic Effects of Acute & Chronic Stress in Captive Wildlife [1 hour]**
In the short term, stress can be adaptive and of benefit to animals. However, stress over prolonged periods of time can result in altered immune function and delayed wound healing, which can impede recovery efforts in wildlife undergoing rehabilitation. In this talk, we discuss the physiologic bases and consequences of acute and chronic stress in captive wildlife.
Jennifer Yu, DVM, Wildlife Center of Virginia

Fluid Therapy in Wildlife Lecture & Demonstration [1.5 hour]**
Almost all wildlife patients can benefit greatly from fluid therapy; however, these patients come in many species, shapes, and sizes, with a large variety of injuries and illnesses. This makes a "one dose fits all" approach to fluid therapy risky. This workshop lecture includes discussion of the tell-tail signs of dehydration and over-hydration. Become familiar with the different types of fluids available, routes of administration, and how to formulate and carry out a fluid therapy plan. The video compendium is a companion with the fluid therapy lecture and demonstrates the described techniques in birds, mammals, and reptiles.
Karra Pierce, DVM, CWR, Wildlife Center of Virginia

Triage Tips: Setting Patients up for Success from the Beginning ++ [1 hour]**
This is an introductory-level lecture covering the basics of transport, triage, and the first steps in a rehabilitation plan. This includes patient evaluations, basics such as initial stabilization and wound care, and other techniques to get your patients started on the right track.
Amber McNamara, DVM, Lees-McRae College, May Wildlife Rehabilitation Center, NC

Effective Disinfection for Common Wildlife Diseases ++ [.5 hour]**
This lecture provides an overview of the different levels of sanitization, as well as the main types of disinfectants available. Discussion includes what specific disinfectants are most effective against some of the more common communicable wildlife diseases in Virginia, including avian pox, snake fungal disease, and mycoplasma. Participants also receive resources to help them independently determine which disinfectants are best for their practice and for the diseases they most commonly see.

Ace Eid, LVT, Wildlife Center of Virginia

Woodpeckers of Virginia: Using Natural History as a Foundation for Rehabilitation [.5 hour]
A successful rehabilitation plan is tailored around an animal's natural history and adapting care to best suit their specific needs. Woodpeckers, though all grouped in the same family, are highly individualized. This lecture highlights the natural history of each species of woodpecker in Virginia and explores how we can meet their needs in captivity.
Kelsey Pleasants, CWR, Wildlife Center of Virginia

Evaluating Habitat for Release: A Practical Guide [1 hour]
How do you evaluate possible release sites for your patients? What makes "good" habitat good? This lecture discusses the principles behind wildlife habitat management and how to apply them to rehabilitation in a practical way. The lecture also works through case studies and exceptions for certain species, and why habitat managers may make decisions that may not make sense to the average person. Why should you know what side of a hiking trail a mole came from for release? Why could clear-cutting a forest actually be a positive thing for wildlife conservation? How do you define what is or isn't habitat? What does an ideal release site look like? All these questions and more are answered!
E. Haley Olsen-Hodges, Southwest Virginia Wildlife Center of Roanoke, VA

Not Fit for Human Consumption: Drug Withdrawal Times & Prohibited Medications ++ [.5 hour]**
Veterinary drugs are essential in wildlife medicine; however, we need to remember that our patients serve many roles in the ecosystem, and some may ultimately be hunted for human consumption. We may need to view certain species as "food animals" and be cognizant of drug withdrawal times, including those medications that are prohibited for use in food animals.
Karra Pierce, DVM, CWR, Wildlife Center of Virginia

Standards in Wildlife Rehabilitation: What's New & Why Should I Care? [.5 hour]**
Minimum Standards in Wildlife Rehabilitation was first published in 1989 as a cooperative effort representing current knowledge, expertise, and techniques in our field. Each successive edition has acted as a reflection of what we have learned collectively and have successfully applied during the last three decades. *Standards in Wildlife Rehabilitation* (2020) provides new information related to animal welfare, as well as recommended standards for wildlife rehabilitation. This presentation discusses how standards relate to wildlife care, new content, and why standards continue to be an important part of our work as rehabilitators.
Jenny Schlieps, Focus Wildlife, WA

