

The Ridgeline

NEWSLETTER OF THE BLUE RIDGE WILDLIFE CENTER

ISSUE 64 | WINTER 2025



2024 Annual Report

*Highly Pathogenic Avian Influenza
Update—what you can do to protect
wildlife, domestic animals, and humans.*



Our Holistic Approach to Wildlife Conservation

If there's one thing that 2024 has proven, it's that wildlife conservation requires a holistic approach—one that extends beyond treating individual animals to addressing the larger environmental and human factors that impact their survival. At Blue Ridge Wildlife Center, we take this responsibility seriously, integrating rescue, rehabilitation, research, training, and education to make a lasting impact.

Last year, we treated nearly 4,000 patients, 99.9% of whom suffered injuries directly linked to human activity. One of our biggest successes was the expansion of our pre-release rehabilitation spaces, allowing recovering patients—like the dozens of barred owls hit by cars in 2024—to regain their strength in environments that mimic their natural habitats before returning to the wild. These enclosures are a critical step in the recovery process, ensuring that every patient we release has the best possible chance of survival.

Our **One Health** research continues to uncover the connections between wildlife, human, and environmental health. With an increasing number of cases linked to pesticide exposure, lead toxicity, and emerging diseases, our team collected valuable data to help guide conservation efforts and public health policies that protect both people and animals. This research doesn't just help our patients—it helps entire ecosystems.

We also formalized and expanded our Professional Training Program, which has grown from summer internships and occasional veterinary externships into a structured, multi-tiered program. With year-long fellowships, summer internships, and postgraduate mentorships, we are shaping the next generation of wildlife professionals who will carry this work forward. The demand for highly trained wildlife veterinarians, rehabilitators, and educators has never been greater, and we are proud to be leading the way.

Through our Education and Outreach programs, we engaged thousands of people this year, empowering them with the knowledge to live alongside wildlife in ways that reduce conflict and promote conservation. Simple actions—like retrofitting windows, keeping cats indoors, and switching to copper ammunition—can save countless wild lives. By teaching people how their choices impact the natural world, we are creating a future where people and wildlife can thrive together.

Every one of these successes is because of you—our donors, volunteers, board members, and supporters. Your belief in our mission fuels our work and ensures that wildlife has a voice in our community.

As we look ahead to 2025, I hope you'll continue to support us. Together, we are not just saving lives—we are shaping a better future for wildlife, people, and the environment we share.

With gratitude,
Annie Bradfield

Annie's Eye View

Where our Executive Director highlights her favorite photo and shares why it caught her eye!

At our 2024 Wildlife Wonders Gala, we honored Trex, Andy Ferrari, George Ohrstrom, and my dad, Terry Bradfield, for their role in building our pre-release rehab enclosures—spaces that are critical for wildlife recovery. Getting to publicly recognize my dad, who built our waterfowl enclosures with his own hands, was a moment I'll cherish forever. Honoring a parent in this way doesn't happen often, and sharing that stage with him, alongside such incredible conservation champions, was beyond special.



Hospital Stats

We treated **3,893** patients of **172** species in 2024! Patients that did not require euthanasia in the first 24 hours due to non-native status or severe injury had a survival rate of **70%**.

