



# Wildlife Veterinary Care Rescue News

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Veterinary Care  
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[www.wildlifevetcare.org](http://www.wildlifevetcare.org)

Wildlife Veterinary Care is  
a 501c3 non-profit charity  
dedicated to providing  
veterinary and rehabilitative  
care to sick and  
injured wildlife, and to  
improving the health of wildlife  
and our environment.

## Bald Eagle Patient Recovering in New Flight Cage

A second injured bald eagle rescued from along Goose Creek in Fauquier County was brought to Wildlife Vet Care and found to also be suffering from lead poisoning. This eagle was successfully treated to remove the toxic lead from his body, but the injury to his right wing is still healing. This injury caused all the flight feathers on that wing to fall out, which keeps him from being able to fly well enough to be released. While he waits for those feathers to grow in, he is keeping in shape by exercising in our new eagle flight cage.

Our eagle-sized flight cage was completed in July and has already been used to evaluate flight and exercise some recovering hawks, owls, and a great blue heron, and prepare them for release. When these recovered birds are released, they must be able to fly well enough to catch the prey they need to survive, and that is why this exercise prior to release is so important. We are very thankful to all the donors who made the building of this cage possible.



**Barred owl that was struck by a car recovering from a wing fracture.**



**Sick and starving mink rescued from the side of the road.**



### **Rare Long-tailed Duck Rescued and Released**

Virginia laws do not allow transport of wildlife across state lines, which means sick and injured wildlife found in West Virginia cannot be brought into Virginia. Whenever an animal from West Virginia shows up at one of our veterinary hospitals, we are required to notify the Virginia Department of Game and Inland Fisheries of its arrival.

When a wounded long-tailed duck rescued in Inwood, W.V. showed up at our hospital in Winchester, we called VDGIF to report it and ask for special permission to treat this duck whose migratory route passes over Virginia. They granted this permission so we treated and sutured the wounds on his neck and chest and then rehabilitated him for release. While he was healing, we kept him well fed on minnows so he would have enough body fat to continue the rest of his migration. These ducks migrate all the way to the Arctic tundra for the summer.

Everything went as planned and this duck was released on Lake Frederick 10 days later with his wounds healed and at a good migration weight. A large number of birders showed up to photograph him as he left.

[Long-tailed duck wagging tail.](#)

[Long-tailed duck eating minnows.](#)

[Long-tailed duck release.](#)



**Great horned owl recovering from West Nile Virus.**



**Baby flying squirrel injured by a cat that was treated and raised in our care.**



**Young fox kit with hydrocephalus.**



**Earth Day Program with special wildlife guests including a wood turtle, big brown bat, Eastern screech owl and box turtle.**



**Long-tailed duck at Lake Frederick. Photo by Sharon Fisher**

### **Increasing Caseload Keeps WVC Busy**

Spring and summer have been extremely busy at Wildlife Veterinary Care this year due to a 31% increase in our admissions. We hope this doesn't mean that more wild animals are becoming sick and injured this year, but that more people know where to find us. The majority of these cases are the result of trauma caused by vehicles, and attacks by dogs and cats, but we have also treated quite a few mammals, birds and reptiles that were sick with contagious and zoonotic diseases, including rabies, West Nile virus, canine distemper, and mange.

We experienced a sudden increase in raptor admissions to our hospital this spring due to the closure of a local raptor center. We admitted more injured young owls and hawks, including barred owls, barn owls, screech owls, and red-shouldered, red-tailed and Cooper's hawks.

In addition to the large number of raptors, we saw an increase in sick and injured fox kit admissions, especially from the Northern Virginia area, including many with mange.

We've had great success this year treating these animals and returning them to the wild.





### Congratulations to Dr. Burwell

Congratulations to Dr. Belinda Burwell on being appointed to the Virginia Department of Game and Inland Fisheries Wildlife Rehabilitation Advisory Committee. This committee, composed of six of the most experienced wildlife rehabilitators from across the state, was formed to advise VDGIF on how to improve wildlife rehabilitation in Virginia. The committee consists of Dr. Burwell, Dr. Kelli Knight, Sabrina Garvin, Tanya Lovern, Suzanne McBride, Leslie Sturges, and Bonnie Falk.

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*Wildlife Veterinary Care is a 100% Volunteer organization so there are no salaries to pay and 100% of your donations are spent on supplies to care for the animals. Wildlife Veterinary Care is a 501(c)3 charity, and all donations are 100% tax-deductible.*

Donations can be mailed to: Wildlife Veterinary Care, P.O.Box 288, Millwood, VA 22646, and can also be made online on our [webpage](#) and [Facebook page](#).

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Our physical address is:

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