Updates, Advances and New Ideas to Help Your Fostering Program [1 hour]
Medicine River Wildlife Centre stumbled into their current fostering program from directly observing wild animals and birds in nature. It was never a conscious decision to create a fostering program. Since the initial days, new ideas, protocols, and methods have evolved. This presentation discusses the beginning methods of fostering several species and shares the advances that makes this tool easier and more successful.
Carol Kelly, Medicine River Wildlife Centre, Alberta, Canada

Working Together for Wildlife: The Apprentice/Mentor Relationship [1 hour]
Many states have requirements and guidelines for those who are becoming new wildlife rehabilitators. These apprentices are tasked with finding a seasoned wildlife rehabilitator to serve as a mentor during a set period of time, and to work with and learn from that mentor to prepare them to become independent rehabilitators. Hourly requirements and other helpful suggestions vary from state to state, but much is left to the individuals entering this important and unique relationship. How do you set up a good relationship to provide essential training? How do you ensure that the person you'll be working with during this period is a good match? Join us for a panel discussion with both seasoned rehabilitator mentors as well as new apprentices to hear a variety of examples and ideas on what works well!
Leslie Sturges, The Save Lucy Campaign, VA
Olivia LoBalbo

Anesthesia Complications & Troubleshooting [1 hour]**
While anesthesia offers an array of challenges, there are additional complications to take into consideration when dealing with wildlife, especially birds and raptors. In this presentation, we take a closer look at some of the more common mistakes to avoid, and how to differentiate the needs of mammals versus birds and raptors.
Alyssa Lakota, LVT, Wildlife Center of Virginia

Sunday, November 21

Bat Rehab for Dummies! [1 hour]
What happens when you don't have a bat flight enclosure, then get funding to build a bat flight enclosure, but COVID-19 prevents you from rehabbing bats that year, and then suddenly you're allowed to rehab bats again -- and a whole bunch show up on your doorstep? A lot of confusion, learning, some fails, and many successes! Join us as we talk about the basics of bat rehabilitation. We'll discuss natural history, pup nutrition, proper housing, setting your bats up for release, and more. You don't need to be an expert to have a wonderful experience rehabilitating bats – enthusiasts and newbies are welcome. Let's get batty!
Sarah Cooperman, Rockfish Wildlife Sanctuary, VA

Working with Ducks: Best Practices and Lessons Learned++ [1 hour]
This class discusses the practices of escorting, rescuing, and studying waterfowl in urban settings, as well as fostering waterfowl-friendly human communities.
Anne Lewis and April Linton, City Wildlife, Washington DC

Rehabilitating the Virginia Opossum [1 hour]
Opossums are one of the most common small mammals rehabilitators see throughout the year. While common, opossums are also incredibly unique, being the only marsupial we see here in the U.S. and Canada! Join us to learn more about these fascinating mammals, their natural history, and rehabilitation methods for opossums of all ages.
Jessica Andersen, Blue Ridge Wildlife Center, VA

Common Conditions in Adult Waterfowl ++ [1 hour]**
Adult waterfowl present for a variety of reasons, and present commonly. This case-based presentation discusses some of the most common conditions and how to triage them. Focus is on Canada Geese, Mallards, and maybe a few Trumpeter Swan cases.
Renee Schott, DVM, CWR, Wildlife Rehabilitation Center of Minnesota, MN

Successfully Rehabilitating Eastern Cottontails: Avoiding Stress & GI-related Mortalities [1 hour]
The Eastern Cottontail is notoriously difficult to rehabilitate since the species [rabbits], particularly neonates, frequently succumb to diarrhea, bloat, and capture myopathy. This presentation addresses those challenges and offers some practical solutions that help to increase release rates while decreasing compassion fatigue.
Linda McDaniel, Augusta Cottontails, VA

Raptor Physical Exam: Lecture & Demonstration ++ [1 hour]**
This chapter is from the Wildlife Care Academy's course, Assessment, Rescue, & Intake of Raptors. The entire course, found at www.wildlifeacademy.org, trains participants to assess wild raptors, plan rescue attempts, and establish thorough patient intake protocols. Topics discussed include common circumstances of admission, tools for evaluating wildlife concerns by phone or email, practical rescue, handling, and transport techniques, patient intake, information gathering, physical exam considerations, decision making, and more! In this chapter, Dr. Karra Pierce discusses providing a thorough and consistent physical exam for newly admitted raptor patients and provides a hands-on demonstration on a raptor cadaver. Remember, conference attendees can take advantage of a special

discount on all Academy classes; check your registration confirmation to utilize your 20% off code on any/all Wildlife Care Academy classes now through the end of the year!
Karra Pierce, DVM, CWR, Wildlife Center of Virginia, Wildlife Care Academy

