



THE WILDLIFE CENTER OF VIRGINIA

P.O. BOX 1557 • WAYNESBORO, VIRGINIA 22980 • 540-942-WILD • FAX 540-943-WILD

THREE TINY HEARTS IN CRITICAL CARE

Orphaned Black Bear cubs arrive at the Wildlife Center of Virginia on Valentine's Day

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

Waynesboro, Virginia – February 16, 2024 Three orphaned black bear cubs, each weighing less than two lbs., have received a second chance at life thanks to the dedicated staff at the Wildlife Center of Virginia, a non-profit teaching and research hospital for wildlife and conservation medicine. Found alone and in critical condition, the cubs – designated by staff as Black Bears #24-0136, #24-0137, and #24-0138, respectively -- are receiving round-the-clock care.

"These cubs are incredibly vulnerable," explains Alex Wehrung, the Center's Public Affairs Manager, "Their survival depends on specialized care and a quiet, stress-free environment. Thankfully, our team has extensive experience with bear cubs and is committed to giving them every chance to recover and one day return to the wild."

The cubs were discovered by a construction crew in Orange County on Valentine's Day after their den site was accidentally disturbed. Concerned about their well-being, they immediately contacted the Virginia Department of Wildlife Resources (DWR), who transported the cubs to the Wildlife Center after evaluating the situation. Upon arrival, the cubs were assessed by veterinarians, who found the two female cubs to be in good overall health. The third cub -- and smallest of the trio, a male who weighed in at just 1.1 lbs. upon admission -- was found to have a deep cut on his left hind leg.

"The first few days are crucial for orphaned cubs," says Dr. Karra Pierce, Director of Veterinary Services. "We focus on providing warmth, fluids and specialized formula, and emergency veterinary care to address their immediate needs. Once they're stabilized, we can begin to collaborate with DWR biologists and determine the best long-term course of action."

The Wildlife Center of Virginia is a leader in wildlife rehabilitation, relying solely on donations from the community to provide care for injured, orphaned, and sick animals. The cost of caring



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for these bear cubs is significant, and the hospital is asking for public support to help cover the expenses of specialized formula, medications, and ongoing care.

“By supporting the Wildlife Center,” says Wehrung, “you’re not just helping these three individuals, but also investing in the future of Virginia’s wildlife for generations to come.”

Here are ways you can help:

- Donate directly to the Wildlife Center of Virginia through their website:
<https://support.wildlifecenter.org/give/434546/#!/donation/checkout>
- Visit the Wildlife Center’s [Bears as Neighbors](#) page to learn what to do – and what *not* to do – if you encounter a bear cub this spring.
- Read about these bears history on the Wildlife Center’s website, and follow the Center on social media for updates on the cubs’ progress.

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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 95,000 wild animals, representing more than 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.