



## THE WILDLIFE CENTER OF VIRGINIA

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### THE WILDLIFE CENTER OF VIRGINIA HOSTS BLACK BEAR “BIRTHDAY PARTY” FOR FIVE GROWING CUBS

Celebrate five bears’ graduation from cubs into yearlings during a week-long virtual event.

#### FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE ####

Waynesboro, Virginia – January 16, 2023     Nine months ago, the Wildlife Center of Virginia -- a teaching and research hospital for native wildlife located in Waynesboro -- began admitting the year's bear cub patients from several locations throughout Virginia. [The five young bears](#) will be cared for by the Center’s veterinary and rehabilitation staff until the spring of 2023, near the time when they would naturally begin dispersing from their mothers had they been raised in the wild.

According to researchers, Black Bear sows in Virginia typically give birth between December 19 and February 22 – with a median date of January 17. It's become a tradition at the Center to celebrate the bears' “birthdays” on this day. During the week of January 16, the Wildlife Center will be hosting several unique virtual programs and events:

- On **Tuesday, January 17 at 1:00 p.m.**, wildlife rehabilitators at the Center will prepare special birthday treats for the bears. During the same event, the goodies will be delivered live on camera to their outdoor enclosure. The event will take place virtually on both the Center’s [Live Events page](#) and [Facebook](#).
- On **Thursday, January 19 at 2:00 p.m.**, a variety of former staff members will reflect on how the field of wildlife medicine and rehabilitation has advanced during the Center’s 40-year history. Many Center supporters and [Critter Cam](#) fans know what Black Bear care looks like at the Wildlife Center now – but what did it look like 10, 20, 30, or 40 years ago? Join the Center for a look back at Black Bear care through its history and learn how their best practices evolved and continue to grow. The event will take place virtually on both the Center’s [Live Events page](#) and [Facebook](#).

The Wildlife Center of Virginia invites the public to [visit their website](#) to learn more about Black Bears in Virginia, this year's cohort of bear patients, and how to help them during the months leading up to their release back into the wild:

- Learn more about the five Black Bear cubs of 2022 and their histories on the Center's [Current Patients page](#). View a live-streaming video feed of the cubs at any time via [Cub Cam](#).
- The Center's [Frequently Asked Questions: Black Bear Cub Rehabilitation page](#) describes how bears are cared for during their time as patients, photos and blueprints of the specially-designed Bear Yard complex, and more.
- As a non-profit organization, the Center relies almost entirely on donations from the public to operate. It will cost thousands of dollars to feed these bears now through April 2023, when they'll be released. Center staff also expect to soon be admitting 2023's bear cubs – specialized bear formula alone costs about \$100 per cub per week. [Donate now](#) to help support the bears in the Center's care this year.

**Press Availability:**

**Wildlife Center of Virginia outreach staff are available during regular business hours from Monday, January 16<sup>th</sup> through Friday, January 20<sup>th</sup> for interviews about these virtual events, Black Bears at the Center, and their education and outreach work.**

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*The Wildlife Center of Virginia is an internationally acclaimed teaching and research hospital for wildlife and conservation medicine. The nonprofit Center has cared for more than 90,000 wild animals, representing 200 species of native birds, mammals, reptiles, and amphibians. The Center's public education programs share insights gained through the care of injured and orphaned wildlife, in hopes of reducing human damage to wildlife.*