



WILDLIFE
CLINIC of
RHODE
ISLAND

CELEBRATING **30** YEARS



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DEDICATED TO THE CARE OF INJURED AND ORPHANED WILDLIFE IN RHODE ISLAND

Since 1993, Wildlife Rehabilitators Association of Rhode Island (WRARI) has been providing medical and rehabilitative care for ALL species of wildlife in the State of Rhode Island. We are committed to fostering an understanding and respect for all Rhode Island wildlife through education, promoting the professionalism of licensed wildlife rehabilitators, and offering practical assistance with wildlife issues. We provide quality and humane care to injured, sick, and orphaned wildlife. In 2021, we introduced a new brand identity and are now recognized publicly as the Wildlife Clinic of Rhode Island, which encompasses both our physical facility in Saunderstown, RI, and our network of home rehabilitators.

We are licensed by both the state and federal government and help nearly 6,000 wild patients each year from all corners of the state. We raise orphaned or injured wild babies and assist injured adults with the goal of releasing them back into the wild. The location in Saunderstown provides medical and rehabilitative services, as well as food and board, to injured, sick, or orphaned wildlife. We also support licensed home rehabilitators in Rhode Island in a variety of ways, including providing food and supplies.

In addition to serving Rhode Island wildlife through rehabilitation efforts, we are committed to promoting communication and the dissemination of information among the wildlife rehabilitation community and to the general public through conferences, newsletters, social media, and other educational materials. We also assist in the development and enforcement of adequate regulations concerning wildlife and work collaboratively with state and federal agencies, and we provide subpermittee trainings. Once permitted by Rhode Island Department of Environmental Management, subpermittees may work under a fully licensed Rhode Island wildlife rehabilitator to help raise certain species of orphaned wildlife including squirrels, opossums, rabbits, and baby birds.

A MESSAGE FROM OUR EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR

I am pleased to be sharing our first Annual Report with you, in conjunction with the 30th Anniversary of the Wildlife Rehabilitators Association of Rhode Island. This issue represents three decades of contributions from countless home rehabbers, in-clinic volunteers, dedicated staff members, board members, and donors.

In 1993, our founders could hardly have foreseen the remarkable adventure they were initiating by responding to the needs of injured and orphaned animals in Rhode Island. In reaction to state regulation changes that increased requirements for handling distressed wildlife, this small group of private citizens took on the challenge of helping every single animal, regardless of species, that needed human intervention to survive. The regulations were clear - without trained and licensed rehabilitators, every single animal would face euthanasia.

In 2000, the first iteration of the Wildlife Clinic of Rhode Island was established in half of a two-car garage with no heat or water. Through grants and donations, the space was made usable and managed care for approximately 3,000 wild patients annually, on site and at licensed rehabilitators' homes. This was accomplished entirely by volunteers committed to saving wild animals in the state.

Today, the Clinic is responsible for providing medical and rehabilitative care for every species in need within our state, with the exception of marine mammals and sea-turtles. The Clinic is outfitted with a surgical suite, and includes X-ray capability. The organization overall still operates primarily by volunteers, trained and licensed as required by the state and federal government. Our wildlife patients now exceed 6,000 birds and mammals per year. The system has evolved to include an after-hours coordinator who can provide direction to citizens needing help after clinic hours and a trained volunteer transport system ensuring every animal receives care.



There is still so much we can do for Rhode Island wildlife. I invite you to become a part of our story and what we can accomplish together in the next 30 years.

Warm Regards,

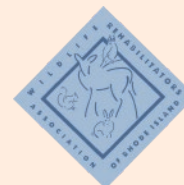
Kristin V. Fletcher

Kristin Fletcher,
Executive Director



REBRANDING THE ORGANIZATION

In 1993, a dozen home rehabbers joined together to form the Wildlife Rehabilitators Association of Rhode Island (WRARI). In 2018, we finally secured our own headquarters, the Wildlife Clinic, with the goal of providing veterinary care at a centralized location. Now we have a new professional logo and are modernizing the organization. Going forward, we are the Wildlife Clinic of Rhode Island – including our network of home rehabbers (WRARI).



