



WILDLIFE
CLINIC of
RHODE
ISLAND

ANNUAL REPORT 2024



Juvenile hawks share a perch. Orphaned raccoons find comfort together. Dr. Snow performs ocular surgery on a sedated Barred Owl while it is closely monitored by our staff.

Dedicated to the Care of Injured and Orphaned Wildlife in Rhode Island

Since 1993, the Wildlife Rehabilitators Association of Rhode Island (dba the Wildlife Clinic of Rhode Island) has provided comprehensive medical and rehabilitative care to the state's wildlife, excluding marine mammals and sea turtles.

As Rhode Island's only emergency wildlife hospital, we operate 365 days a year, delivering a full spectrum of services, including diagnostic imaging, laboratory testing, surgery, intensive care, aquatic and physical therapy, and orphan care.

Licensed by the Rhode Island Department of Environmental Management and the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service, we treat over 6,000 wild patients annually. Our Saunderstown facility offers both short- and long-term rehabilitation, ensuring that injured, sick, and orphaned animals receive specialized medical treatment, therapeutic care, appropriate housing, and proper nutrition, facilitating their return to the wild. Additionally, we support home rehabilitators by providing veterinary services, feed, and other essential resources.

Beyond rehabilitation, we foster public awareness and respect for wildlife through educational programs, including internships, externships, after-school initiatives, elementary school visits, and partnerships with community-based organizations. We publish a monthly newsletter and host lectures, specialized workshops, and community outreach events. Our advocacy efforts extend to the legislative level, promoting effective wildlife policies that protect both animals and ecosystems.

In collaboration with state and federal agencies and partner wildlife organizations, we monitor and help prevent wildlife diseases, safeguarding both animal populations and public health. Our subpermittee training program equips permitted individuals with the skills to care for orphaned species under the supervision of a licensed Rhode Island wildlife rehabilitator, expanding the network of trained professionals dedicated to wildlife conservation.

Wildlife Clinic Staff

- William Morrissette, Ph.D.,
Executive Director
- Dr. Blaine Hymel,
Veterinarian
- Dr. Seth Snow,
Veterinarian
- Arianna Mouradjian,
Director of Operations
- Olivia Harrington,
Volunteer Coordinator
- Elisha Zonfrilli,
After Hours Coordinator
- Animal Care Staff
 - » Charlene Gallo
 - » Caroline Keller
 - » Sterling Parks
 - » Mariah Smith
 - » Tami VanSteeden,
PharmD
- Brieanna LaFleur,
Office Manager

The Wildlife Clinic Operates With:

- 12 Staff Members
 - » Executive Director
 - » 2 Veterinarians
 - » Director of Operations
 - » After Hours Coordinator
 - » Volunteer Coordinator
 - » Animal Care Staff (x5)
 - » Office Manager
- 65 In-Clinic Volunteers
- 60 Home Rehabbers
- 105 Designated Transporters
- 5 Interns
- 2 Development Volunteers
- 2 Volunteer Veterinarians
- 1 Resident Artist

A MESSAGE FROM OUR EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR

Dear Friends and Supporters of the Wildlife Clinic of Rhode Island,

As we reflect on 2024 at the Wildlife Clinic of Rhode Island, I am proud to share how our organization has grown and adapted to better serve both our wildlife patients and our community. This past year, we committed to significant capital improvements that have already begun transforming our clinic's capacity for medical care and rehabilitation. Two brand-new enclosures have been completed, with three more under construction—each designed to provide animals with the best possible chance for recovery and release.

A milestone for us in 2024 was welcoming our new Lead Veterinarian, Dr. Blaine Hymel. Dr. Hymel brings a wealth of expertise that will help us continue elevating our standards of care. We also deepened our commitment to education by expanding internship opportunities in partnership with local colleges and universities, forging closer collaborations with community organizations such as the Girl Scouts, and engaging local schools to inspire the next generation of wildlife care professionals.