(Mostly) Small Flying Things and How to House Them Panel Discussion [1 hour]
Join us for a panel discussion of the whys and wherefores and ins and outs (literally) of designing appropriate flight acclimation spaces for bats and small birds. If time permits, we might throw in some big bird discussion, too!
Leslie Sturges, The Save Lucy Campaign, VA
Sarah Cooperman, Rockfish Wildlife Sanctuary, VA
Jessica Anderson, Blue Ridge Wildlife Center, VA

Basics of Amphibian Rehabilitation [1 hour]**
This lecture offers an overview of amphibian health, discussing appropriate housing and handling, basic physical exams, and common diseases, including information about Chytridiomycosis and necessary biosecurity precautions.
Emily MacArthur, DVM, Wildlife Center of Virginia

The Box Turtle Patient: Creating a Supportive Environment for Recovery [1 hour]
Wild box turtles (*Terrapene* species) come into rehabilitation primarily due to injury from vehicle strikes and less frequently due to other trauma or disease. Turtles can be problematic to treat, given their shy personality and great strength in pulling their legs and head in and tightly closing their shell. This presentation addresses handling and proper set-up to elicit patient cooperation, diet, hydration, recommendations on handling and transport of compromised animals to the rehabber, and protocols for release after recovery.
Sandy Barnett, Mid-Atlantic Turtle & Tortoise Society

Mental Health & Self-care: A Community Conversation ++ [1 hour]
Compassion fatigue, burn out, and other mental health concerns are important considerations in the field of wildlife rehabilitation, as in many care-giving and trauma-related fields. As a community, it is essential that we offer support and care to one another and know when and how to ask for help. Join us for this live interactive discussion as we close out the conference; we'll discuss challenges, perspectives, and strategies for dealing with difficult aspects of this field. Leave with some resources and thoughts for additional discussion as you "fill your cup" this winter and get ready for a new year of rehabilitation joys and challenges!
Lacy Kegley, Wildlife Center of Virginia
Peach Van Wick, DVM

Speaker Bios

Jessica Anderson is the Rehabilitation Program Manager at the Blue Ridge Wildlife Center (BRWC). She has been working professionally in wildlife rehabilitation since 2013, interning in California, apprenticing in Texas, and finally working full-time in Virginia with BRWC since 2015.

Sandy Barnett was an animal keeper for 28 years, serving 17 years as a Senior Herpetologist at the National Aquarium in Baltimore. She has been caring for sick and injured box turtles for more than 20 years. Her article "Indoor Care of North American Box Turtles," was awarded top article for 2004 in the veterinary journal, Exotic DVM. Sandy participated in several field studies at Jug Bay Wetlands Sanctuary (MD) on population density and movement patterns in wild box turtles. She led a volunteer team for the Box Turtle Advisory Group created by the Maryland Department of Transportation to help minimize damage to box turtle populations during construction of the ICC tollway. During 2007-2010, the Group collected and relocated hundreds of box turtles from the tollway site. Sandy head-started dozens of juveniles collected during this project to grow them to a release size generally protective against mid-size predators.

Gail Buhl has been in the Ambassador Animal field for over 30+ years. She has been part of and led teams from the Bird Show at the Minnesota Zoo to an Environmental Learning Center to The Raptor Center at the University of Minnesota. Currently, she is involved with Partners for Wildlife, a grant funded initiative interested in increasing animal welfare in wildlife rehabilitation and for animal ambassadors.

Ben Cole is a Charlottesville, Virginia native who grew up hearing field guides instead of bedtime stories and visiting the Wildlife Center of Virginia on field trips and open house days, making the opportunity to be a part of the team at WCV an absolute dream come true for him. Ben graduated from The University of Hartford in 2012 with a Bachelor of Fine Arts in Acting, which launched him into seven years of working as a New York-based professional actor, appearing in theatrical and film productions all around the country. Returning to the central Virginia area after the onset of the COVID-19 pandemic in early 2020, Ben completed the Center's rehabilitation externship in the late summer/early fall, thrilled to have the opportunity to explore a passion previously deferred. He is now very excited to have the opportunity to continue that exploration through the WCV's one-year wildlife rehabilitation internship, which he began in January 2021. Ben is thrilled to get to work with such a remarkably wide variety of native Virginia species but particularly enjoys working with raptors. In his free time, he enjoys fishing, watching bad movies, and cheering on his beloved University of Virginia Cavaliers.