1993 – 2021



2021 – onward

We appreciate your support!

BOARD OF DIRECTORS

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

WILDLIFE CLINIC STAFF

- Kristin Fletcher,
Executive Director
- Dr. Mo Rayfield Beck, DVM,
Veterinarian
- Arianna Mouradjian,
Director of Operations
- Olivia LaPorte,
Volunteer Coordinator
- Elisha Zonfrilli,
After Hours Coordinator
- Leanne Matullo,
Philanthropy Consultant

The Wildlife Clinic operates with:

- 10 staff members
 - Veterinarian
 - Director of Operations
 - After Hours Coordinator
 - Volunteer Coordinator
 - Wildlife Tech (x4)
 - Vet Tech Assistant
 - Receptionist
- 67 in clinic volunteers
- 63 home rehabbers
- 56 designated transporters
- 5 interns

A MESSAGE FROM OUR BOARD CHAIR

On behalf of the Board of Directors, we are so excited to share our first Annual report with you, our generous and supportive community. This report is only now possible because of the many hours, days, and years of work that preceded it. From our humble beginnings as a group of passionate individuals seeking to rehabilitate injured and orphaned animals in our homes, we have evolved into a formal network of Wildlife Rehabilitators, licensed by the State of RI, and bolstered by a new emergency veterinary care facility. Through it all, our dedicated staff and volunteers continue to support our most vulnerable patients, the injured and orphaned wildlife of Rhode Island.



In the pages that follow, you will meet some of our dedicated volunteers and staff along with the patients they care for. You will learn about the capabilities of our facility in Saunderstown and the advances made possible through the addition of a full-time veterinarian. You will gain an understanding of the tremendous commitment and time that our home rehabbers invest in saving those entrusted to their care.

Our mission is to foster an understanding and respect for all Rhode Island wildlife. Our work is to provide quality and humane care to injured and orphaned wildlife, with the goal of release back into the environment. This is what drives everything that we do. To achieve these aims, we must also be responsible stewards of the generous resources provided to us by our community. We are proud to have been able to do so much with so little. Take a moment to review the financial report from our treasurer and to thank those generous donors and organizations who have supported our efforts.



Our Board and leadership thank you for your support, whether you are a donor or employee, a foundation or volunteer, an elected representative or a citizen who has brought an animal in need to our doors. We all share a love for animals and a desire to save wildlife, one life at a time.

Sandy Coletta

Sandy Coletta,
Board Chair

4,567

PATIENTS ADMITTED TO THE CLINIC

1,500*

PATIENTS DIRECTLY ADMITTED TO A HOME REHABBER

*2022 estimate derived from DEM reporting

186

DIFFERENT SPECIES ADMITTED IN 2022

1,206
EASTERN
COTTONTAILS



365
GRAY
SQUIRRELS



315
VIRGINIA
OPOSSUMS



232
SNAPPING
TURTLES



IN 2022, THE WILDLIFE CLINIC AND ITS PARTNERS RELEASED
3,478 ANIMALS BACK INTO THEIR NATURAL HABITATS

40.3% CLINIC RELEASE

TRANSFER & RELEASE 59.7%



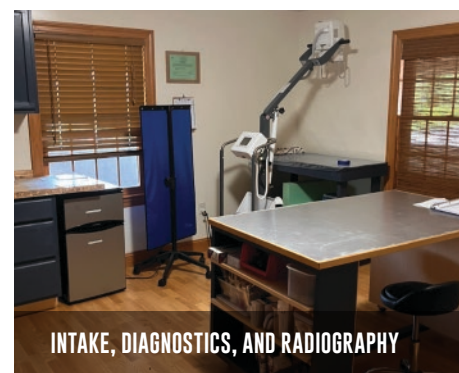
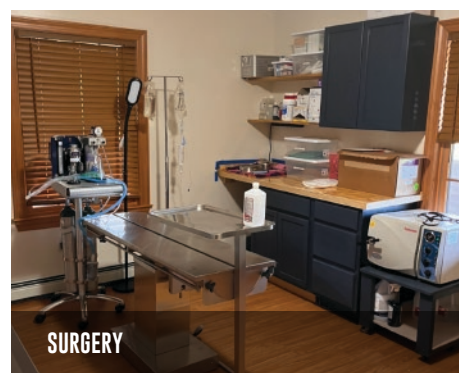
A TOUR OF OUR WILDLIFE CLINIC