PATIENT BREAKDOWN BY CLASS



44.5% Birds

971 Songbirds
312 Raptors
451 Doves, waterbirds, gamebirds, etc

Total: 1,734



40.1% Mammals

460 Eastern Cottontails
360 Eastern Gray Squirrels
329 Virginia Opossums
412 Foxes, Bats, Raccoons, and others

Total: 1,561



14.5% Reptiles

462 Turtles
100 Snakes
4 Skinks

Total: 566



0.8% Amphibians

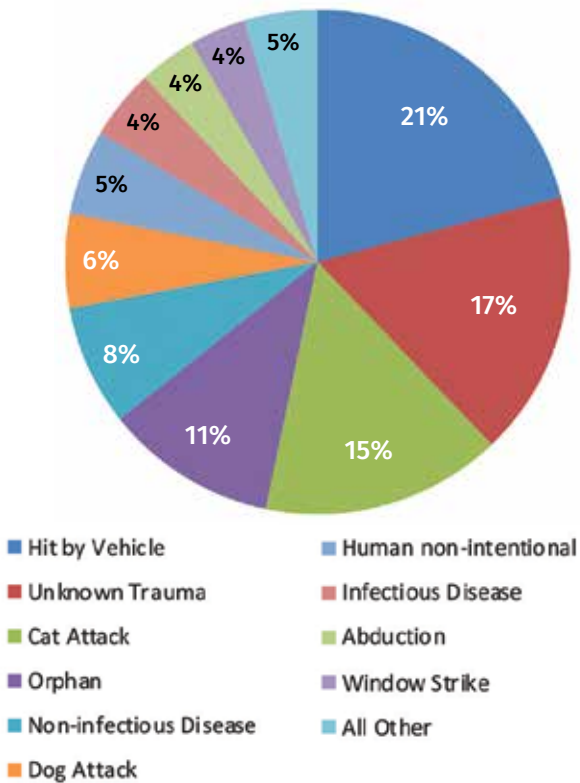
19 Frogs
11 Toads
2 Salamanders

Total: 32

PATIENTS BY COUNTY

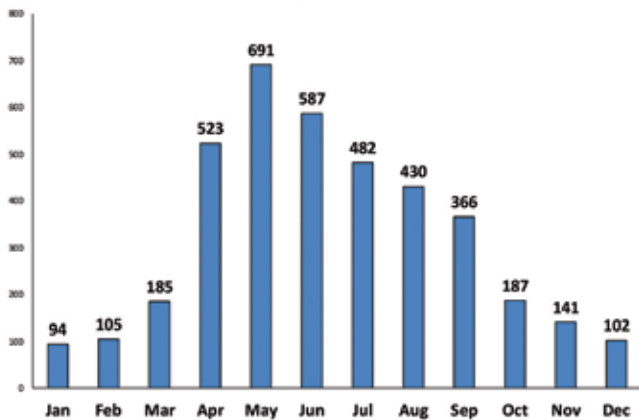
Loudoun	879	Alexandria	28	Louisa	4
Frederick	703	Page	26	Westmoreland	4
Fauquier	341	Orange	24	Caroline	3
Clarke	325	Spotsylvania	24	Hardy	3
Warren	314	Richmond	22	Rockingham	3
Prince William	239	Washington	12	Albemarle	2
Fairfax	223	Hanover	10	District of Columbia	2
Shenandoah	154	Henrico	9	Greene	2
Stafford	138	Morgan	9	Alleghany	1
Jefferson	122	Hampshire	8	Amelia	1
Berkeley	79	Fredericksburg	7	Camden	1
Culpeper	64	Chesterfield	6	Chester	1
Rappahannock	39	Goochland	6		
Arlington	36	King George	5		

CAUSES FOR ADMISSION



Trauma of Unknown Cause indicates that there is trauma, but the event that caused trauma was not witnessed. The vast majority of these cases are likely to be hit by vehicle or cat-attacked cases. Human, non-intentional is the cause we list if the issue was caused by humans who were not intentionally trying to harm the animal. This includes things like lawnmower injuries, garden netting injuries, and glue trap victims. Non-infectious disease includes things such as emaciation, aspiration pneumonia (a common finding when a baby has been fed by the finder prior to admission), aural abscesses in turtles, congenital diseases, cancerous processes, etc.

2024 MONTHLY PATIENT INTAKES



Meet Our New Team Members!



Sabrina Adleson,
Associate Rehabilitator

Sabrina joined BRWC in May, however her conservation journey started many years ago! Having always loved animals, Sabrina received her Bachelors of Science in Organismal/Environmental Science and a Masters of Science in Environmental Science from Christopher Newport University. After graduation she took on a variety of positions including bat researcher in Nevada and Fiji, animal behavior observation at the Virginia Zoo, Marine Mammal rescue and response with the Alaska Sealife Center, and sea turtle research and

conservation in Costa Rica! She originally interned in the summer of 2019 but has returned year after year as a volunteer, seasonal, and now as a full-time rehabber! When not working with animals she is either teaching martial arts, birding, or hanging out with her pet lizards.



Christiana "Chris" Rizzo,
Licensed Veterinary Technician

Chris became the Center's Licensed Veterinary Technician in April and has been an amazing addition to the team! After graduating from Delaware Valley University with a

B.S. in Biology she went on to get an Associates Degree in Veterinary Technology from Penn Foster College. Over the past nine years, Chris has cared for animals at places like Lehigh Valley Zoo, Virginia Safari Park, and The Naples Zoo, and her love for conservation has taken her to South Africa, Namibia, and China for volunteer work. Outside of work, you'll find Chris lost in a book, exploring the outdoors, or traveling.



Hannah Roth,
Development Coordinator

Hannah joined BRWC in August 2024 after volunteering in the development department. Growing up in Cleveland, Ohio, she

developed a passion for wildlife while hiking the trails of the Cleveland Metroparks and taking naturalist classes. She earned a Bachelor of Arts in Political Science and History and moved to Virginia to work on various government contracts. To further develop her organization and administrative skill sets, she then earned a Masters of Public Administration. After five years of government work, she decided to bring her skills to the nonprofit sector, and she is now thrilled to work for BRWC's mission. Outside of BRWC, Hannah is an organizer of a music and arts festival in Southern Ohio and plays the saxophone in a swing band. In her spare time, she enjoys recording ultrasonic vocalizations of bats, studying bugs and insects on hikes, and seeking out live music. She lives in Winchester with her husband and three indoor cats.



Karllye Smith,
Senior, Front Office Coordinator (pictured left)

Karllye grew up in Frederick County, MD then pursued her interest in life science by attending Towson University and earning a Bachelor's Degree in Biology. She worked in health care for several years until 2023. Karllye has always loved exploring the outdoors, caring for animals, and conserving our natural spaces, inspiring her to begin volunteering with the Education Department at BRWC in February of 2024. She immediately felt welcomed by the BRWC family, and was hired as a full-time employee the following month. Karllye is so excited to learn more about native wildlife, as well as how to provide assistance to our community regarding caring for animals in need.

Audrie Wieber,
Front Office Coordinator (pictured right)

Audrie is a 2023 graduate of Shenandoah University with a degree in Environmental Studies. During her studies, she completed a project in collaboration with BRWC that displayed different ways of protecting birds from window/building collisions. Audrie also had the opportunity to do an internship with our Education Department in the summer of 2022. During both of these experiences she got to know the ambassadors and employees and she was excited to start assisting BRWC as a full-time employee.

