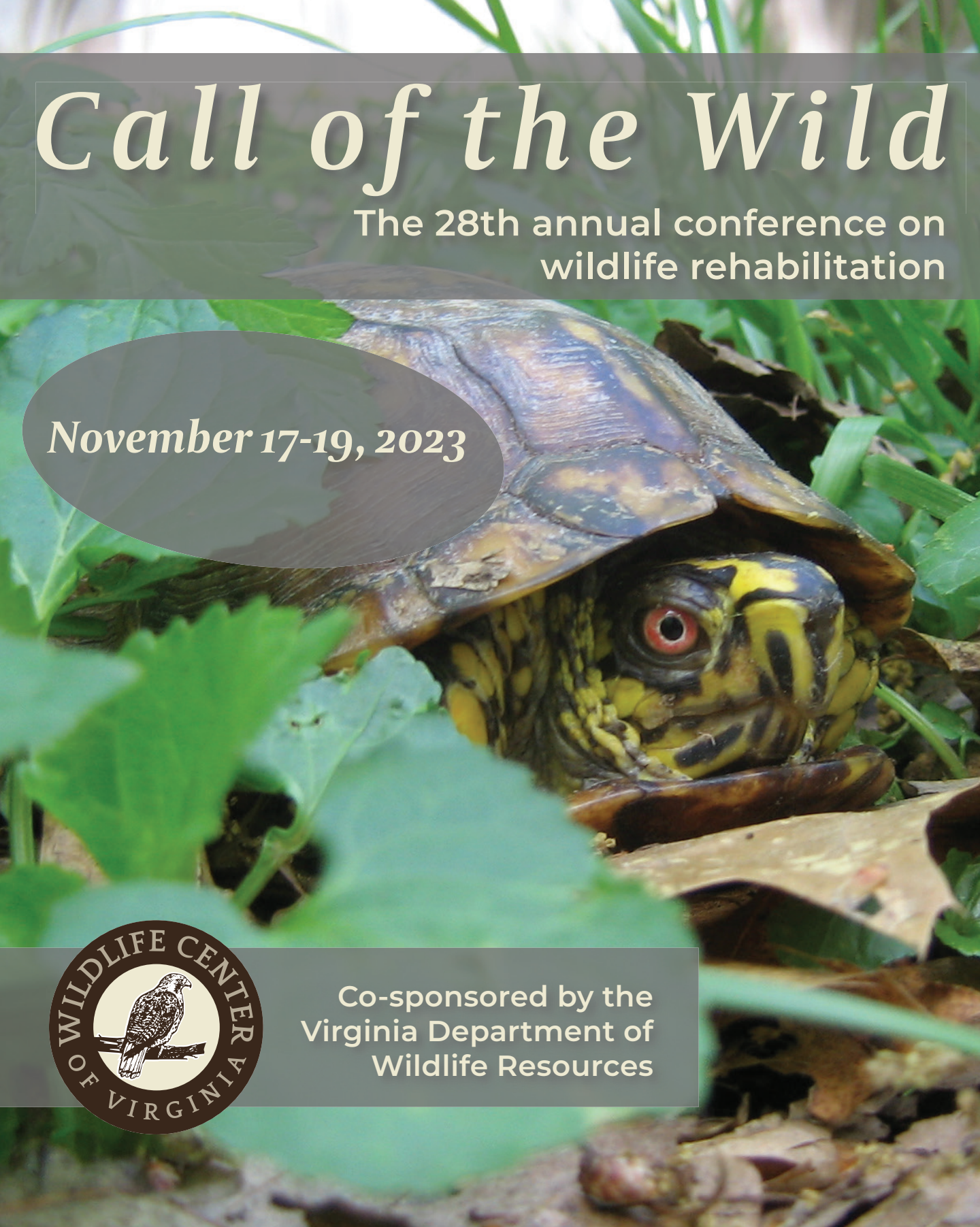
Call of the Wild

The 28th annual conference on wildlife rehabilitation



November 17-19, 2023

WILDLIFE CENTER OF VIRGINIA

Co-sponsored by the Virginia Department of Wildlife Resources

Welcome to the Wildlife Center of Virginia's 28th annual *Call of the Wild* conference on wildlife rehabilitation!

Thank you for joining us for this year's *Call of the Wild* conference! Whether you are joining us in-person or online this year, we're happy to have you with us. We're thrilled to be able to expand our learning opportunities through targeted hands-on workshops and specialized seminars in Waynesboro; we also are committed to offering an accessible online learning experience to attendees no matter where they are in the world. We hope you enjoy this hybrid education event.

The more people who come, the more great ideas, knowledge, and experience there are in one place. Take advantage of this fact and mingle! The Whova conference app has many networking opportunities; visit the community boards to get to know your fellow conference attendees, meet up with others to talk about a special topic, and just have fun. With more than 300 attendees from 31 states and Washington, D.C., three Canadian provinces, Belize, Estonia, and Hungary, there are many wildlife-minded people in one place, and it's an excellent occasion to tap into other people's experiences and skills.

As always, the conference wouldn't be possible without our amazing speakers. Thirty different wildlife professionals from around the world are joining us to offer insight into the world of wildlife rehabilitation, medicine, and education. Please take the time to thank them for their time preparing 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 take the knowledge you gain at the conference, and the new contacts that you make, and return home inspired to continue the fantastic work you do! Thank you for your participation in the *Call of the Wild* 2023.

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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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 (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/

Agenda
There are many features to check out in Whova, but the most important area on which you'll be focused is the **Agenda**. Use the "**Full Agenda**" to see all of the available talks for conference weekend – more than 24 hours of online content is available throughout the whole conference. As you look at the Full Agenda, click on "add to **My Agenda**" to customize your own schedule for conference weekend. This is also a great way to track the sessions you attend for future reporting to permitting agencies! Don't forget to add the corresponding live Q&A session if there is one, which is found as a separate agenda item. Once you have built your personalized agenda, you can easily toggle between "Full Agenda" and "My Agenda" and keep yourself on track as you move from session to session.