When you come to bring in an injured animal or make a visit, you'll enter the property by 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 pay us regular visits here.

The Wildlife Clinic of Rhode Island is an impressive sight, especially on a blue sky 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 a home for injured and orphaned animals.

The Clinic includes:

- An intake room
- Medical prep area and on-site surgery
- Indoor and outdoor animal enclosures
- Food prep area for individualized animal diets
- Spaces for rabies vector species
- An intensive care unit
- Full kitchen for staff and volunteers
- Just over 5 acres of land

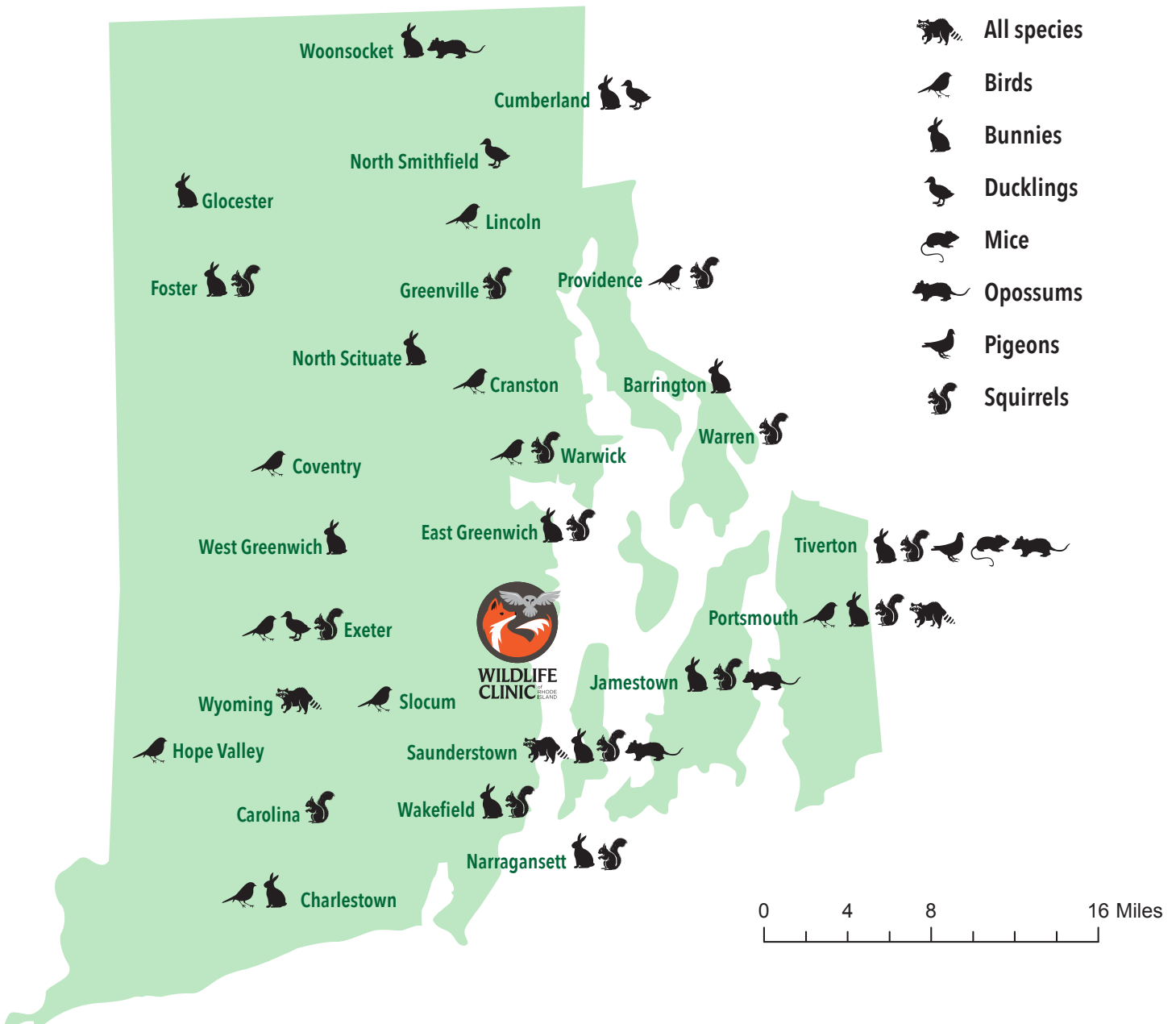


When you enter the building, you'll be greeted by our Office Manager, Brianna, in our foyer. This is where we ask questions about the wildlife you bring in, and where you also might meet Dr. Beck and members of the animal care team who come to triage the animals and examine them. Down the hall, we have transformed a bathroom into an isolation room for sick animals, as well as an intake room and a surgery room. Downstairs is the main animal treatment room and supply space. 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 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 LaPorte at oharrington@riwildliferehab.org



OUR NEW VETERINARIAN, DR. BECK

In October 2022, the Wildlife Clinic hired our first full-time veterinarian, Mo Rayfield Beck, DVM, CertAqV (they/them). Dr. Beck graduated from Cornell University College of Veterinary Medicine and completed two internships at Ocean State Veterinary Specialists. Dr. Beck enjoys spending time by the ocean and appreciates being able to see Rhode Island wildlife in nature.

"I am truly fascinated by the interconnectedness of our world. One of the reasons that I am so passionate about wildlife medicine and conservation is because it spans the dimensions of human, non-human animal, and environmental wellbeing. I could spend hours avidly discussing all of the intricate connections between wildlife and human health."