Central to our work is maintaining strong connections with our members and volunteers. This year, we introduced a monthly newsletter to keep our growing membership informed and involved in our initiatives. We also significantly expanded our volunteer team—with an incredible 236 active volunteers, representing a 19% increase over last year. Their dedication ensures our operations run smoothly and has already set in motion the expansion of our efforts, which will come to fruition in spring 2025.

Thanks to the remarkable support of our members, we were able to invest in the quality improvements described above while maintaining a strong financial foundation. By managing these resources responsibly throughout 2024, we are well-positioned to continue growing and enhancing our programs in 2025. At the same time, we remain mindful of the escalating pressures on wildlife—ranging from climate change to habitat loss and increased human-wildlife conflicts. These challenges reinforce the importance of our mission and motivate us to keep refining our care, education, and outreach.

Thank you to everyone—staff, volunteers, members, and community partners—who helped make 2024 a landmark year for our clinic. We look forward to another year of growth, innovation, and dedicated service to the wildlife that depends on us. Together, we will continue to enhance our capacity to care for Rhode Island's injured and orphaned wildlife in 2025 and beyond.

Sincerely,



William Morrissette,
Executive Director



Board of Directors

- Sandy Coletta,
Board Chair
- Cody Burnett,
Board Treasurer
- Elaine Hogan,
Board Secretary
- Randelle Boots
- Chris DiSano
- Peter Green
- Judy Ireland
- Anne Mills
- Dr. Lucy Spelman, DVM



Diamondback Terrapins, endangered in RI, were hatched at the Wildlife Clinic and released into their natural habitat.

A MESSAGE FROM OUR BOARD CHAIR

On behalf of the Board of Directors, I am honored to share how deeply proud we are of the Wildlife Clinic of Rhode Island's progress over the past year. As Chair, I have the privilege of observing the organization's journey from a broader vantage point, and it is clear that our achievements in 2024 have been the result of an extraordinary team effort across our dedicated management team, staff, and volunteers. From the completion of new enclosures and strengthened rehabilitation spaces to the expansion of our volunteer team and educational outreach programs, every member of our organization has played a crucial role in our success.



We are particularly encouraged by the Wildlife Clinic's commitment to continuous improvement and innovation, ensuring that Rhode Island's wildlife receive the highest level of care. The Board is excited about the addition of a new Lead Veterinarian, Dr. Blaine Hymel, whose expertise will help elevate our medical care standards even further. Meanwhile, our growing volunteer base—now 236 members strong—demonstrates the community's enthusiasm for our mission. Through strategic capital investments, enhanced medical capabilities, and a steadfast focus on financial stewardship, the Wildlife Clinic has laid a strong foundation for ongoing growth in 2025 and beyond.

I invite you to read the Executive Director's message detailing the Wildlife Clinic's recent accomplishments and our upcoming goals. On behalf of the entire Board, I extend my deepest gratitude to everyone who contributed to making 2024 a remarkable year for the Wildlife Clinic of Rhode Island. We look forward to working together to sustain and advance our mission in the years to come.

Warm regards,

Sandy Coletta

Sandy Coletta

BLESSING OF THE TURTLES

In 2024, the Wildlife Clinic of Rhode Island introduced the Blessing of the Turtles, a bi-annual event held each spring and fall. Led by the America Wisdom Association, it celebrates the resilience of turtles in nature and spirituality. This gathering raises awareness about conservation, highlighting challenges like habitat loss, pollution, and climate change. The turtle, a symbol of patience, wisdom, and perseverance in Buddhist tradition, reflects the Wildlife Clinic's mission. The event strengthens community connection to wildlife and fosters ecological and spiritual stewardship.