Sarah Cooperman is the Outreach Coordinator and a wildlife rehabilitator at Rockfish Wildlife Sanctuary (RWS). Before she got involved in wildlife rehab, Sarah worked on a bat research project in Alaska and then was awarded a fellowship through her alma mater, Williams College, to study perceptions of bats outside of the United States for one year. She researched in Mauritius, the Philippines, Australia, Tonga, and Latvia, meeting a lot of interesting folks – and bats! – along the way. Upon returning to the U.S., she joined RWS as a staff rehabber. She has loved working with native species and is particularly passionate about environmental communications and wildlife education.

Ace Eid got their start in wildlife rehab working with wild birds at a rehabilitation center in NJ before pursuing a degree in veterinary technology. After the completion of their degree, they spent a year working in small animal surgery and emergency medicine before joining the Wildlife Center of Virginia in fall of 2020. They currently work as an LVT at the Center.

Connor Gillespie grew up in Southwest Florida, where he spent most of his childhood outdoors, exploring nature parks and preserves. From a young age, he knew he wanted to have a career working with wildlife. In college, he started volunteering at the Naples Zoo and quickly moved into a zookeeper position in the carnivore department. Connor dedicated his time at the zoo to teaching the public about the animals he worked with and ways to support conservation efforts in the wild. He was also passionate about learning animal behavior and using training as a tool to improve animal husbandry. After five years in the zoo field, Connor decided he wanted a change in scenery and a more direct role in helping local, native wildlife. In September 2020, he joined the Wildlife Center as part of the front-desk team, where he enjoys coordinating the intake and release of patients and ensuring injured or orphaned wildlife receive the care they need. When not at work, Connor likes to spend his free time reading, swimming, and exploring all the hiking trails in the area.

Amanda Healan, PhD is a versatile, experienced science communicator. She creates content for all audiences, and particularly enjoys making complex scientific topics accessible to the public. Dr. Healan integrates multiple voices into straightforward, engaging materials. She works with individuals and agencies to identify needs – aligning content with client priorities. Her work is across the web, and in press releases, primary literature, user guides, grants, lesson plans, signs, instructional films, and other media. Also an accomplished speaker, Dr. Healan's engaging and warm style inspires. She is a sought-after conduit for science whether for donor relations, training programs, stage shows, one-on-one sessions, or seminars. Her clients include the Alzheimer's Association®, Vanderbilt University Medical Center, Nashville Wildlife Conservation Center, Doximity, Maize Analytics, CenterWatch, Case Western Reserve University, Shelby Bottoms Nature Center, and other individuals and organizations working every day to advance science.

Carol Kelly is the Founder and Executive Director of Medicine River Wildlife Centre which has been in operation since 1984 situated on 453 acres in Central Alberta, Canada. Carol began with a small backyard operation under the guidance of Kay McKeever that has grown into a busy wildlife hospital, education centre and tourist destination. Carol is an out of the box thinker who loves to question "why", "why not" and "can we do better". This desire to learn drove her research in fostering over the past 20 years.

Jackie Kozlowski is the Senior Bird Show Trainer at Tracy Aviary in Salt Lake City, Utah. She has been teaching free flight birds with the goal of inspiring caring attitudes for nature for over a decade. Over the years Jackie has also been involved in the wildlife rehabilitation community, working with Tri-State Bird Rescue & Research, the National Wildlife Rehabilitators Association, and most recently the Utah Wildlife Foundation.

After years of working in film, television, and radio on shows such as "Free to Good Home" and "PAWS to Consider," **Alyssa Lakota** changed careers to become a valuable team member in the health and welfare of animals, especially wildlife. She obtained a Veterinary Technology degree from Colorado Mountain College in May of 2019. After graduating, she volunteered in Uganda with

Mission Rabies and Clinician's Brief, vaccinating more than 4,000 dogs in some of the most remote villages where people, mostly children, die each year from this deadly virus. She then spent 10 months working as a CVT at The Animal Hospital of Telluride before heading home to Vermont in preparation for a 13-month internship at The Wildlife Center of Virginia. During her few years in Colorado, Alyssa volunteered at Pauline Schneegas Wildlife Foundation, caring for orphaned and injured wildlife species, as well as Colorado Animal Rescue. Alyssa helped relocate 44 cats and 14 dogs when Targhee Animal Shelter in Idaho closed their doors after running out of operational funds. Here at WCV, Alyssa Lakota's dreams are truly in motion. "Sometimes it's necessary to go a long distance out of the way in order to come back a short distance correctly." – Edward Albee, Zoo Story.