- From "Moving Forward with Wildlife: implications of the connection between wildlife health, human disease, and how we can all be conservationists," featured in *Medium* April 2, 2020. medium.com/@mariahbeck



Dr. Beck and Mariah, animal care staff, are examining a Purple Martin bird in the intake room.

NEW EQUIPMENT AND DIAGNOSTIC CAPABILITIES



Animal care staff, Charlene and Caroline, are monitoring vitals and keeping charts while Dr. Miranda de la Vega (of OSVS) performs surgery on our Barred Owl patient.



Dr. Beck and staff members Mariah and Caroline showing off our first X-Ray taken at the clinic of a Mute Swan.

DIAGNOSTICS

- Radiographs
- Blood chemistry
- PCV/TS
- Blood smears
- Fecals
- Lead testing with data collection
- Cultures
- Infectious disease testing

SURGERY

- Improved safety for anesthesia (active scavenging)
- Array of endotracheal tubes
- Monitoring equipment (doppler, vetcorder, EMMA, NIBP)
- Avian orthopedic surgery equipment with first orthopedic surgery on site completed
- Fume extractor to remove isoflurane gasses and improve staff safety

TREATMENT

- New medications in use
- Regional limb perfusions
- Physical therapy (anesthesia, goniometer)
- Surgery (wound management, drains, tail tip amputations, orthopedic surgery)
- Improved pain management
- Improved fluid therapy (plus IO/IV options)
- Improved antimicrobial stewardship

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. Check riwildliferehab.org for class offerings. The rewards are great!



FEATURED VOLUNTEER: DIANA DUCHARME

Diana began volunteering with the Wildlife Clinic in 2015. A long-time resident of the Ocean State, she is a founding partner and member of Cervenka, Green & Ducharme, LLC, Rhode Island's first women-owned business law firm. In 2019, she signed up for her first sub-permittee training, then another, and then another... At this point, she can do basically everything at the Clinic including rabies vector species work. At home, she's settled into songbirds and bunnies. We asked her to reflect on some aspects of the Clinic.