For all online content – which includes some pre-workshop lectures for in-person workshop attendees – you can ask speakers questions before, during, or after class through the Whova Q&A modules, located on the right side of each individual session. 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
Visit the "community" section of the Whova app to access a variety of topics. You can join a 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.

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 ten 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". 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 the state government agency, Virginia Department of Wildlife Resources. 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 19.75 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 5.25 hours are available Friday, 10.5 hours are available Saturday, and 4 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: All lectures and workshops are approved CE for Animal Control Officer training in Virginia, through the VDACS Office of Animal Care.

Scholarships
A number of scholarships were awarded this year for conference attendance. **Rehabitat Pennsylvania Rehabilitation** scholarships are offered to permitted Pennsylvania wildlife rehabilitators, veterinarians who work with a rehabilitator, and/or permitted capture and transport (C&T) permittees. **Maryland Wildlife Rehabilitators Association (MWRA)** scholarships are offered to MWRA members. **New Jersey Association of Wildlife Rehabilitators (NJAWR)** scholarships are offered to NJAWR members.

A big thank you to the scholarship funders and congratulations to the recipients! 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. 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 17				NOTES
8:30 - 9:00 am	**Welcome and Whova Run-down**			
9:00 - 9:45 am	**Virginia Updates from the New Wildlife Veterinarian****			
9:55 - 10:55 am	**The Virginia Elk Program**	9:55 - 10:55 am	**Seabirds in Wildlife Rehabilitation****	
11:05 - 11:35 am	**Parasitic Zoonoses at the Human-Wildlife Interface: Insights & Current Updates****	11:05 - 12:05 pm	**Virginia's Vultures: Natural History & Rehabilitation Considerations**	
11:50 - 12:20 pm	**Poop Monsters****			
12:30 - 1:30 pm	Lunch Break			
1:30 - 2:15 pm	**The Complexities of How, Where, & Why Lead Poisoning Remains a Persistent Issue for Wildlife**	1:30 - 2:55pm	**Saving Swallows: Rehabilitating Obligate Insectivores**	
2:25 - 3:10 pm	**Lead Toxicosis in Wildlife****	3:00 - 4:00 pm	**Meeting Your Eastern Box Turtle Patient's Needs****	
3:15 - 4:00 pm	**Making a Difference on the Issue of Lead Intoxication of Wildlife**	4:20 - 4:50 pm	**Reptile Anesthesia****	
4:10 - 4:40 pm	**Lead Toxicosis: An Interactive Discussion**			

A total of 5.25 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 10.25 hours of CE (all lectures) is available for Animal Control Officers in Virginia with approval from the Virginia Department of Agriculture and Consumer Services.

<table>
<tr><th colspan="4">Saturday, November 18</th><th>NOTES</th></tr>
<tr><td>Pre-requisite</td><td colspan="3">Perfecting your Physical Exam Workshop Lecture** [1 hour] ☐</td><td></td></tr>
<tr><td>Pre-requisite</td><td colspan="3">Fluid Therapy for Wildlife Workshop Lecture** [1 hour] ☐</td><td></td></tr>
<tr><td>Pre-requisite</td><td colspan="3">Bandaging for Stabilization & Treatment of Trauma Workshop Lecture** [1 hour] ☐</td><td></td></tr>
<tr><td>8:00 - 10:00 am</td><td>☐ Perfecting your Physical Exam Workshop**</td><td rowspan="2">9:00 - 12:00 pm</td><td rowspan="2">☐ Bats 101 Seminar</td><td rowspan="2"></td></tr>
<tr><td>10:15 - 12:15 pm</td><td>☐ Fluid Therapy for Wildlife Workshop**</td></tr>
<tr><td>12:30 - 1:30 pm</td><td colspan="3">Lunch Break</td><td></td></tr>
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<tr><td>3:45 - 5:15 pm</td><td>☐ Putting it All Together! A Case Discussion**</td></tr>
<tr><td colspan="5">A total of 10.5 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 13 hours of CE (all workshops and seimanrs) is available for Animal Control Officers in Virginia with approval from the Virginia Department of Agriculture and Consumer Services.</td></tr>
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Sunday, November 19				NOTES
8:45 - 9:00 am	**Brief welcome & Whova Run-down/Reminders**			
9:00 - 10:00 am	**Scared to Death! Capture Myopathy 101****	9:00 - 10:00 am	**One Health Approach to Addressing Illegal Wildlife Traffic & Conflict in Belize****	
10:10 - 11:10 am	**The Art and Science of Wildlife Formula**	10:10 - 11:10 am	**Primer on Collection Planning**	
11:15 - 11:50 am	**Scent & Sight-Based Enrichment of Small Mammals**	11:20 - 12:20 pm	**Who Needs a USDA License & an Overview of the New Avian Regulations****	
12:00 - 12:30 pm	**Tools to Mitigate Habituation**			
12:30 - 1:30 pm	Lunch Break			
1:30 - 2:00 pm	**Raising Juvenile Mice in a Rehabilitation Setting**	1:30 - 2:00 pm	**Where are They Now? An Update on Newsworthy Wildlife Diseases from the Past Few Years****	
2:10 - 2:55 pm	**Let's Get Stinky: Skunk Rehabilitation Basics**	2:10 - 2:40 pm	**Diagnostic Radiographic Imaging in Avian Species****	
3:05 - 3:50 pm	**Encouraging Natural Behaviors in a Rehabilitation Setting**	2:50 - 3:20 pm	**A Guide to Challenging Public Interaction in Wildlife Hotline Monitoring**	
4:00 - 4:30 pm	**A Critical Approach to Anthropomorphism**	3:30 - 4:20 pm	**What's That Noise in my Attic?**	

A total of 4 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 11 hours of CE (all lectures) is available for Animal Control Officers in Virginia with approval from the Virginia Department of Agriculture and Consumer Services.