2024 BY THE NUMBERS

6,053

Patients Admitted to The Wildlife Clinic

600

Patients Directly Admitted to a Home Rehabber

3,139

Animals Released Back Into Their Natural Habitats

47%

Success Rate In Returning Animals Back Into Their Natural Habitats



2,299

Eastern Cottontails



391

Common Snapping Turtles



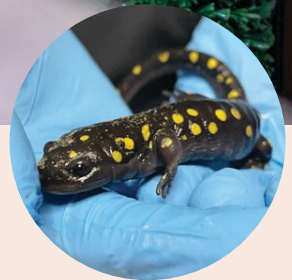
411

Virginia Opossums



378

Eastern Gray Squirrels



185

Different Species Admitted

A TOUR OF OUR WILDLIFE CLINIC

When you bring an animal or make a visit, you'll enter the property via a short, winding gravel road before it opens up to our main building. Go slow as you drive – we have wild turkeys, woodchucks, rabbits, and all kinds of birds who regularly visit.

The Wildlife Clinic of Rhode Island is an impressive sight, especially on a blue-skied day. Once intended to be a home, with the bottom level a possible wine tasting room, we were able to purchase the building and transform it into an emergency veterinary hospital for wildlife.

The Wildlife Clinic Includes:

- Intake room for triage and diagnostics
- Medical imaging
- Isolation wards
- Surgical suite
- Five flight conditioning enclosures
- Indoor and outdoor enclosures
- Food prep and nutrition stations
- Rabies vector species ward
- Intensive care unit
- Aquatic therapy room
- Five acres of land



When you enter the building, you'll be greeted by our Office Manager, Brianna, in our foyer. This is where we ask questions about the wildlife you bring in, and where you also might meet Dr. Hymel and members of the animal care team who come to triage and examine the animals.

As you make your way down the hall, you'll find our isolation ward, a crucial component of our disease management and quarantine protocols. Adjacent to this space, you'll discover our modernized surgical suite, and intake and diagnostics ward. This complement of rooms has been

thoughtfully designed and equipped to provide comprehensive and compassionate patient care.

Downstairs is the main animal treatment room and supply areas. We have spaces to care for babies, stainless steel tables for food and medicine prep, space for songbirds, amphibians, and reptiles, and storage for formula and food (so much food!). Outside, you'll find enclosures for woodpeckers, aviaries, a pigeon coop, fawn pen, predator pen, and raptor caging, among others. Please know this is only a small glimpse of all the wildlife enclosures on site!