First-time Species

In 2024 we saw **172** species, **10** of which were native species seen for the first time at our facility!



Warblers

We see many new species during peak migration times in spring and fall, unfortunately primarily due to window strikes or car collisions as they're making their journeys northward or southward. We received multiple Blackpoll Warblers (left) for the first time this year, as well as a center-first Bay-breasted Warbler (right), after they all struck windows on their way south to their overwintering grounds.



Amphibian

We saw one new-to-us amphibian species this year: a Red Salamander! While a common species in Virginia, salamanders overall are an uncommon admit for us. This salamander was admitted after being hit with a weed whacker and suffering traumatic injuries to two of their limbs. Thankfully, this individual was able to ambulate, eat, and otherwise behave normally after the injuries healed, and is known to be able to regenerate limbs.



Waterfowl and Wading Birds

Birders will recognize the handsome male plumage of this Center-first Long-tailed Duck (above), a species that migrates south to overwinter in Virginia to take advantage of our mild winters and unfrozen bodies of water. This duck was a favorite among our staff birders, and was successfully released!

Common Gallinules (above right) and Soras (right) are both wading birds that, while common, can often be difficult to find among the thick vegetation where they hide and forage along waterways. Gallinules breed and



overwinter in portions of Virginia, while Soras are only seen during migration, or along the coast in the winter.



Reptiles

We saw a few new-to-us reptile species this year, including a hit-by-car Spotted Turtle (IUCN endangered species) with a carapace fracture (above), a Queen Snake that had suffered trauma to their esophagus and required surgery, a Smooth Earth Snake that was attacked by a chicken, and a Little Brown Skink (right) that was found indoors during the winter months and just needed



some R&R until May 1st when they could be released again! We're honored to have given each of these new species a second chance at a wild life!

Training the Next Generation

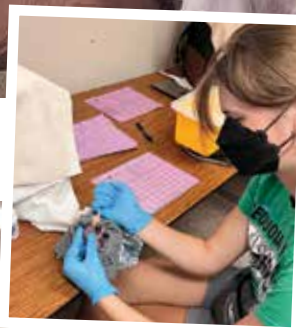
In 2024, we hosted **12 rehabilitation interns**, **17 veterinary externs**, and **30 rehabilitation volunteers**, who combined contributed over **10,000** hours, mainly during our busy baby season from April to August.

These interns faced diverse species challenges, handling unique cases, from avian injuries to small mammal ailments. The hands-on experience, mentorship, and holistic approach they received at BRWC will prepare them well for their future careers. Our interns are an essential part of our animal care team and we hope that their experience at BRWC will inspire them to continue our important work for the next generation.



Rehabilitation Interns

Lillianne Fish
feeding a baby squirrel



Lexi Kurtz containing a hawk
for release.



Dr. Jen Riley conducts a lecture with interns.



Lev Courtemanche with turkey
vulture patient.

Veterinary Externs



Zack Laney restraining an eastern screech owl for examination.



Tiana Marshall examining a squirrel patient.



Catherine Swinsky examining a fawn patient.



Josie Knieriermen restraining an osprey for treatment.



Alexandra Chodzin examining an injured eastern screech owl.



Rosalee Spivy examining a black vulture.

Rehabilitation Volunteers



L'Mae Carlin tube feeding an infant cottontail.



Shelby Kohn stimulating a flying squirrel to urinate.



Elizabeth Schelin cleans caging for juvenile squirrel patients.

One Health Research

One Health is a big part of who we are at BRWC and it is at the core of our vision of a healthy ecosystem for all living things. One Health means working at local, regional, national, and global levels to protect the health of humans, domestic animals, wildlife, and the environment. It is all connected. One Health is particularly important in controlling zoonoses (diseases that can spread between animals and humans), ensuring a safe food supply, and for managing pollution and its effects on health. BRWC contributes to protecting animal and human health by participating in various studies, most of which research zoonoses and protect global health.

In 2024 we participated in over a dozen studies that contributed data to local and state health departments, and ultimately national health organizations such as the Center for Disease Control. Two peer-reviewed studies were published in 2024 using our samples and expertise. The first proved that our local wildlife was being exposed to the tick-borne viruses studied, which impact people and pets as well, and evaluated the prevalence of these viruses in our area. The second looked at exposure



Although testing is ongoing in our toxoplasmosis study, some of the species that have tested positive for the feline-spread parasite include raccoons and bald eagles.

to SARS-CoV-2 (Covid-19) in wildlife and explored how the virus has been transmitted from humans to wildlife and how increased human activity and areas of urbanization may serve as important points of contact for cross-species transmission. Sample collection for studies on Highly Pathogenic Avian Influenza, Toxoplasmosis, Rabies, Echinococcosis/Hydatid disease, and others are ongoing.

Although the patients in our hospital



are all wild animals, we hope that you can appreciate the essential role that wildlife centers like ours play in protecting the health of you and your pets as well as our native wildlife.



Scan codes for links to the full Covid and tick-borne virus studies.