As a Level 2X rehabilitator, can you provide readers a lens into "a day in a life"?

This is my fourth baby season and the second year since I began caring for bunnies as well as songbirds and non-raptor care (I am not licensed for raptors at home). On average I'm picking up and caring for 5 or more per week. They cycle through the system, so I may pick up a few one day and a whole nest the next. You get some fantastic surprises with animals you may think initially won't make it... but they can and do.

One of the wonderful aspects of the Clinic is it is such an individual-outcome focused organization versus being population focused. Can you share your thoughts on what this means to you?

I used to say, in the beginning, there is no way... why did these get brought to me? Even an invasive species like Starlings... For me, I'll rehab anything even if it's invasive because it didn't ask to be put here. I think every life means something. Just because we're not making a dent in a population, it meant a lot for that life. I'm not going to question the sanctity of whether you're a rat or a crow. I feel privileged and honored to do this work. I acquired the skills and I'm just being allowed this quick, short, window into nature to try to help in some way.

What adjectives would you use to describe the clinic? What do you appreciate most about it?

People affiliated with the Clinic would laugh at this characterization, but I would say tireless. The nature of the job is you are called to help on a 24/7 basis even if the Clinic isn't open 24/7. The volunteers, the rehabbers, whether offsite or onsite, they live it. It's not just a job, it's a calling. It's tireless passion that calls everyone. You can see it and you can feel it. People are super energized and motivated, working towards the same goals.

FEATURED VOLUNTEER: STEVE PRASHAW

Steve has volunteered with the Wildlife Clinic of Rhode Island since the summer of 2020 but has a lifetime of caring for wildlife in one way or another, dating back to his childhood in upstate New York. He moved to Rhode Island in 1981 to begin his career as a mechanical engineer at the Naval Undersea Warfare Center in Newport, where he still works.

Steve has tremendous enthusiasm and, above all, respect for wildlife. "A life is a life," he says. "When that raccoon shows up in your garbage, they're only there because we've cleared out so much of their food, and they still need to survive. The animals are adapting to us, I think we have to do what we can to help care for them when we've encroached on so much of their natural habitat."



Steve took his sub-permittee class in early 2020, and his passion for and desire to work with raptors along with a wide gamut of other species drove him to advance his training to become a level-two rehabilitator and become fully vaccinated to work with rabies vector species. Steve is at the clinic every Saturday and is always eager to check the whiteboard first. He notes, "Things change so much in just a week." However, it's not just animal care work that makes his contributions so impactful.

As an engineer, Steve has an eye for solutions and has helped to improve caging and infrastructure, often overhearing a conversation about a project that needs doing and chiming in quickly with "I can do that." Advancing the organization's mission of caring for animals, to Steve, means a "whatever it takes" approach, and he is as happy to be giving direct care to animals as he is to clean cages, fix frozen faucets, be shadowed by new volunteers, or anything else that makes the Wildlife Clinic tick. Despite his numerous contributions, Steve is fast to deflect praise onto his fellow volunteers. "The amazing thing," he says, "is some people volunteering here all day at the clinic are then going home to take care of the animals they have at their house."

Steve looks forward to his continued work at the Wildlife Clinic and plans to convert his home barn into caging to extend his work to home rehabilitation upon retirement.