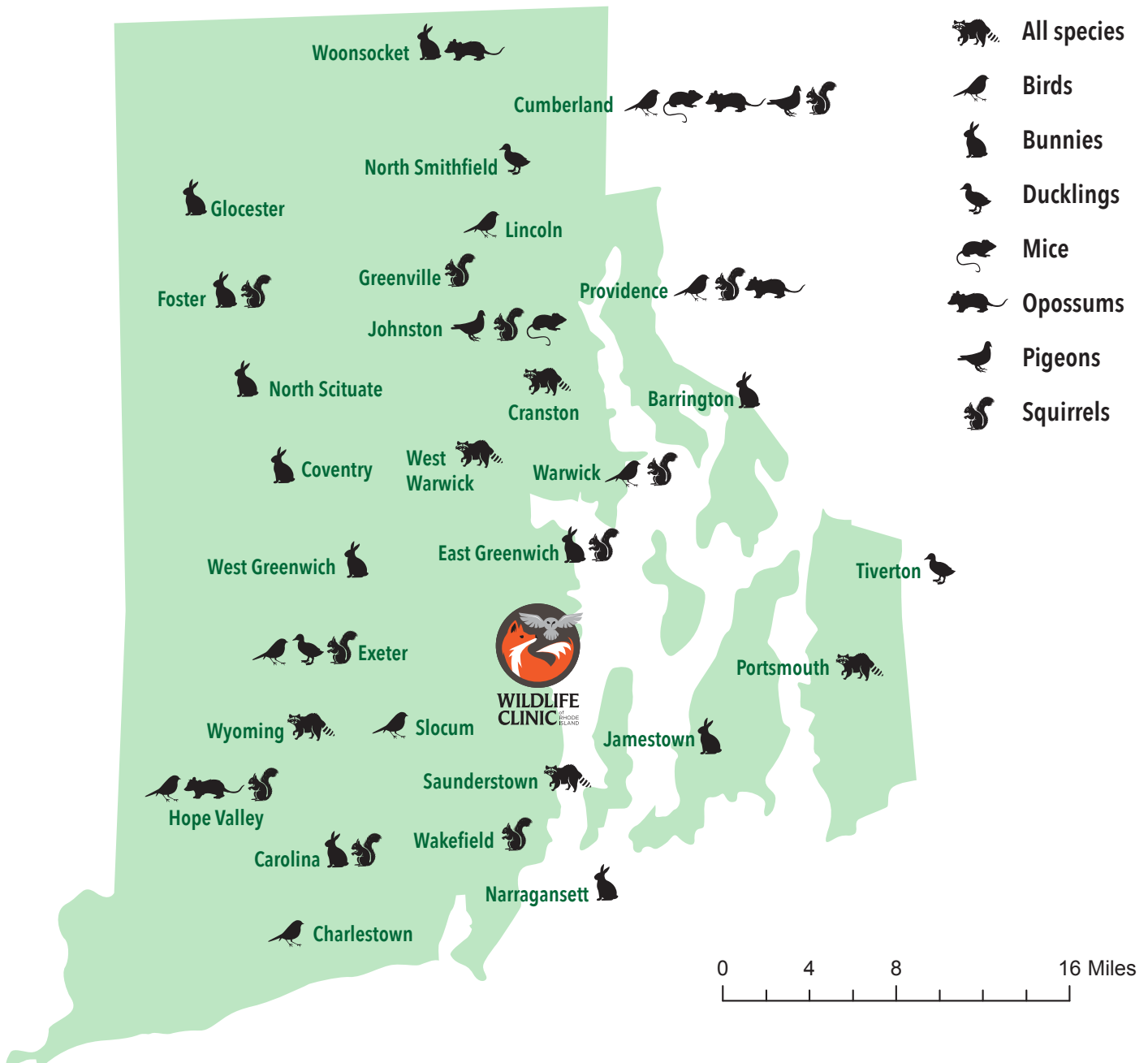
OUR NETWORK OF HOME REHABBERS HAS RHODE ISLAND COVERED

When we receive a call to the Wildlife Clinic Hotline (401-294-6363) it is determined if the animal needs to be brought to the Wildlife Clinic, or if the animal can go directly to one of our home rehabbers. If the finder is unable to drive the animal themselves, we have a network of transport volunteers ready to help.

If you would like to be a transport volunteer, please contact Volunteer Coordinator Olivia Harrington at oharrington@riwildliferehab.org



Barred Owlet being transported to the Wildlife Clinic.



FEATURED VOLUNTEER

Amy Sanderson

Amy is Director of Emergency Management for Student Health & Wellness at Brown University by day and a dedicated Wildlife Clinic of RI rehabilitator in her spare hours. After completing the subpermittee class, Amy joined the Wildlife Clinic as an animal care volunteer in March of 2023, and has since become fully licensed as a Level 2 rehabilitator.

Amy volunteers time at the Wildlife Clinic continuously learning and expanding her animal care skills and confidence, often in wildlife emergency management. Amy is truly a jill-of-all-trades who can be found preparing care areas, transporting animals or stocking supplies. Whatever the task, Amy approaches each with joy. Amy recalls with emotion her first visit to the Wildlife Clinic of RI when she transported an injured woodpecker from her Warren, RI neighborhood. She was incredibly pleased to be called a week later by our staff and told the bird had not only recovered but was now ready to return to the wild, would Amy like to be part of the experience? Amy said that the release experience was, “incredible” and that it solidified her desire to contribute to the Wildlife Clinic’s mission.