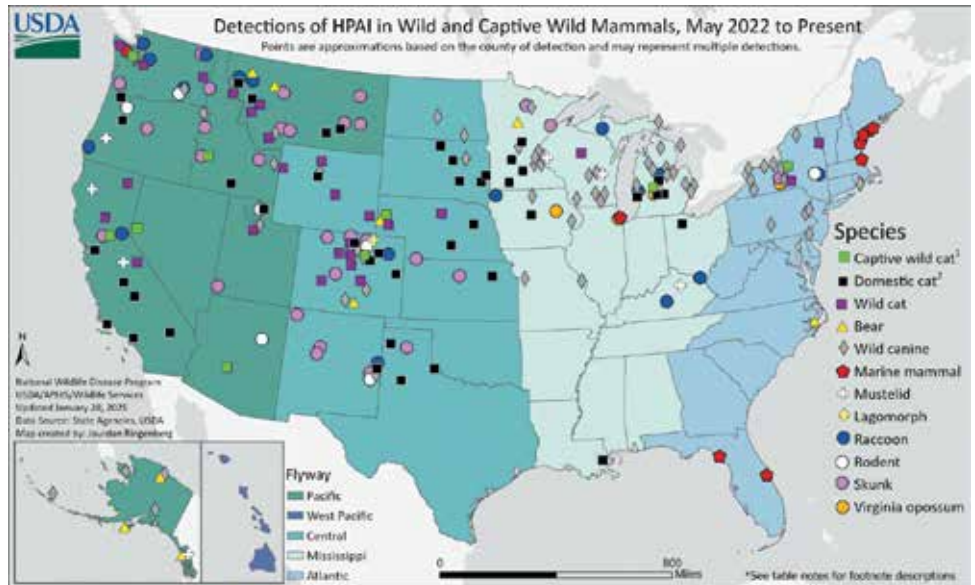


Although the geese pictured here did not test positive for HPAI, waterfowl are some of the most common species to test positive for the virus.

Highly Pathogenic Avian Influenza (HPAI)

HPAI is currently widespread among wild birds and there have been sporadic poultry outbreaks across the U.S. and other countries. Although wild mammals have been found infected with HPAI since 2022, in 2024 we began to see cases in domestic mammals. This includes outbreaks in nearly 1,000 dairy cattle herds in 16 states across the country, including our neighboring state of North Carolina. Dozens of cats (indoor/outdoor cats and barn cats, but also indoor-only animals exposed via raw diets) have been diagnosed with this virus as well.

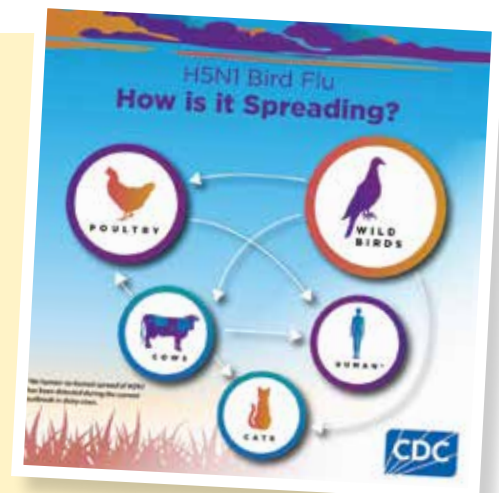
Despite the virus mutating and being seen in new species, the overall risk to humans remains low and as of January 2025, in the United States, only 67 individuals have been diagnosed with HPAI and only one has died.



This map shows the mammalian species that have tested positive since the beginning of this outbreak.

Help protect yourself and pets:

- Do not handle sick or deceased birds
- Discuss safety protocols with a rehabilitator before containing a sick or injured bird
- Do not ingest (or offer to pets) raw milk or products made with raw milk
- Do not allow your pet cats to free-roam
- Handle and cook poultry products properly
- Get your flu shot! This reduces the risk of reassortment, a process in which genetic material is exchanged between two different influenza viruses that co-infect the same individual. This is what allows influenza to mutate into a virus that can become far more infectious and far more dangerous to humans
- If you visit farms, fairs, or other areas with livestock, wear personal protective equipment and disinfect boots and equipment upon leaving that area to prevent spread
- If you have contact with an infected or potentially-infected animal and become sick, contact your doctor right away and let them know about your exposure
- Report suspicious cases (5 or more neurologic or dead waterfowl, any raptor found dead that is NOT along a roadway) to your state wildlife agency



25 Years of Wildlife Conservation

For 25 years, Blue Ridge Wildlife Center has been dedicated to rescuing, rehabilitating, and advocating for Virginia's native wildlife. What started as a simple hotline has grown into a full-scale wildlife hospital, research facility, and education center—admitting thousands of patients each year, training the next generation of conservationists, and advancing critical research to protect wildlife and human health.

None of this would have been possible without you. Every patient treated, every student mentored, and every life saved is a direct result of your support. As we look back on our history, we invite you to help shape the future of wildlife conservation.



2000



Founding

BRWC was founded as a wildlife hotline by Dr. Belinda Burwell and Beatrice Busch von Gontard, offering guidance on wildlife emergencies and rescue efforts.

2004



First Patient

BRWC admitted its first wildlife patient at "The Cottage," an 18th-century, 800 sq. ft. Overseer's cottage on Burwell-van Lennep Island Farms. That year, a total of 117 patients were treated.

20



The Ridgeline

BRWC published the first issue of *The Ridgeline*, its official newsletter, sharing wildlife stories, patient updates, and resources with the community.