CELEBRATING 30 YEARS

1993

- Organization is officially registered as a nonprofit
- First paper newsletters start circulating
- First version of the Wildlife Clinic is established in a garage space provided by Dr. Bird, veterinary care becomes more accessible
- RI State regulation changes to Subpermittee level licenses - increasing the ability of residents to handle healthy orphans of specific species
- First training courses launched in Peacedale, RI
- Kristin Fletcher becomes the Executive Director
- Home rehabbers increasingly start specializing in species
- Training series expands and formalizes
- Arianna Mouradjian (current Director of Operations) joins
- RIDEM and RIDOH regulation changes enable the rehabbing of bats
- Current website domain purchased and first social media accounts created
- Operations move from Dr. Bird's garage into 240 Shermantown Rd, Saunderstown
- Current property site, 2865 Tower Hill Road, is purchased by Dr. Chan, volunteer vet for the Clinic
- Operations move into the current Clinic building
- Rhode Island Foundation funding builds new raccoon suites, eagle, deer and small flight pens
- Clinic property is purchased from Dr. Chan
- Zoning changed to make the clinic space an emergency medical facility for wildlife

2023

- The first full-time vet (Dr. Beck) is made available and funded



FEATURED REHABILITATION BALD EAGLE

For just the second time in the nearly 30 year history of The Wildlife Clinic of Rhode Island, our entire community shared in the joy of releasing a juvenile Bald Eagle. Brought into our care in May of 2022 after being found downed at the base of his nest, X-rays revealed he fractured both right lower leg bones during a fall. After stabilization the first few days, he was taken to surgery to pin the bones. Using external fixation – a device to keep bones in alignment – allowed the juvenile to stand during his healing process, critical for a bird his size. He received weekly PT sessions and multiple X-rays to monitor the healing process.

“It was a true team effort. We had to be keenly observant, sensitive, and methodical in the rehab process to ensure we were putting this juvenile in the best position possible for a full recovery and optimal quality of life. The gains made were amazing and heartwarming.” – Arianna Mouradjian, Director of Operations

After two months of strict cage rest, the pins were removed and he was moved to an outdoor cage where he immediately started to feed independently and strengthen his wings. The cage was our newly constructed 60 ft flight cage – aptly named The Eagle Cage! Once cleared for release he was carefully returned to the location of his nest in August of 2022. He flew off with grace and strength to hopefully reunite with his recently seen father and brother.

A massive shoutout to our incredible veterinary team and animal care staff who have devoted tireless amounts of time to his care.



This juvenile Bald Eagle, rescued from the ground with a broken leg, has healed, been released, and is shown here in a tree near its nest in Coventry.

FEATURED REHABILITATION BOBCAT KITTENS

For the first time in our history, we received orphaned bobcat kittens to rear. Our incredibly hard-working volunteer veterinarian, Dr. Chan, raised the three bobcat kittens after they were found showing symptoms of being orphaned. Although bobcat populations are growing in RI, they are an unusual species to pass through our clinic.

Rehabilitating orphaned bobcat cubs involves nurturing their survival instincts. Caretakers feed them a diet primarily composed of small mammals like rabbits and rodents. Socialization is limited to prevent imprinting, ensuring their successful release back into their natural habitat.



We are so proud to return these bobcats back to the wild where they belong!

FUNDRAISING EVENTS

Our events are designed to generate important resources for the Clinic, while also connecting with our community of wildlife supporters. The Wildlife Baby Shower and the Golf Tournament are two of our perennial favorites!

The Wildlife Baby Shower takes place in the spring, also known as “baby season.” It’s a time for the community to shower the clinic with the necessary supplies that we’ll need to care for the influx of orphaned and injured baby animals that fill our halls and enclosures during the season. In recent years - like many other organizations - we have become creative in how we share our events with virtual and hybrid formats. Individuals can make monetary gifts to the Clinic or send in baby shower presents that we share via a wildlife baby registry.



Our annual Golf Tournament occurs in late summer where teams enjoy friendly competition on the greens followed by a catered dinner at Cranston Country Club. This event offers a chance to raise awareness about the Clinic to new supporters, and provides the Clinic with unrestricted funds that are critical to accessing our most needed medical supplies, surgical equipment, enclosure upgrades, and so on.



Please inquire about attending or sponsoring an event: info@riwildliferehab.org.