Anne Lewis is co-founder and president of City Wildlife in Washington DC. She initiated the organization's Duck Watch program in response to public demand.

April Linton is vice president of City Wildlife and coordinates Duck Watch.

Dr. Emily MacArthur grew up in a small town in upstate New York and, at age four, told her mom that she was going to be a vet. She completed an undergraduate degree in neuroscience (with minors in music history and psychology) at the University of Rochester. She earned her Doctor of Veterinary Medicine degree at Cornell University College of Veterinary Medicine (only 30 minutes from her hometown). She has always had a passion for wildlife medicine and spent the majority of her time during vet school at Cornell's Wildlife Health Center. She spent time at the Wildlife Center of Virginia during her clinical year and fell very much in love with Waynesboro, the animals, and the people. Dr. Emily does not have a favorite species to work with; she has been known to cry tears of adoration when treating infant squirrels and has a special interest in neonatal animals. Dr. Emily's hobbies include baking, watching rugby, eating French fries, caring for her houseplants, and taking obsessive photographs of her menagerie of pets at home.

Maggie McCartney was born and raised outside of Charlottesville, Virginia, where she developed an early interest in wildlife, especially reptiles and amphibians. She graduated with a Bachelor's and Master's degree in environmental science from Christopher Newport University. During graduate school, Maggie served as a graduate STEM fellow in K-12 education through the National Science Foundation. Following graduation, Maggie returned to CNU as adjunct faculty while working as a zoo herpetologist (reptile and amphibian specialist) and veterinary assistant. From 2015 through 2017, Maggie served as a sea turtle biologist on a remote South Carolina island where she managed more than 600 loggerhead nests. After returning to Virginia, she joined the Wildlife Center in March 2018 as a front-desk coordinator. In September 2018, Maggie became the coordinator of the Center's Wildlife Care Academy, where she is responsible for planning, development, and presentation of online classes in wildlife biology and rehabilitation as well as the general management of the Academy. The Wildlife Care Academy provides training and continuing education for wildlife care professionals around the world in order to expand and advance care for injured and orphaned wildlife, and to promote conservation education.

Linda McDaniel originates from the Boston area before moving to southwest Florida where she spent 26 years teaching and raising a family. Loving science, and wildlife in particular, she went into teaching secondary science education after completing her undergraduate degree at Bowling Green

State University in Ohio. Her teaching career spanned 21 years during which time she taught biology, ecology, environmental science, marine science, earth science, etc. In her "free" time, she served as regional Chairman for the Institutional and Scientific Review Boards, a commissioner for the Collier Mosquito Control District, sponsored various student clubs, owned a small business, and raised a family. Although busy, she knew that wildlife was her true calling and she attended Florida Gulf Coast University conducting her master's research at Audubon's famed Corkscrew Swamp Sanctuary while volunteering at The Conservancy of Southwest Florida in wildlife rehabilitation and Rookery Bay National Marine Estuarine Research Reserve. She moved to Virginia in 2013, where she continues to work, volunteer, and run a permitted, home-rehabilitation facility specializing in the eastern cottontail.

Dr. Amber McNamara is an Associate Professor of Biology at Lees-McRae College and the veterinarian for the college's May Wildlife Rehabilitation Center. Courses taught at LMC include Advanced Clinical Wildlife Rehabilitation, Comparative Vertebrate Anatomy, Zoonotic Diseases, and Digital Radiography. She came to LMC in 2013, after working for the Clinic for the Rehabilitation of Wildlife (CROW) for over eight years. She is a 2003 graduate of Purdue University and completed several wildlife externships, including the Wildlife Center of Virginia.

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 with the goal of becoming 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.