Friday, November 17

Online content

Virginia Updates from the New Wildlife Veterinarian [.75 hour]**
John Tracey became the Virginia Department of Wildlife Resources new wildlife veterinarian in December 2022. Originally from Wisconsin, he has been busy actively learning the Mid-Atlantic and the diversity of its ecosystems and species. During this meet and greet session, Dr. Tracey presents updates and answers questions about the status of some of the major diseases managed by Virginia's wildlife health program.
John Tracey, DVM, Virginia Department of Wildlife Resources, VA, john.tracey@dwr.virginia.gov

The Virginia Elk Program [1 hour]
This talk covers all things elk-related, including their history in the Commonwealth, the restoration efforts that led to the current population, management programs, biology, and habitat!
Jackie Rosenberger, Virginia Department of Wildlife Resources, jackie.rosenberger@dwr.virginia.gov

Seabirds in Wildlife Rehabilitation [1 hour]**
Seabird veterinary care and husbandry have distinct differences from terrestrial and freshwater avian protocols. Construction materials, bedding choices, and water-handling engineering are specific and need to be learned. Fish-based dietary provision requires special attention to fat content, thiamine, and vitamin E, in addition to protein and calorie intake. Unique anatomy and physiology prompt medical and surgical considerations not encountered in other types of avian medicine. For successful rehabilitation new vocabulary includes: alcid, booby, dry dock, incident command, gannet, halophilic, keel donut, kleptoparasitism, murre, parts per thousand, pelagic, piscivore, salt glands, shearwater, and water quality.
Thomas deMaar, DVM, Seat Turtle, Inc, TX, tom_demaar@hotmail.com

Parasitic Zoonoses at the Human-Wildlife Interface: Insights & Current Updates [.5 hour]**
Although wildlife parasites remain a natural component of biodiversity, anthropogenic constraints continually alter parasite-host dynamics. In this context, the human-wildlife interface becomes increasingly important regarding parasitic zoonoses. As wildlife is increasingly encroached upon, displaced, or injured, the frequency of human-wildlife contact magnifies, providing ample opportunities for interspecies parasite transmission. Individuals who work closely with wildlife reservoir species represent high-risk groups for these events. Following trends in wildlife parasitology is therefore crucial for these professionals. This review aims to highlight and provide an update on key parasitic zoonoses of wildlife origin, including disease identification, prevention, and control methods.
Natalie Brown, DVM, Wildlife Center of Virginia, nbrown@wildlifecenter.org

Poop Monsters [.5 hour]**
This lecture highlights some of the common endoparasites seen in wildlife patients, basic life cycles, the science behind, and the importance of, deworming and proper fecal exams.
Debbie Sykes, CWR, LVMT, Nashville Wildlife Conservation Center, debbie@nashvillewildlifeconservation.org

Virginia's Vultures: Natural History & Rehabilitation Considerations [1 hour]
Vultures are a critical component of the ecosystem yet are frequently misunderstood and maligned. This lecture provides the facts and information one needs to become an informed and enthusiastic advocate for these amazing species. The objectives of the presentation are to provide an overview of the natural history of vultures in Virginia, review the basic biology and ecology of our native vultures, discuss considerations for rehabilitation and release, and highlight human-vultures conflicts and mitigation strategies.
Heather Shank-Givens, Blue Ridge Wildlife Center, hshankgivens@gmail.com

Saving Swallows: Rehabilitating Obligate Insectivores [1 hour]
In this lecture, we discuss methods and considerations for the successful rehabilitation of aerial and obligate insectivores of all ages, including swallows, swifts, kinglets, warblers, and more. Take a deep dive into natural history, common presentations, triage recommendations, nutritional support, caging, and more!
Raina Domek, CWR, PAWS Wildlife Center, rdomek@paws.org

The Complexities of How, Where, & Why Lead Poisoning Remains a Persistent Issue for Wildlife [.75 hour]
While lead poisoning in wildlife from ammunition sources has been recognized for nearly 150 years, it may seem like a relatively recent issue that has been gaining traction. Much focus of public media, outreach, and education has been placed on ammunition used for big game hunting as the main source for lead poisoning in raptors. However, there are diverse and complicated pathways for lead ingestion across wildlife taxa and regions. A better understanding of those sources, differences among species in how they ingest or are affected by lead, and how geography affects risk can result in more effective communication about this topic with hunters, anglers, and the public. This session details the many ways in which various wildlife species consume lead from hunting and angling sources and outlines risks among various species. Discussion also includes the state of the lead/wildlife science, why there has been a renewed push to limit the use of lead for hunting and fishing in the past 15 years, and how to distill these complexities to help our wildlife rehabilitation community achieve more lasting and positive success with our conversations and outreach.
Bryan Bedrosian, Teton Raptor Center; Sporting Lead-Free, CO, bryan@sportingleadfree.org

Lead Toxicosis in Wildlife [1 hour]**
This lecture details the physiology, diagnosis, and treatment of lead toxicosis in birds, mammals, and reptiles. We discuss how animals are exposed to lead and what clinical signs to look for in your patient.
Olivia Schiermeyer, DVM, Wildlife Center of Virginia, VA, oschiermeyer@wildlifecenter.org

Making a Difference on the Issue of Lead Intoxication of Wildlife [.75 hour]
For nearly 100 years, we have known that lead is toxic to wildlife. In 1992, the use of lead shot was banned for waterfowl hunting across the United States. However, the continued exposure of other forms of wildlife to lead has proven to be far more difficult to address. While the wildlife

rehabilitation community is on the front lines of the issue in one way, receiving and caring for the victims, we have had little meaningful impact on resolving the issue. The reality is that simple answers and simplistic approaches to the problem simply will not work, and may make things worse. Our community needs to be more methodical in gathering data, more sophisticated in communicating with the public, and more discriminating in the public statements made on our behalf. This session explores the complexities of the issue, the failed attempts at making a difference, and makes recommendations on what we can do in the future to finally make a difference on this issue.
Ed Clark, Wildlife Center of Virginia, eclark@wildlifecenter.org

Lead Toxicosis: An Interactive Panel Discussion [.5 hour]
Join this interactive panel discussion to ask your questions, bring your ideas, and have further discussion on how our community can work together on the lead issue.
Bryan Bedrosian, Teton Raptor Center; Sporting Lead-Free, CO, bryan@sportingleadfree.org
Ed Clark, Wildlife Center of Virginia, eclark@wildlifecenter.org
Olivia Schiermeyer, DVM, Wildlife Center of Virginia, VA, oschiermeyer@wildlifecenter.org