2017



Professional Veterinary Training Begins

BRWC launched a formal externship program for veterinary and wildlife students, providing hands-on training in wildlife medicine and rehabilitation. An important step in ensuring the future of the field.

2020



Annie Bradfield Hired as Executive Director

The COVID-19 pandemic led to a spike in patient admissions, with a record 2,864 patients treated—likely due to people being home and noticing injured wildlife. That year also marked the first time in 20 years that BRWC was unable to hold its annual gala.

To help navigate this challenging period, Annie Bradfield was hired as Executive Director to lead a five-person team, diversify funding sources, and grow BRWC's programs. (Photo credit: Winchester Star)

20



Wildlife Walk

BRWC officially opened a new educational exhibit allowing visitors to learn about non-releasable ambassadors and their role in conservation.



Thanks to You!



Donate today to ensure our work continues for the next 25 years and beyond.



2005



Issue of newsletter, sharing updates, and educational community.

2015



New Facility

With patient admissions reaching 1,883 that year—nearly ten times the initial intake—BRWC had outgrown "The Cottage". To meet the increasing demand, a capital campaign was launched to build a full-service hospital and education center.

Thanks to the Burwell van Lennep Foundation and generous donors, we broke ground on a state-of-the-art wildlife hospital and education center.

2016



Dr. Jen Riley Hired as Full-Time Veterinarian

Dr. Jen Riley joined BRWC as the organization's full-time veterinarian. That year, BRWC admitted 1,639 patients, all of whom were treated on-site for the first time.

2021



the Wildlife Walk, an educational trail for the public to observe and learn about wildlife while learning about conservation.

2022



Expanded Medical & Research Capacity

To meet growing patient care needs, BRWC hired a second full-time veterinarian and a second full-time rehabilitator, ensuring appropriate coverage every day of the week.

That year, BRWC also published its first research paper, documenting the first known case of a *Cryptosporidium parvum* outbreak jumping from wildlife to humans.

2025



Leading the Way in Wildlife Conservation

BRWC now operates with a 15-person team, is actively involved in nine One Health research studies, cares for nearly 4,000 patients each year, has trained hundreds of students in its Professional Training Program, and reaches 10s of thousands through our education programs!

With a commitment to innovation in wildlife rehabilitation, research, and public education, BRWC continues expanding its impact, ensuring the protection of native wildlife for generations to come.

Photo by Erik Brito.

Education Programs

In 2024 we reached a record-breaking 11,793 people through on and offsite events and programs!

Wild Virginia was our most requested program. This is followed by **Wildlife in Winter**, then **Turtle Takeover**, and **World at Night** is tied for fourth with **Wings of Wonder**.

New events such as **Turtle Takeover** and **Saint Opossum's Day** were debuted and familiar favorites such as the **Trick-or-Treat with the Ambassadors** and **Wildlife Winter Wonderland** returned. Our smaller onsite events were claw-some too; **Turtle Tuesdays** roared in popularity! They had a whopping 110 participants this year!

BRWC participated in 10 offsite tabling events including the **Conservation Film Festival** and the **Front Royal Earth Day Celebration**. Not to mention our annual **Wildfest** event was a huge success with over 365 guests and over 20 vendors!

BRWC had to say goodbye to some amazing ambassadors in 2024. Dopey, the Eastern Screech Owl, Briar Rose the Red-tailed Hawk, and Gizmo, the Virginia Opossum all reached thousands of people during their time as ambassadors. They will be dearly missed by all.

On a happier note, we had the great fortune of introducing five new ambassadors in 2024. Our three new Virginia opossum ambassadors Aster, Cannoli, and Muffin have all settled into their enclosures! Meanwhile, our avian enclosures were graced by Bramble, our great horned owl, and Beetle our fish crow!



Wildlife Winter Wonderland Event.



Front Royal Earth Day Celebration.



Turtle Takeover at BRWC.



Banshee Reeks Summer Camp.



Education Manager, Alysa Everly, talks to WildFest attendees with Slim, the Eastern Ratsnake, about her species.



Miranda McCleaf, volunteer, introduces Freddy Cooter, the Northern Red-Bellied Cooter, to the "real" Freddy Krueger at our Halloween event.

Education Volunteers

In 2024 we gained 7 new volunteers while retaining 7 seasoned volunteers. We are also happy to welcome our Education Fellow, Rena Klapp, who started in the fall. Through all of the dedication our volunteers put in this year, they racked up over 1,250 hours of time volunteered! All that we do at the Blue Ridge Wildlife Center would not be possible without the hard work of our volunteers.



Ginko Bergel leading the craft at our Halloween event.



Alix Badley face painting at WildFest.



John Crandell teaching about turtles at the Front Royal Earth Day event.

Would you like to get involved?



We rely on volunteers in numerous ways to help us care for native wildlife. From animal care, administration, maintenance, to education.

Visit our website to learn more!

blueridgewildlifectr.org

Leaving a Legacy:

How Bequests Help Protect Wildlife for Future Generations

Leaving a bequest to the Blue Ridge Wildlife Center is a powerful way to make a lasting impact on wildlife preservation and rehabilitation. These legacy gifts ensure that the Center can continue its mission of caring for injured and orphaned wildlife, educating the community about local ecosystems, and promoting conservation efforts well into the future.