Kelsey Pleasants was born and raised in Waynesboro, Virginia and has always had a passion for animals. She earned a Bachelor of Science in biology from Longwood University in 2013. During her time at college, Kelsey completed a wildlife rehabilitation externship at the Wildlife Center of Virginia and upon graduation, she completed a year-long wildlife rehabilitation internship. It was during her time at WCV that she realized her biggest passion was working with wildlife. From 2014-2017, Kelsey worked at a wildlife center in south Florida doing wildlife rescue and rehabilitation. She returned to Virginia in the fall of 2017 to re-join the team at the Wildlife Center as a wildlife rehabilitator, eventually becoming the wildlife rehabilitation supervisor. In this role, Kelsey oversees the staff rehabilitators and students, and the care and rehabilitation of the thousands

of patients the Center receives each year. Kelsey loves working with Black Bears, baby opossums, and American Robins. In her free time, Kelsey enjoys attending concerts and traveling.

Dr. Jen Riley has been the Director of Veterinary Services at Blue Ridge Wildlife Center since 2016. She completed wildlife-specific internships at the Clinic for the Rehabilitation of Wildlife in southwest Florida and at Belize Wildlife and Referral Clinic in Belize as well as a fellowship in zoological medicine at Lion Country Safari in Florida.

Jenny Schlieps is the Program & Rehabilitation Manager for Focus Wildlife. She serves on the NWRA Board of Directors and chairs the Publications Committee. She is co-editor, along with Dr. Erica Miller, of NWRA/IWRC Standards for Wildlife Rehabilitation.

Renée Schott is currently the Medical Director at the Wildlife Rehabilitation Center of Minnesota (WRCMN), one of the largest rehabilitation centers in the world. She has been involved in wildlife rehabilitation for over 17 years and has worked at WRCMN for almost 12 years. Additionally, Renée teaches at wildlife and veterinary conferences all over the country, 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's Board of Directors.

Debbie Sykes is a wildlife educator, trainer, researcher, and certified wildlife rehabilitator with Nashville Wildlife Conservation.

Jennifer Toussaint is the Chief of Animal Control in Arlington County, Virginia at the Animal Welfare League of Arlington. Jennifer joined the Animal Control team in early 2012 as a Deputy and accepted the Chief position in 2016. Since becoming Chief, Jennifer has implemented a local ordinance in relation to wild and exotic animal ownership. She has also expanded the Animal Control Departments outreach efforts in providing additional support to pet owners to enable high owner pet retention in the community. She specializes nationally in Humane Urban Wildlife Management practices and has been published multiple times on the topic and presented at the 2017 Humane Society of the United States Expo as well as the National Animal Control Association Conference. Jennifer is a CIT trained officer and has trained animal control and welfare professionals on a variety of topics including: active listening, emotional support and service animals, neglect/cruelty investigations, and wildlife intake and triage. Jennifer is the 2017 recipient of the Virginia Animal Control Association Dr. Kent Roberts Animal Control Officer of the Year and received a commendation from the Virginia General Assembly for her service. In 2020, Jennifer's department won the Outstanding Agency of the Year award from the Virginia Animal Control Association. She is a graduate of Moravian College with a Bachelor's Degree in Political Science and Spanish. Jennifer shares her home with her rescue dogs Rheagan and Ducky.

Alex Wehrung was inspired to pursue a career in the outdoors from a young age. After graduating from West Virginia University with a B.S. in parks, recreation, and tourism resources in 2012, he traveled the country exploring a number of different professions – from park ranger to zoo keeper -- and quickly understood the value of connecting others to nature through education. Alex discovered the Wildlife Center when he moved to Virginia in 2015, and began training as a volunteer outreach docent shortly afterwards. He joined the full-time staff as an outreach coordinator in 2016, graduating from Slippery Rock University with a M.Ed. in environmental education later that year.

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. Jenn Yu was born and raised in northern California. She earned her undergraduate and veterinary degrees from UC Davis, then went on to pursue a masters in conservation medicine at Tufts. During her education, she has volunteered at or completed externships with several wildlife rehabilitation centers in California, and spent time in externships in zoo medicine and wildlife agencies during her clinical year of vet school. Following a short stint in small-animal general practice, she went on to serve as an intern, then a fellow with the Global Health Program at the Smithsonian Conservation Biology Institute, where she learned about international conservation research and capacity-building. Dr. Jenn has an interest in population medicine, and hopes to be able to apply what she learns here at the Wildlife Center of Virginia broadly to wildlife conservation.

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