Meeting Your Eastern Box Turtle Patient's Needs [1 hour]**
Applying natural history and science to husbandry can exponentially increase the quality of care for our patients. Eastern box turtles (*Terrapene carolina carolina*) are no exception. In this talk, we cover basic husbandry, including diet, housing, and enrichment. Topics focus on turtle natural history, evidence-based science, and lessons learned through watching box turtles in our care.
Debbie Sykes, CWR, LVMT, Nashville Wildlife Conservation Center, debbie@nashvillewildlifeconservation.org

Reptile Anesthesia [.5 hour]**
This presentation discusses reptilian anesthesia from induction to recovery, using a hypothetical box turtle patient in need of a leg amputation as a case study. The turtle serves as an example of a common reptilian anesthetic event at the Wildlife Center of Virginia. While this case-based example is tailored towards this specific patient, many of the principles discussed can be applied toward other reptilian species and procedures. By the end of the talk, audience members should have a basic understanding of the special anesthetic considerations and modifications required for the reptilian patient.
Rachel Wolffe, LVT, The Wildlife Center of Virginia, rwolffe@wildlifecenter.org

Saturday, November 18

In-person workshops with online pre-workshop lecture

Perfecting your Physical Exam Workshop Lecture [1 hour]**
The most important diagnostics tool in your tool kit is a thorough physical exam. In this pre-workshop lecture, participants learn the fundamentals of performing a thorough physical exam on birds, mammals, and reptiles. Discussion includes how to document and communicate physical exam findings with other rehabilitators and veterinarians.
Karra Pierce, DVM, Wildlife Center of Virginia, kpierce@wildlifecenter.org

Perfecting your Physical Exam Workshop [2 hour]**
The most important diagnostics tool in your tool kit is a thorough physical exam, and the best way to develop that tool is practice. In this hands-on workshop, participants use the physical exam skills detailed in the pre-workshop lecture to examine birds, mammals, and reptiles as well as document and communicate their physical exam findings with other rehabilitators and veterinarians. This hands-on workshop is ideal for beginner, intermediate, and advanced rehabilitators; there will be varying degrees of difficulty.
Karra Pierce, DVM, Wildlife Center of Virginia, kpierce@wildlifecenter.org
Jess Ransier, LVT, Wildlife Center of Virginia jdyer@wildlifecenter.org

Fluid Therapy for Wildlife Workshop Lecture [1 hour]**
Almost all wildlife patients can benefit greatly from fluid therapy, however, these patients come in many species, shapes, and sizes. This pre-workshop lecture discusses the theory behind fluid administration, how to select which fluid to use, which route of administration to take, and how to calculate exactly how much fluid to give your patient.
Karra Pierce, DVM, Wildlife Center of Virginia, kpierce@wildlifecenter.org

Fluid Therapy for Wildlife Workshop [2 hour]**
Almost all wildlife patients can benefit greatly from fluid therapy, however, these patients come in many species, shapes, and sizes. In this hands-on workshop, participants use the knowledge gained in the pre-workshop lecture to administer fluids to birds, reptiles, and mammals. Routes of administration include oral, subcutaneous, and intraosseous. Participants also have time to review and become familiar with the different materials and techniques that can be used to give fluids. This hands-on workshop is designed for beginner and intermediate rehabilitators, and beginner veterinary technicians/veterinarians who have not yet worked with wildlife.
Karra Pierce, DVM, Wildlife Center of Virginia, kpierce@wildlifecenter.org
Jessica Ransier, LVT, Wildlife Center of Virginia, jdyer@wildlifecenter.org

Bandaging for Stabilization & Treatment of Trauma Workshop Lecture [1 hour]**
Many wildlife patients come into care after suffering a physical trauma or injury. In many instances, a temporary or long-term bandage is indicated for treatment. In this pre-workshop lecture, discussion includes bandaging fundamentals for stabilization of fractures as well as bandaging techniques for wound management. An exploration of the range of materials available and their uses

is also covered.
Karra Pierce, DVM, Wildlife Center of Virginia, kpierce@wildlifecenter.org

Bandaging for Stabilization & Treatment of Trauma Workshop [2 hour]**
Many wildlife patients come into care after suffering a physical trauma or injury. In many instances, a temporary or long-term bandage is indicated for treatment. In this hands-on workshop, participants use the knowledge gained in the pre-workshop lecture to practice basic wildlife bandaging techniques on birds, mammals, and reptiles. Bandages for stabilization of fractures as well as bandaging techniques for wound management are covered. This hands-on workshop is designed for beginner and intermediate rehabilitators, and beginner veterinary technicians/veterinarians who have not yet worked with wildlife.
Karra Pierce, DVM Wildlife Center of Virginia, kpierce@wildlifecenter.org
Jessica Ransier, LVT, Wildlife Center of Virginia, jdyer@wildlifecenter.org

Putting it All Together! A Case Discussion [1.5 hour]**
Now that you've developed your physical exam skills, fluid therapy skills, and bandaging skills – it is time to put it all together. In this interactive workshop, participants work through cases together to determine prognosis and treatment plans and then evaluate the outcome of those cases based on the treatment decisions they make. Anyone is welcome to join this class. While the interactive discussion is designed for attendees who were in the day's workshops, there is no pre-requisite for joining this class.
Karra Pierce, DVM Wildlife Center of Virginia, kpierce@wildlifecenter.org
Jessica Ransier, LVT, Wildlife Center of Virginia, jdyer@wildlifecenter.org

Bats 101 Seminar [3 hour]
This seminar highlights a variety of bat species native to the eastern United States and discusses the seasonality of bats – that is, what can be expected when. Discussion includes basic rehabilitation setup for different species and age classes, and an altogether too-brief discussion of pup-rearing, including setting them up for success post-release. The seminar is designed for rehabilitators who are interested in working with bats, or who have some experience but would like to get a deeper understanding of a complicated group of mammals.
Leslie Sturges, Bat Conservation & Rescue of Virginia, VA, lsturges@virginiabats.org