Bequests provide a stable financial foundation, allowing the Center to plan for growth and respond to new challenges. With the increasing threats to wildlife, from habitat loss to climate change, having a reliable source of funding is more critical than ever. Bequests help fund the Center's medical facilities, ongoing research, housing for students in our Wildlife Veterinary teaching program, and public education initiatives. They also support the daily care and rehabilitation of thousands of animals every year, from the smallest songbirds to majestic birds of prey.

Leaving a bequest is a simple process, often involving adding a clause to one's will or trust. Many supporters find satisfaction in knowing that their legacy will support the causes they care about long after they're gone. And through this act of generosity, donors become part of the Blue Ridge Wildlife Center's enduring mission, and Legacy Society, ensuring that future generations will continue to enjoy the beauty and diversity of Virginia's wildlife. Whether through a specific dollar

amount or a percentage of one's estate, every bequest plays a vital role in safeguarding the environment and protecting wildlife for years to come.

Blue Ridge Wildlife Center is a 501(c)3 Organization (EIN-54-1996991).
Contributions are tax-deductible to the fullest extent allowed by law.

For more information about **Blue Ridge Wildlife Center's Legacy Program**, or if you're considering a bequest to help safeguard wildlife, we invite you to visit our website, blueridgewildlifectr.org, or contact Trish Carter, Director of Development, at Trish@blueridgewildlifectr.org. Your thoughtful support today will make an enduring difference for generations to come.



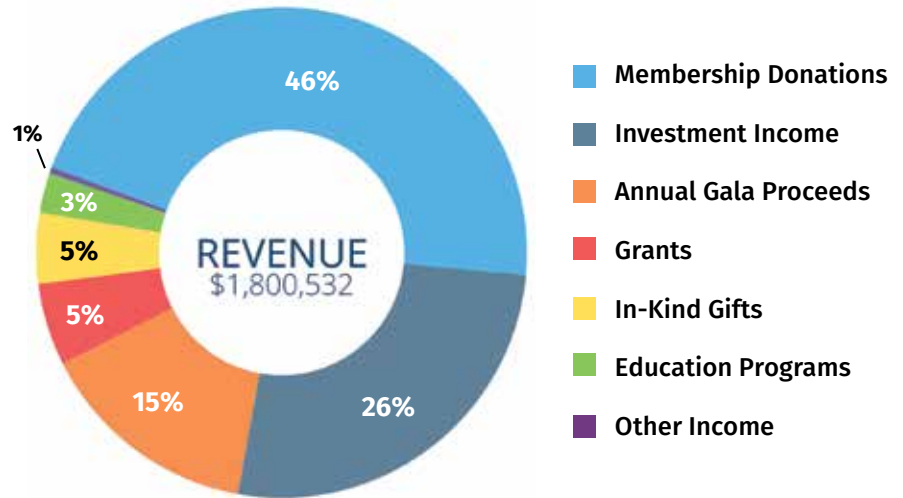
Financials FY2024

Blue Ridge Wildlife Center operates on a fiscal year.

Financials reflect fiscal year 2024 from July 1, 2023 - June 30, 2024.

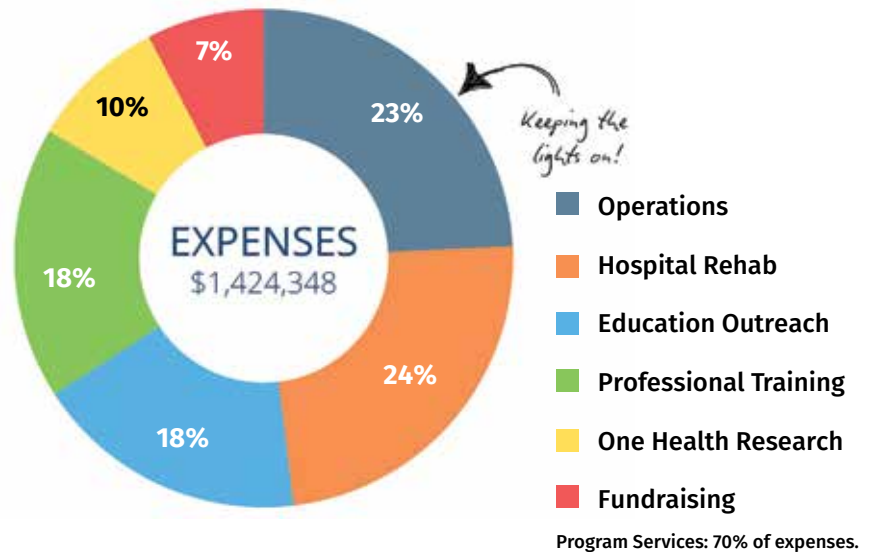
REVENUE

Membership Donations	\$824,385
Investment Income	\$475,370
Annual Gala (net)	\$264,339
Grants	\$97,507
In-kind Value	\$84,063
Educational Programs	\$47,385
Other Income	\$7,483
Total	\$1,800,532



EXPENSES

Operations	\$345,155
Hospital Rehab	\$339,750
Education Outreach	\$253,885
Professional Training	\$250,885
One Health Research	\$126,193
Fundraising	\$108,480
Total	\$1,424,348
Revenue less expenses:	\$376,184



Blue Ridge Wildlife Center is very grateful for the supporters that help us provide life-changing services to the native wildlife in our community.