Amy’s gratitude for the Wildlife Clinic of RI community inspires her to continue giving back, one wildlife mission at a time. Despite being a busy professional, Amy says her volunteer time with the Wildlife Clinic makes her feel, “on the right path in life”. When three domestic pigeons were brought to the Wildlife Clinic last year, Amy stepped up to care for them knowing she could rely on our dedicated expert staff to support her, even after hours and in emergency situations. Pigeons have often been used as messengers in history and, a white pigeon, also known as a dove, represents peace. These white pigeons are often ceremonially



Meet Amy Sanderson, our own pigeon Mom!

released and, because they are already domesticated, cannot care for themselves in the wild. Amy proved to be a true wildlife advocate when she adopted these birds and gave them a permanent, safe home.

Amy reminds us that being a wildlife rehabilitator doesn’t mean you have to go it alone. While many volunteers come to help animals, just as many stay because of the human community that warmly welcomes them. Amy shares “the Wildlife Clinic takes a humbling and inspirational dedication to others to the ‘next level’ and offers an unparalleled spirit of teamwork”. If you would like to join Amy and the rest of the Wildlife Rehabilitators on their journey to save RI wildlife, please email info@riwildliferehab.org.

WE LOVE OUR VOLUNTEERS

At the Wildlife Clinic of Rhode Island, volunteers are the unsung heroes. With compassion in their hearts, they tend to injured animals, providing comfort and care. From cleaning enclosures to assisting with delicate procedures, their dedication is unwavering. Their selflessness ensures these precious creatures get a second chance at life.

Become A Volunteer!

Training requires two 3-hour zoom sessions and a test from RIDEM. See riwildliferehab.org for class offerings. The rewards are great!

VOICES OF SUPPORT

Thank you for all the lives you save and the compassion you show to wildlife in need. Your dedication to doing the right thing, even when it's difficult, is truly inspiring.



Rhode Island and the surrounding areas would be at a loss without your care, especially for the most vulnerable wildlife. We're so grateful for everything you do.

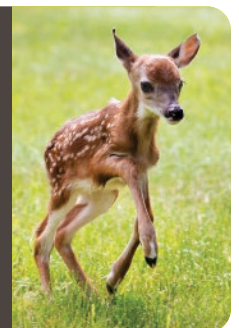


As one of your home rehabbers, I'm proud to be part of such a wonderful organization. The support you provide makes all the difference.

Your team's expertise, compassion, and coordination are amazing. It's comforting to know injured animals have a place to receive the care they need.

From emergency rescues to rehabilitation, your efforts are deeply appreciated. Thank you for helping these creatures get a second chance at life.

The work you do is challenging, but the outcomes are incredible. We're thankful for your commitment and compassion.



FINANCIAL: INCOME AND EXPENSES

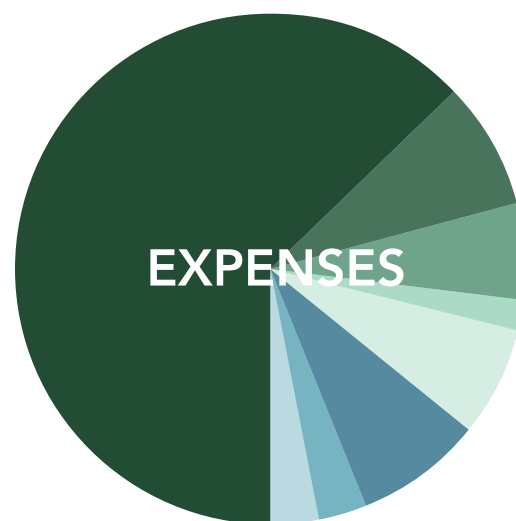
In 2024, our organization experienced a year of significant financial growth, reflecting the increased support and confidence in our mission. Our total assets grew by 6.6% to \$910,744, driven by a 44.2% increase in checking and savings accounts, which rose to \$184,492. This growth, combined with prudent financial management, resulted in a revenue surplus of \$60,637. A portion of this surplus will be invested in expanding our infrastructure and capacity to care for injured and orphaned wildlife in 2025 and beyond. Notably, we reduced our liabilities by 97.3%, strengthening our financial position and long-term sustainability.