Special Topics in Bat Rehabilitation Seminar [2.5 hour]
This interactive seminar allows participants to discuss difficult bat cases, and common health issues seen in a rehabilitation setting. The discussion includes specific needs and issues of various bat species, and we have the opportunity to delve more deeply into the nutritional needs of bats of all age classes. Bring your questions! Bring your successes and failures! Bring your frustrations! This is your opportunity to peek inside the brain of a bat rehabilitator with more than 20 years of experience. This seminar is geared toward rehabilitators with some experience with bats, but prior experience is not required.
Leslie Sturges, Bat Conservation & Rescue of Virginia, VA, lsturges@virginiabats.org

Sunday, November 19

Online content

One Health Approach to Addressing Illegal Wildlife Traffic & Conflict in Belize [1 hour]**
The Wildlife Ambassador Training Program was developed to improve wildlife crime and emergency response and to prevent and mitigate conflict through education and capacity building. Piloted in 2018 and then taken nationwide from 2021-2023, this presentation offers an introduction of issues as well as the training program and emphasizes the One Health approach taken and its success in increasing legal compliance, enforcement, and rescues.
Isabelle Paquet-Durand, DVM, PhD, CWR, Belize Wildlife & Referral Clinic, bzwildlifeclinic@gmail.com

Scared to Death! Capture Myopathy 101 [1 hour]**
Capture myopathy: What is it? Who gets it? Why does it occur? How can we prevent it or treat it? We'll try to answer some of the biggest questions that can affect our [often tiniest] patients. Join us in case-based examples to better understand this frustrating disease process. With this new-found knowledge, gain the power to set wildlife patients up for more success!
Emma Winstead, DVM, Wildlife Center of Virginia, ewinstead@wildlifecenter.org

The Art and Science of Wildlife Formula [1 hour]
Not only is the purchase of formula one of our largest seasonal expenses but few decisions we make matter more to the survival of our infant mammal patients than what we feed them. The formula used in the rehabilitation of infant wildlife is critical to their growth and development, but how often do we consider the type of formula we're using, how it is produced, or how it is prepared? Due to its high fat and protein ratios, mammal formulas have very different reconstitution requirements than that of human infants, and as with any aspect of wildlife care, everything we do matters to an animal's survival. In this session, we explore how the formula is produced, compare a few of the most common brands, and discuss the hows and whys of formula reconstitution (ratios, solubility, water, temperature, storage, etc.).
Linda McDaniel, Augusta Cottontails, augustacottontails@yahoo.com

Primer on Collection Planning [1 hour]
So you have decided that you want to educate the public about the natural world – especially about wildlife. You would like to use live animals. But, where to start? Planning and preparation are so critical for current and future success of audiences, staff, volunteers, AND the ambassadors. This primer on collection planning focuses on what to think about long before you receive your first ambassador. This presentation is for those just thinking about starting to use ambassadors in environmental education, volunteers involved in programs and curious about how their program came about, and for managers of current collections who would like to be more planful for the future of their programs.
Gail Buhl, Partners for Wildlife, The Raptor Center at the University of Minnesota, gailbuhl@umn.edu

Who Needs a USDA License & an Overview of the New Avian Regulations [1 hour]**
The United States Department of Agriculture's (USDA) Animal and Plant Health Inspection Service (APHIS) has announced the final rule to establish new regulations and standards governing the

humane handling, care, treatment, and transportation of birds covered by the Animal Welfare Act (AWA) on February 21, 2023. The final rule applies to captive birds not bred for use in research. This presentation reviews what is considered covered activity that would require a USDA license, an overview of the avian regulations (subpart G), the timeline needed to apply and become compliant, and where to obtain additional resources and guidance.
Cody Yager, DVM, MPH, USDA APHIS Animal Care, MD, cody.m.yager@usda.gov
Kelly Helmick, DVM, USDA APHIS Animal Care, Kelly.Helmick@usda.gov

Scent & Sight-Based Enrichment of Small Mammals [.5 hour]
Environmental enrichment for wildlife patients in rehabilitation is imperative to provide appropriate animal welfare. Food is commonly used as a primary enrichment since it is often less time-consuming, but this presentation focuses on how we as wildlife rehabilitators can utilize the animals' sense of smell and sight to enrich them while in captivity. Focusing on these senses offers an array of enrichment possibilities that are both time-effective and cost-effective.
Grace Richey, Wildlife Center of Virginia, grichey@wildlifecenter.org

Tools to Mitigate Habituation [.5 hour]
Help, this baby squirrel keeps trying to climb my leg! Wildlife rehabilitators fill the parental role for injured and orphaned wildlife, but there comes a point in their development where they need to have a species-appropriate reaction to a human's presence. This presentation covers mitigation methods to help reduce the risk of habituation and provides some tools to use to combat the issue in patients that may be admitted after being inappropriately kept by their finder.
Liz Duffy, CWR, Wildlife Center of Virginia, enoderer@wildlifecenter.org

Raising Juvenile Mice in a Rehabilitation Setting [.5 hour]
Though they are small, native mice play a huge role in our ecosystems. However, they are often overlooked in rehabilitation discourse. This lecture helps participants gain the knowledge and skills necessary to successfully care for some of our tiniest patients as we discuss aspects of mouse rehabilitation, from admission to release. The lecture focuses on native species identification as well as basic nutrition plans, enclosure setup, enrichment ideas, and release guidelines.
McKenzie Stewart, CWR, Wildlife Center of Virginia, mstewart@wildlifecenter.org

Where are They Now? An Update on Newsworthy Wildlife Diseases from the Past Few Years [.5 hour]**
During the last few years, there have been multiple wildlife diseases in the news that can affect species commonly presented for wildlife rehabilitation. This presentation discusses Chronic Wasting Disease, Rabbit Hemorrhagic Disease Virus 2, White Nose Syndrome, and Highly Pathogenic Avian Influenza. The focus is on what rehabilitators should know and the current prevalence in North America.
Sarah Sirica, DVM, MPH, CWR, City Wildlife, sarah.sirica@citywildlife.org