On the following page, we have included a list of our **Wildlife Guardians** who have invested **\$1,000 or more** during 2024.

We have made every effort to ensure the accuracy of this donor list. If we have made an error or omission, please accept our sincerest apologies and contact us at (540) 837-9000 so we can correct our records.

Donor Appreciations

\$10,000 and above

Bethann Laign-Beeman
Zohar and Lisa Ben-Dov
Ronald and Danielle K. Bradley
Linda Case
Linda Cook
The Estate of Jane S. Davis
The Dressel Family
Cab and Susan Grayson
Jeffrey and Erika Kelble
James Knowles
Linda Lorber
Jacqueline Mars
Lorilee Molden
Monomoy Fund, Inc.
William Rigg
Patricia Robinson
Michael and Wendy L. Smith
Patricia Thomas
Kristi Titus
The Wise Foundation
Anonymous (1)

\$5,000 and above

Aders Insurance Agency Inc
Appreciation of Earth and
Animal Foundation, Inc
Gregory and Cheryl R. Ayres
Matthew Sheedy and Vicky Bendure
Frederick and Nancylee Boos
ExxonMobil Foundation
Andy and Barbara Ferrari
Galbraith Winer Family Trust
Tyson Gilpin, Jr. and Anne H. Randolph
Walter and Frances Kansteiner
Leslie Kopp
Kysela Pere et Fils
John and Heidi Lesinski
Russ McKelway and Lori Dabinett
Helen Noyes
George Orhstrom, II
David and Marilyn Pickett
The Pruitt Foundation, Inc.
Cheryl and Rick Reynolds
Emily Ristau
Pauline and Richard Spencer
Lynn and Mary Tedrow
Trimberger Family Foundation
Valley Health Systems
Anonymous
Virginia Warner

\$2,500 and above

American Online Foundation
Bank of Clarke County Foundation
BOWA
Daniel and Donna M. Courain
Dun Foundation
Facebook
Lisa Goshen
Sir Peter and Elinor Hamer-Crane
Janet Hensley and Peter Coppolino
Gregg Johns
Gregory and Lana Leggett
Meadow Branch Animal Hospital
Lisa and Steve Merz
Michael and Jeanne L. Morency

Museum of the Shenandoah Valley
Musser Family Fund
Mark and Karin Ohrstrom
Jason Paterniti and Nicole V. Watson
Christopher and Kiernan Patusky
Perry Engineering Company, Inc.
Route 11 Potato Chips
Jerelyn Schantz
Linda Shepherd
Kathy Silberberg
Thomas and Scottie Slater
Andrew Stifler and Nicole H. Perry
Drs. Rae Stone and A. Kent Allen
Summit Events Company
United Capital Financial Advisors,
Winchester and Julia Connell, CFP(r),
MSFP, Managing Director
Vern's Plumbing
The John W. Warner, IV Foundation
The Virginia S. Warner Foundation
Western University of Health Sciences
Wilhelm Mechanical
Alan and Irene R. Wurtzel

\$1,000 and above

Richard Adleson and Linda Miwa
Christopher and Laurie Ambrose
Bruce and Debbie Anderson
Miriam Anver, DVM
Jonathan Bailey
Bank of Clarke - Millwood
The Banks Foundation, INC.
Jane Beidler
Richard Boucher and Carolyn Brehm
M. David and Marti Bryant
Janet Clark
Jonathon and Jon Colburn
Darcy S. Cors Foundation
Jessica Coulson and Nick Crabill
Jerome Cramer
Bill Crisp
Dallas Croft
CSM Accounting Associates
Andrea Currier
Karen Curtis-Schubert
Katie DeMamiel and Christopher
Horner
Nancy and Robert W. Dove
Matthew Downs
Allen D. and Sara Ervin
John Everson
Greg W. and Candy Fazakerley
Sharon Fisher and John Cannon
C. Russell and Sally Fletcher
Terrence J. Giroux and Barbara Keebler
Michael LaManna and
Rachel Foreman LaManna
Mark and Susan Galbraith
Jeff Gerald
Michael and Cleo S. Gewirz
Judy Gill
Lawrence Gilpin
The Good Shepherd Fund
Christy Grant
Kevin P. and Karen Greene
Leslie Hall
Ronald L. and Gwen Hougham

Mark Huber
Steve and Karen Hughes
Michelle and Jayson A. Huston
Don A. Ruschman and
A. Elizabeth Jones
Holly Jones
Paula Kallay
Craig Kelly
J W Kerns
Phil and Barbra Kingsley
Abigail Kois
Eric Morgan and Lara Lacher
Judith Landes
Reid Leatzow
Jeff and Sondra LeHew
Tamara Lewis and Steven Buehler
Leonard Luongo Jr.
Julie Matheson and Jacob Schmitt
Patricia McCann
Timothy and Kate McCullough
Katherine McLeod
Kathie and Rob Menuet
Mark and Terese S. Merrill
Nicholas Miller
Robert and Jill A. Monk
Navy Federal Credit Union
Joseph T. and Grace Nixon
David and Debra Norman
Janet O'Dell
Amy Orr and Norman Myers
William Pabst and
Jennifer Wellock
Jack Parrack
John Pelkey and Lynn Berry
Kristiane Pellegrino
Ann Peterson
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Thank you to everyone who provides us with food, medical supplies, blankets, newspaper, and more each year! Although we were unable to list everyone, your contributions make a significant impact on wildlife rehabilitation.