In addition to these financial gains, we saw an increase in donor engagement. Our donor retention rate rose from 29% at the beginning of the year to 36% by year-end, with approximately 350 lapsed donors returning to support our mission. This renewed commitment highlights the community's growing confidence in our work and ensures we can continue providing essential care to Rhode Island's wildlife.



FUNDRAISING		
– Individual & Business Contributions	65.37%	\$411,716
– State & Local Government Appropriations	20.43%	\$128,654
FOUNDATION GRANTS	9.99%	\$62,866
EVENTS	2.48%	\$15,646
MISCELLANEOUS	1.72%	\$10,819

TOTAL INCOME 2024: \$629,701



SALARY & WAGES	63%	\$360,798
CAPITAL IMPROVEMENTS	8%	\$46,700
OPERATIONS	6%	\$34,283
CONTRACT SERVICES	2%	\$11,257
FEED & FORMULA	7%	\$39,380
FACILITIES & EQUIPMENT	8%	\$43,695
FUNDRAISING PROGRAMS	3%	\$17,880
BUSINESS EXPENSES	3%	\$15,071

TOTAL EXPENSES 2024: \$569,064

YOU CAN HELP SAVE WILD LIVES

Make a Donation

Support the Wildlife Clinic with a one-time donation or a recurring monthly gift. Your donation ensures that we can meet the needs of over 6,000 animals that come to us for care each year. Please make checks payable to: Wildlife Clinic of Rhode Island, 2865 Tower Hill Road, Saunderstown, RI 02874. You can also donate online via our website riwildliferehab.org.

Sponsor or Attend Our Events

A sponsorship is a great way to show your commitment to wildlife and conservation at one of our annual events, while getting the word out about your business. Presenting event sponsors receive media placement on our website, messaging and social media, reaching upwards of 10,000 individuals. Please inquire about our annual events and current sponsorship opportunities.

Employer Gift Matching

Many employers offer to match your charitable contribution to a nonprofit organization and some provide matching funds to support employee volunteer hours as well. These programs are a great way to double the impact of your charitable contribution. Simply ask your Human Resources department if your employer participates in an Employee Matching Gift Program.

Planned Giving - Wills and Trusts

Let your passion for wildlife become your legacy! Bequests are generally easy to write, are revocable, and you can change beneficiaries at any time. They cost nothing during your lifetime and they are very personal.

Planned Giving - Qualified Charitable Distribution

If you are over age 70½ with an IRA, you can support the organization in a tax-advantaged way! Qualifications: 1) Donors must be 70½ years or older at time of transfer; 2) Maximum transfer of \$108,000 per individual per year; 3) Gifts must be outright (gifts to donor advised funds or life income vehicles do not qualify); 4) Gift must be transferred directly from the IRA account by the IRA administrator to the Wildlife Clinic of Rhode Island.



Girl Scouts of Southern New England donated to help save wild lives. Ruddy Duck and Fisher on the mend.

THE IMPORTANCE OF OUR WILDLIFE FUND APPEAL

The Wildlife Clinic of RI relies heavily on our wildlife fund, which provides one-fifth of our total revenue. These essential funds support our general operations, allowing us to deliver critical services such as caring for injured and orphaned wildlife and advancing our educational programs. Your con-

tributions to this fund are vital to our mission. We urge you to support us through a donation, ensuring we can continue our work in fostering respect and understanding for Rhode Island's wildlife. Thank you for your generosity and dedication to our cause.



Thank you for helping wild lives!

The Wildlife Rehabilitators Association of Rhode Island – dba The Wildlife Clinic of Rhode Island – is a non-profit organization that provides professional care for injured and orphaned wildlife with the goal of returning them to their natural habitats. Through the efforts of the Wildlife Clinic and our licensed home rehabilitators we help approximately 6,000 wild animals every year. We rely on donations from generous individuals like you.



WILDLIFE
CLINIC of
RHODE
ISLAND

2865 Tower Hill Road, Saunderstown, RI 02874

riwildliferehab.org