Let's Get Stinky: Skunk Rehabilitation Basics [1 hour]
Striped and spotted skunks are crucial players in Virginian ecosystems. Skunks till soil, control pest populations, and disperse native seeds among other important roles. As the need for skunk

rehabilitation grows due to urban development and climate change, Virginia needs more rehabilitators willing to care for these charming and rewarding patients. Summer interns at Rockfish Wildlife Sanctuary frequently leave their internship saying skunks were their favorite patients to work with! In this class, we cover the basics of skunk care, including natural history, nutrition, housing, enrichment, and troubleshooting. And yes, we'll share how to avoid getting sprayed! (Hint: it's easy.) Let's get stinky!
Sarah Cooperman, CWR, Rockfish Wildlife Sanctuary, sarah@rockfishwildlifesanctuary.org

Diagnostic Radiographic Imaging in Avian Species [.5 hour]**
Radiographic imaging stands as one of the most indispensable tools for avian and wildlife practitioners, optimizing the care and treatment of their patients. When taken diagnostically, these images allow clinicians to evaluate a patient thoroughly for signs of trauma, orthopedic injury, and other abnormalities that ultimately result in a more comprehensive treatment plan for each patient. In this short presentation, we summarize how these images provide crucial insights into avian health, discuss the key elements constituting a diagnostic radiograph, and bridge the gap between knowledge and practice by providing practical techniques employed to achieve them.
Jenn Dunsheath , LVT, Wildlife Center of Virginia, jdunsheath@wildlifecenter.org

A Guide to Challenging Public Interaction in Wildlife Hotline Monitoring [.5 hour]
We've all been there. Whether it be listening to the life story of the family pet squirrel or the hour-long conversation stressing the importance of renesting healthy young animals, any wildlife professional can recall an unfortunate phone call or a straight-up horror story. This presentation focuses on navigating the more difficult calls (and callers!) that we encounter as wildlife hotline operators.
Lilly Farmer, CWR, The Wildlife Center of Virginia, lfarmer@wildlifecenter.org

Encouraging Natural Behaviors in a Rehabilitation Setting [.75 hour]
Wildlife rehabilitation is a complicated profession, where "success" is often hard to measure by any other metric than whether or not a patient survives and is releasable. Most attending this conference are familiar with basic wildlife rehabilitation techniques; this talk seeks to offer a way to further improve the quality of care through the encouragement of natural behaviors of patients. The performance of certain natural behaviors can be a great indicator of a high quality of care. This talk seeks to provide some easy ways to identify and encourage these behaviors in our care while discouraging stereotypical behaviors.
Elka Hutcheson, Rockfish Wildlife Sanctuary, elka@rockfishwildlifesanctuary.org

A Critical Approach to Anthropomorphism [.5 hour]
Anthropomorphism is the attribution of human characteristics or behavior to non-human entities. At its best, it can be a useful tool for making sense of interactions with the animal world. However, its misuse can result in harm to an animal. How can we, as wildlife rehabilitators, wield this tool wisely? The concept of Critical Anthropomorphism combines human empathy with objective knowledge about an animal's life history, behavior, and physiology to recognize its needs and alleviate its suffering. This presentation explores research and best practices for incorporating

Critical Anthropomorphism into a range of topics from volunteer training to animal care.
Sam Christie, Oiled Wildlife Care Network, slchristie@ucdavis.edu

What's That Noise in my Attic? [1 hour]
Wildlife rehabilitators receive many nuisance wildlife calls daily. When is wildlife really considered a nuisance and when should the professionals be called? Do you know what is really making that noise in the attic? Go Pro Wildlife Removal specializes in humane eviction and exclusion of bats, squirrels, and raccoons from homes. Do the radio, lights, and ammonia really work to remove wildlife? This process is more than a homeowner or rehabilitator typically can handle. This lecture gives insight into the business of nuisance wildlife removal and the eviction processes the professionals don't want you to know. Learn about how to identify the true culprit species, the most up-to-date methods for eviction, the permanent solutions needed to keep wildlife and humans safe, and when to call in the professionals.
Stephanie Kadletz, MNR, CET, CWR, Go Pro Wildlife Removal, LLC, stephaniekadletz@gmail.com

Speaker Bios

Bryan Bedrosian has been studying raptors in Jackson Hole and the Greater Yellowstone Ecosystem for the past two decades. He completed his master's degree from Arkansas State University studying Common Raven ecology in Jackson Hole and Red-tailed Hawks wintering in Arkansas. Bryan has continued and expanded his management-based research with dozens of projects across Wyoming and Montana, focusing on raptors and sage-grouse. His current work involves many on-going projects on spatial ecology, habitat use, bioacoustics, genetics, and conservation planning. He enjoys tinkering with engineering projects and has developed several new wildlife traps, GPS tracking transmitters, and automated recording systems. Bryan has served as the president of the Wyoming Chapter of The Wildlife Society and co-chair of the Wyoming Golden Eagle Working Group. He has aided and worked with many researchers and projects across North America and Europe and believes that collaborations are the key to successful wildlife science and conservation.

Dr. Natalie Brown is currently a veterinary intern at the Wildlife Center of Virginia. She completed her D.V.M. at the Virginia-Maryland College of Veterinary Medicine. She researched the common vampire bat with The Escobar Laboratory of Disease Ecology and Biogeography, examining the impact of climate change on species distribution and predator-prey dynamics. Before veterinary school, she spent three years in Costa Rica, where she studied the behavioral ecology of three- and two-toed sloths. During this time, she was also involved in wildlife rehabilitation and research, tracking rehabilitated subjects and evaluating re-integration abilities and health outcomes against wild-tagged counterparts. Her interests include the epidemiology of infectious diseases at the wildlife, livestock, and human interface, as well as the ecology of anthropogenic disturbances to wildlife**.**

Gail Buhl has worked professionally with ambassador animals over 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. Gail has been a team member and supervised four very diverse collections and programs. She teaches at conferences across the country, and has coordinated and presented online and in person workshops on Ambassador Animal training and presentation. She is involved in one to one mentoring with organizations and individuals. Published by the National Wildlife Rehabilitators Association (NWRA), Gail is one of the Editors of "A Guide for the Care and Use of Program Animals" 2nd Edition, 2018. Currently, Gail is the Partnership Coordinator for the Partners for Wildlife (P4W) program at The Raptor Center at the University of Minnesota. P4W is endeavoring to increase animal welfare in wildlife rehabilitation.