FUTURE GOALS AND ASPIRATIONS

Provide new equipment to our surgery room

Increase animal care staff hours & intern program

Upgrade access to the Clinic with larger signage, lighting, and a newly paved entry road

Refurbish the animal cages and enclosures

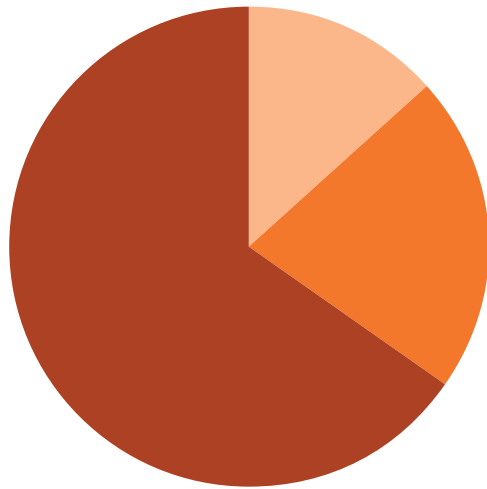
Improve our transport system for injured animals to get to the help they need




Expand capacity to support aquatic birds

Enrich our educational programming



FINANCIAL: INCOME AND EXPENSES

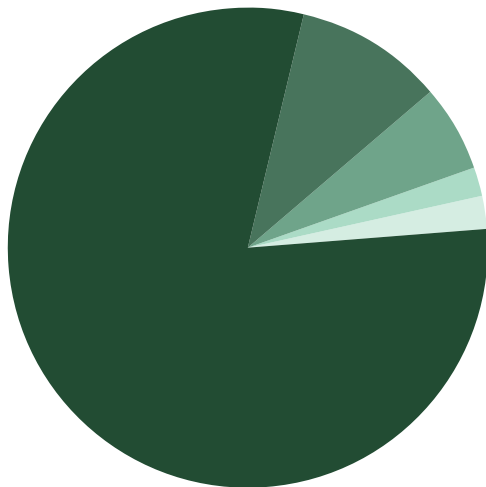


	PUBLIC SUPPORT 64%	\$251,500
	EVENTS & PROGRAMS 21%	\$82,600
	GRANTS 15%	\$59,250

TOTAL INCOME 2022: \$393,350

INCOME

We have come a long way and our financial position is now stronger than ever. The Wildlife Clinic of Rhode Island has taken several steps to build our financial standing and ensure efficient and reliable execution of our mission, including securing ownership of the land and building for the continued operation of our clinic, growing our reserve funds, and expanding our fundraising capabilities through the hiring of a dedicated development officer.



	OPERATIONS* 80%	\$310,200
	FACILITIES & EQUIPMENT 10%	\$40,300
	EVENTS & DEVELOPMENT 6%	\$23,000
	PERMITS & INSURANCE 2%	\$9,300
	CONTRACT SERVICES 2%	\$7,300

TOTAL EXPENSES 2022: \$393,100

EXPENSES

*Operations is inclusive of all activities and materials in direct service of the primary mission of the Wildlife Clinic of Rhode Island. This includes medical supplies, veterinary services, animal care staff, caging, and food supplies, among other areas.

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. You can also purchase a ticket to join our annual Golf Tournament held in the summer.

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 - IRA ROLLOVER

If you're a Wildlife Clinic enthusiast over age 70½ with an IRA you can support the organization in a tax-wise way! Qualifications: 1) Donors must be 70½ years or older at time of transfer; 2) Maximum transfer of \$100,000; 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.



Top: Pie-billed Grebe. Bottom: Coyote pup.



JOIN OUR WILDLIFE CLUB!

As a member of the Wildlife Club, you will help to sustain and expand the work of the Wildlife Clinic of Rhode Island, incorporating the Wildlife Rehabilitators Association of RI (WRARI). Right now, our staff and volunteer home rehabbers service over 6000 wild patients each year. All wild patients are welcome here, big and small.

For more information visit: riwildliferehab.org/wildlifeclub



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 Clinic and our licensed home rehabilitators we help approximately 6,000 wild animals every year. We rely on donations from generous individuals like you.



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