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Donor Impact

Your generosity fueled remarkable progress at the Blue Ridge Wildlife Center in 2024!

Thanks to donor contributions, we have expanded our ability to care for wildlife, enhance educational outreach, and foster conservation professionals. Below are some of the impactful accomplishments your support has made possible.

ENHANCING WILDLIFE CARE

NEW INCUBATORS

We acquired eight state-of-the-art incubators to better care for animals recovering from trauma, such as window strikes or cat attacks. These incubators regulate temperature, humidity, and oxygen levels, offering life-saving support for our patients.

NEW VENTILATOR

Essential for safe treatment during anesthesia, our new ventilator allows us to provide life-sustaining breathing support during delicate procedures.



Ventilator used on snapping turtle during surgical removal of fishing hook.

PRE-RELEASE REHABILITATION SHELTERS

As our patient intake grows, so does the need for suitable rehabilitation spaces. Your donations funded the planning and construction of several new shelters that simulate natural habitats, helping animals regain the strength and skills necessary for survival in the wild. With

these shelters, raptors condition their flight muscles, and small mammals are given spaces to climb and forage before release.



FREDDY'S NEW INDOOR ENCLOSURE

Our Ambassador Northern Red-Bellied Cooter, Freddy, received a custom-built indoor enclosure tailored to his special needs. Freddy was initially brought to us with pneumonia that affected his ability to dive and brumate properly. Although his condition improved, permanent lung damage necessitated a controlled environment to ensure his well-being year-round. Freddy now thrives in his new space, where he continues to educate visitors about the importance of protecting aquatic habitats.



ESSENTIAL UPGRADES FOR WILDLIFE CARE

Thanks to our generous donors, BRWC now has commercial-grade washers, dryers, refrigerators, and freezers. These upgrades save energy, reduce staff and volunteer workload, and ensure fresh, readily available food for our wildlife patients.

ADVANCING WILDLIFE EDUCATION

With your support, we began a groundbreaking partnership with Shenandoah University to develop a virtual wildlife classroom. This innovative program will provide accessible, engaging lessons and activities about wildlife and conservation, reaching audiences far beyond our center.

INVESTING IN FUTURE CONSERVATION LEADERS

We improved our professional training program with new housing for interns and externs. These accommodations have allowed us to attract top talent, ease staff workload, and establish year-long fellowship opportunities. Your support is shaping the next generation of wildlife professionals.

THANK YOU!

Every milestone achieved at BRWC is a testament to your commitment to wildlife and conservation. Your support has provided not only critical care for our animal patients but also tools to educate and inspire future generations. Together, we are making a lasting difference for wildlife and our shared environment.

Supporter Spotlight

"United Capital Financial Advisors recognizes the importance of supporting our community's non-profit organizations. The Blue Ridge Wildlife Center is an integral part of our community, and we want to show support for its mission to protect and conserve our native wildlife. The work of BRWC goes beyond the wonderful work they do to provide veterinary care and rehabilitation. They also provide public education to create awareness, and training and research to empower decisions that enhance and improve our ecosystem. We are fortunate to have this organization in our community and United Capital is proud to be a sponsor."

- Julia Connell, CFP(r), MSFP // Managing Director - Winchester



Julia is pictured here with Mark Merrill, BRWC Treasurer.

Thank You!

Thank You, Dr. Russ McKelway & Welcome, Dr. Iara Lacher!

We are deeply grateful to **Dr. Russ McKelway** for his three years of dedicated service as Chair of the Board. Under his leadership, BRWC experienced remarkable growth in impact, strengthening our conservation, education, and research efforts. While stepping down as Chair, we are fortunate that he remains on the board, continuing to support our mission. Thank you, Russ, for your vision and commitment!



New Chair, Dr. Iara Lacher.

We also warmly welcome **Dr. Iara Lacher** as our new Chair. A passionate advocate for sustainability and native plants, Iara brings extensive expertise in botany, ecology, and conservation planning. As owner of Seven Bends Nursery and a former researcher at the Smithsonian Institute, she has dedicated her career to connecting science with policy. We are excited for her leadership as we continue to expand our reach and impact.



*Outgoing Chair,
Dr. Russ McKelway.*

ABOUT BRWC

Address: 106 Island Farm Lane, Boyce, Virginia 22620

Wildlife Hotline: (540) 837-9000

E-mail: info@blueridgewildlifectr.org

Web: blueridgewildlifectr.org

BRWC protects and conserves native wildlife by integrating veterinary medicine, rehabilitation, public education, professional training, and research.

BRWC is a 501(c)3 organization (EIN 54-1996991) and relies on private donations exclusively. Wildlife Centers may not receive payment to treat animals, nor do they receive state or federal funding. Contributions are tax-deductible.

BRWC is located on the Burwell-van Lennep Foundation (BVLF) property in Boyce, Virginia. The mission of the BVLF includes preserving the diverse ecology of this land, protecting wildlife, and environmental education. BVLF generously provides the land to BRWC at no cost.

THE RIDGELINE

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