Sam Christie career in wildlife rehabilitation began over 14 years ago. She has a degree in Wildlife Conservation from the University of Delaware and currently works at the University of California Davis as the wildlife rehabilitator for the Oiled Wildlife Care Network. Before joining the OWCN in 2019, Sam worked at the Hawaii Wildlife Center and Tri-State Bird Rescue.

Ed Clark has been a national leader in the field of conservation since the late 1970s. His involvement has ranged from wilderness designation and public land management to pesticide regulation and endangered species protection. Raised in Flint Hill, Virginia, Ed received a B.A. in history and political science from Bridgewater College. He did graduate work in education at James

Madison University and University of Virginia. His professional training includes environmental mediation, organization management, and strategic planning. In November 1982, Ed co-founded The Wildlife Center of Virginia. Ed is in great demand as a motivational speaker, organizational consultant, and trainer. His conservation work takes him across the United States and to many foreign countries each year. When he is not on the road (and often when he is) Ed enjoys his passion for wildlife photography, shooting, and horseback riding. Ed and his wife, Dr. Kim West Clark, live near the Center with their dogs, cats, horses, and birds.

Sarah Cooperman (she/her) is the Executive Director at Rockfish Wildlife Sanctuary and has been a professional wildlife rehabilitator for over five years. Sarah manages the Sanctuary's communications, public outreach, and development full time, but she still loves hopping in for a patient feeding or cage scrubbing when she can! Sarah's favorite native species include bats, groundhogs, and Yellow-billed Cuckoos. Sarah is excited to attend her sixth Call of the Wild conference.

Dr. Thomas deMaar has been a wildlife and zoo veterinarian for 30 years embracing the practice of ecosystem health across multiple species. During his career he worked with several zoos in the United States; operated a wildlife conservation medicine practice in Kenya for eight years; practiced laboratory animal medicine; cared for domestic livestock in Kenya, Mexico, Pakistan, Uganda, and the USA; consulted for federal and state wildlife agencies; taught at Tufts University, the University of Nairobi, and the University of Texas; and mentored students from numerous countries ranging from high school to graduate school. Along the way, Dr. deMaar has accomplished wildlife rehabilitation of thousands of mammals, birds, and reptiles in many settings. He is currently the attending veterinarian for Sea Turtle Inc. on South Padre Island, Texas.

Raina Domek is a permitted and certified wildlife rehabilitator working at PAWS Wildlife Center since 2009. Before PAWS, she worked as a water chemist, field biologist, and domestic animal veterinary/shelter assistant. She holds bachelor's degrees in Conservation Biology, Zoology, and Environmental Studies from the University of Wisconsin-Madison. She is active in the rehab community by presenting at state and national conferences and publishing in national bulletins.

Liz Duffy was born and raised in Carmel, Indiana, in 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 husband, and hanging out with her bird, Green Bean and cats, Pheobe and Turtle. 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.

Jen Dunsheath is from Basking Ridge, New Jersey. Her love for animals started early in life, and she pursued her dream by obtaining a B.A. in biology from Seton Hall University in 2020, followed by a Veterinary Technology degree from Bergen Community College in 2022. During her college years, Jenn volunteered as a docent at the Essex County Turtle Back Zoo, shadowed her local veterinarian, and completed two student externships at small-animal emergency practices, gaining valuable experience in the field. Jenn also loves to travel and learn about new cultures, and in 2018, Jenn traveled to Oudtshoorn, South Africa, to volunteer at Cango Wildlife Ranch, where she assisted in medical treatments, feedings, and animal enrichment. Her travels continued in the Fall of 2019, when she sailed on Semester at Sea, studying the conservation of marine megafauna, tropical ecology and evolution, and global environmental systems -- observing the species she was learning about firsthand in the Strait of Gibraltar, the Galapagos Islands, and the rainforests of Ghana and Costa Rica. In her free time, Jenn likes photography, getting overly competitive at trivia nights, and face-timing with her family, friends, and dog, Olive, back in NJ. For Jenn, the best part of working with wildlife is being challenged to think outside the box and put her creativity to good use. She is so excited to be a part of the WCV staff!

Lilly Farmer was born and raised in a small town in central Virginia. Her childhood passion for all things wildlife was reignited in her senior year of high school, where she completed a year-long capstone project on the emotional aspects of wildlife education. There she studied the importance of emotional connections between students and the environment, how to translate those connections to wildlife friendly behaviors, and what factors affect this translation. Alongside this project, she interned at Rockfish Wildlife Sanctuary and fell in love with the field of wildlife rehabilitation. Since the completion of her project, Lilly has worked as a front-desk coordinator at the WCV for nearly two years and completed a seasonal position as a Wildlife Rehabilitator/Vet Assistant at WCV in 2023. While Lilly has a love for wildlife medicine and is currently a first-year veterinary technician student, she also has a true passion for wildlife hotline monitoring and one-on-one education**.**

Elka Hutcheson is a seasoned rehabilitator with five years of experience working at various rehabilitation centers across the country. She graduated from the University of Michigan with a B.S. in Biology. She has a special place in her heart reserved for Virginia and its wildlife and is now a permanent resident of our beautiful state serving as Rockfish Wildlife Sanctuary's Rehabilitation Program Manager. When Elka isn't working, you can often find her digging around in the mud or flipping over rocks looking for salamanders and other critters. During the rare times she isn't around animals, she loves to crochet, read, and just nap for hours at a time

Stephanie and Chris Kadletz, owners of Go Pro Wildlife Removal, LLC, started their business in 2018, to bridge the gap between human interactions and protecting wildlife. They both have worked in wildlife rehabilitation facilities, zoos, aquariums, and veterinary clinics with hundreds of exotic and native wildlife species for more than 20 years. They strive to educate the public and provide humane wildlife eviction and habitat modifications, which provide permanent solutions to nuisance wildlife issues for residential and commercial property owners.

