

“BABY SEASON” IS HERE FOR THE WILDLIFE CENTER OF VIRGINIA

Learn the facts and know when to help baby bunnies, songbirds, and opossums this spring

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

Waynesboro, Virginia – May 9, 2024 Staff, students, and volunteers at the Wildlife Center of Virginia -- a non-profit hospital for native wildlife located in Waynesboro -- are experiencing the very busiest time of year: baby season.

Since January 1, 2024, the Center has admitted well over 1,000 individual patients, with more than 350 arriving during the past two weeks alone. Some of the most common species seen during baby season include Virginia Opossums, Eastern Grey Squirrels, a plethora of songbirds, and Eastern Cottontail Rabbits. Many of these young animals are being hand-fed multiple times a day.

Thus far, Cottontail Rabbits have been some of the most numerous of baby animals admitted. Since April 1, 218 cottontails have come through the Center’s doors to receive treatment.

This year, in the spirit of the organization’s mission of *teaching the world*, Center staff have created an educational video about how to best help young cottontails this spring. [Click here](#) to watch the video on the non-profit’s official YouTube channel.

There are a number of misconceptions about young wild animals and what’s best for their survival -- **here are some ways you can help:**

- If you see a young wild animal you believe is in danger, it’s best to first ask questions before intervening. Despite our natural inclinations, the best chance of survival for a young uninjured animal is often to leave it in its parents' care. Use [these infographics](#) to determine when and how to best help common baby wildlife you may find in your own back yard, and [visit this section of our website for more advice](#). Remember, feeding wildlife can often cause more harm than good.
- [Help young wildlife by keeping your pet cat indoors](#). Free-roaming, outdoor cats are responsible for the death of billions of wild birds, mammals, and reptiles each year.
- Donate directly to the Wildlife Center of Virginia to provide formula and medications, housing, food, and more for young animals this spring through their website: <https://support.wildlifecenter.org/give/434546/#!/donation/checkout>

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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.