Linda McDaniel is originally from Boston and has lived in Florida and Ohio before moving to Virginia in 2013. Retired from teaching high school science, she now works for Albemarle County in the Department of Community Engagement and rehabilitates Eastern Cottontails at her home-based rehab "Augusta Cottontails", in the beautiful Shenandoah Valley. She has been working in wildlife rehabilitation, both as a volunteer and professionally, since she was a teenager; as of 2018, almost exclusively working with the Eastern Cottontail as a Category IIA rehabilitator. She has previously presented at several wildlife conferences, including the *Call of the Wild* and NWRA.

Dr. Isabelle Paquet-Durand completed her DVM in Hannover Germany (1997) and her PhD in Parasitology between Germany and Costa Rica (2001). After discovering conservation, illegal traffic and wildlife rehabilitation in 1994/95 during vet school internships in Costa Rica and Guatemala, she dedicated her veterinary career to the field. She traveled, interned and worked as a veterinary volunteer in Costa Rica, Guatemala, Bolivia and the US before settling in Belize in 2002. Dr. Isabelle is the founder of the Belize Wildlife & Referral Clinic (BWRC - 2011) which has now provided free care for 5000+ wildlife patients. Dr. Isabelle is also an educator, offering courses and internships in person in Belize and a longtime fan inspired by the Wildlife Center of Virginia. While "repairing broken animals to return them to their rightful home" is her biggest passion, the educational work may be the most important.

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, and 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 who 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.

Jessica Ransier is originally from Baldwinsville, New York, a small suburb of Syracuse. She is a 2015 graduate of Unity College, with a B.S. in Captive Wildlife Care and Education. Jess went back to school to pursue a degree in Veterinary Technology at Genesee Community College in Batavia, New York, and graduated in May, 2018. During her time in tech school, she focused all of her clinical externship hours toward wildlife, zoological, and emergency medicine, participating in preceptorships at Cornell University's Wildlife Health Center, the Rosamond Gifford Zoo, and the Veterinary Medical Center of East Syracuse. Jess joined the Wildlife Center of Virginia in August, 2018 as the veterinary technician intern, and was hired as the full- time LVT in July 2019.

Grace Richey was born and raised in northern Utah where she spent majority of her time outdoors. Her love for wildlife goes as far back as she can remember. She earned a BS in wildlife biology with a minor in fire science and management from the University of Montana in 2022. Each summer during her undergrad, Grace worked with the Utah DNR on their aquatic invasive species program, but her true passion was always for wildlife rehabilitation. After graduation, she got the opportunity to intern with the Florida Keys Wild Bird Center near Key Largo where she worked with a wide variety of seabirds, shorebirds, songbirds, and raptors. Grace is now the rehabilitation intern at the Wildlife Center of Virginia where she hopes to gain experience in mammal and reptile care, as well as further her knowledge of avian species.

Jackie Rosenberger has been the Elk Project Leader for the Virginia Department of Wildlife Resources for more than two years. She is in charge of research and management of elk in the Commonwealth. Originally from Pennsylvania, she holds a B.S. in biology with a focus on ecology and environmental biology and geographic information science minor from Shippensburg University of Pennsylvania. She also obtained an M.S. in forestry and natural resources with a GIS certificate from the University of Georgia. Jackie mostly worked on projects involving white-tailed deer but also engaged in black bear and elk-related fieldwork before starting with Virginia DWR.

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. Olivia enjoys hiking, birdwatching, painting with her partner Dr. Ryan (who is also a veterinarian), and spending time with all of her beloved pets.

Heather Shank-Givens has been an active volunteer wildlife rehabilitator with the Blue Ridge Wildlife Center since 2017. Additionally, she holds permits for a non-releasable vulture wildlife ambassador, Vega. Together over the past five years, they have reached hundreds of people of all ages, sharing the critical role of vultures in the ecosystem and the challenges they face globally.

Dr. Sarah Sirica grew up in King George, Virginia. She completed her BS 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. After her internship, she worked for two years at the New Mexico Wildlife Center in Santa Fe, before heading back East to City Wildlife. 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 One Health.

McKenzie Stewart has been a wildlife rehabilitator at the Wildlife Center of Virginia for nearly two years. I come from a wildlife research background and dabbled in domestic small animal medicine but have found wildlife rehabilitation to always be the most fulfilling. Although I enjoy working with all of Virginia's native species, growing up in Florida has made me particularly fond of snakes and amphibians.

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.

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

John Tracey is the state wildlife veterinarian for the Virginia Department of Wildlife Resources.

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 preceptor 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 returned to wildlife medicine last fall, working at a pinniped rehabilitation facility in California. She is grateful to be back at the Wildlife Center of Virginia as one of this year's veterinary interns. Outside of veterinary medicine, she maintains a love for the ocean, hiking, horses, and her new dog!

Rachel Wolffe grew up in Short Hills, New Jersey. Her love of all creatures and the outdoors led her to attend the SUNY College of Environmental Science and Forestry, where 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 where she is now full-time staff. While she does not have one favorite animal, she is especially fond of reptiles and amphibians.

Dr. Cody Yager is the Avian Field specialist at the USDA APHIS Center for Animal Welfare. He served as the project leader for the proposed and final avian regulations and standards where he's aided in progressing the rule through the federal review system, developed the avian training program for field employees, and partnered with external and internal stakeholders to recognize and address potential impacts of the rule. Prior this position he was a Supervisory Animal Care Specialist for Animal Care, where he worked with Veterinary Medical Officers and Animal Care Inspectors that ensure the regulatory requirements of the Animal Welfare Act. He is also faculty on the Interagency Collaborative Animal Research Education (ICARE) Project. Prior to this appointment, he was a Veterinary Medical Officer with Animal Care in Dayton, Ohio. He earned his DVM at the Virginia–Maryland College of Veterinary Medicine and his Master's in Public Health at Virginia Tech.

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