



# SPECIAL EDITION Second Stories

SECOND CHANCE WILDLIFE CENTER'S NEWSLETTER

JULY 2025

## DR. NATALIE ZIMMERMAN JOINS SCWC!



From a young age, Dr. Zimmerman dreamed of becoming a wildlife veterinarian. While many people shared that childhood ambition, she turned it into a degree and a career - and we're so glad she did!

Dr. Zimmerman joins SCWC with a wealth of experience and a heart full of compassion. She's a skilled and incredibly knowledgeable veterinary professional and a joy to work with - bringing warmth and an engaging presence to all she does.

Her journey to becoming a licensed wildlife vet at Second Chance has taken her far and wide. She earned her Bachelor of Science degree in Biology from the University of Michigan and her Doctor of Veterinary Medicine degree from the University of Illinois. In pursuing her doctorate, she conducted epidemiological research on Eastern Box Turtles, cared for and studied big cats at a Florida sanctuary, and worked with a variety of species at major zoological institutions including Cleveland Metroparks Zoo, Brookfield Zoo, Detroit Zoo, and Milwaukee County Zoo. At the University of Illinois' Wildlife Medical Clinic, she provided veterinary care and served as a team leader, mentoring and training students and volunteers. She also completed a small animal rotating internship and worked as an ER veterinarian at a small animal emergency and specialty hospital in Akron, Ohio. Most recently, Dr. Zimmerman was part of the veterinary staff at the Wildlife Center of Virginia. In short, she brings a broad and impressive range of experience to SCWC, and we are thrilled to have her on board!

Dr. Zimmerman replaces Dr. Lance who is relocating to another state with her husband for his new career opportunity. Read more about Dr. Lance's SCWC legacy on page 4.

Some of her favorite species to work with include Box Turtles, Virginia Opossums, Barred owls, Kestrels & Eastern Screech-Owls. When not saving wildlife, she enjoys camping, hiking, movies and board games.

She will be helping us expand our profile in scientific research projects, rehabber training, and educating the public on how to protect & safely co-exist with wildlife.

This special edition includes:

- Dr. Zimmerman Joins SCWC
- SCWC Launches a new merchandise platform
- Photos showing progress on our new facility
- We bid a fond farewell to Dr. Kelsey Lance

**Our average cost per patient is currently about \$289 – and each year we admit more than 2,600 patients.**

Demand for our services is tremendous. Donations to-date are lower than in 2024. Prices for essential supplies have increased greatly and continue to rise. Your ongoing and generous support is more important than before.

**Please give today.**



Clinic Dir. Hannah Wilson (L) with Dr. Zimmerman

At SCWC, we provide specialized, licensed care tailored to each wild patient's unique needs. Some require formula delivered by bottle or feeding tube every hour. Others must be hand-fed live worms with tweezers. A few need live fish or insects shipped directly to us with special handling charges. Many come to us orphaned, pregnant, or suffering from severe trauma - striking windows, hit by cars, slashed by lawnmowers, or attacked by outdoor pets. Some have been victims of human cruelty - shot with arrows, intentionally run over, or pelted with rocks. They need medications for comfort and to treat infections, bandages and stitches for wounds, x-rays, blood testing, and much more. Your support is essential. Every donation helps us ease pain, end suffering, and gives these animals a second chance at life.

### RECENT PATIENTS - EACH WITH UNIQUE NEEDS REQUIRING SPECIAL RESOURCES



Juvenile Eastern Grey Squirrel



Nestling Eastern Bluebirds



Adult Cedar Waxwing



Adult Great Blue Heron



Gravid (pregnant) Canada Goose



Fledgling Fish Crow



Juvenile Virginia Opossum



Fledgling Common Grackle



Adult Male Indigo Bunting



## UPDATES ON OUR NEW FACILITY PROJECT & NAMING OPPORTUNITIES

The main building is almost finished, extensive security and fire systems are operating 24/7, room-specific climate control for the needs of different specials is functional, a generator that will power us for days should our neighborhood lose electricity is operational, bird strike prevention decals are on the windows, and we are now focused on the building of our outdoor pre-release enclosures (providing 10x more such space than we have today). These enclosures will have professionally designed and installed lighting, water and drainage systems, perching platforms for birds and custom feeding "chutes" for some mammals, and additional security cameras will be installed at these structures, too.

We will wrap things up with paving the parking lot, signage, adding privacy fencing, and professional landscaping (100% donated by Ruppert Landscape) with native plants and trees before our grand opening in Clarksburg (currently planned for October 2025). Oh, yes, there will also be the physical move of furnishings and patients just before opening – a logistical challenge but one for which we have been preparing for over many months.



A few rooms and outdoor enclosures remain available for naming in honor of you, a loved one, a business, etc. For more information, contact Second Chance's president, Maureen Smith, at [MSmith@SCWC.org](mailto:MSmith@SCWC.org). These gifts will go toward providing operational resources for animal care and housing, and wherever else they are needed most. Imagine your name proudly displayed at this state-of-the-art facility - knowing that countless injured, ill, and orphaned wild animals will receive expert and compassionate care for decades to come thanks, in part, to your generosity and wonderful heart.



Surgical "wet" tables & lights



Animal Food Prep Kitchen



Several outdoor enclosures in progress (late June 2025) on 8+ acres. Main Clinic Building is in the distance (right). More to be built on parts of the land not pictured here, including Maryland's only 100'x20' flight training enclosure. Thank you to all who have made this possible while keeping current operations funded! We ❤️ our donors!

## CELEBRATE OUR 30<sup>th</sup> ANNIVERSARY, SPREAD AWARENESS OF SCWC & HELP WILDLIFE



What better way to show your support for SCWC, make others aware of the unique and skilled services we provide, and to help you spot other SCWC supporters out in "the wild" than with branded merchandise custom ordered, easily purchased, and shipped directly to you? Check-out these items and many more, currently available today! We'll be adding more in the future.

**Go to: [www.Bonfire.com/store/second-chance-wildlife-center/](http://www.Bonfire.com/store/second-chance-wildlife-center/) or use this QR code >**



Although Bonfire is a third-party service and SCWC only receives a small portion of these sales, using Bonfire allows us to focus staff time on animal care instead of processing orders and returns, responding to emails about products, and storing inventory on-site, while also raising much needed awareness for our work and for wildlife in need.

*Direct all customer service inquiries regarding orders, shipping, and returns directly to [Bonfire.com/contact/](http://Bonfire.com/contact/)*

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### THANK YOU, DR. LANCE

After six remarkable years with Second Chance Wildlife Center, we bid a fond farewell to Dr. Kelsey Lance, who will soon be relocating out of state to begin a new chapter following her recent marriage. Dr. Lance first joined SCWC in 2019 as a volunteer wildlife veterinarian, bringing with her deep expertise and an inspiring passion for wildlife medicine. Her impact was immediate and profound. Thanks to generous donor support we created a full-time Wildlife Veterinarian staff position for her two years ago.

Since then, Dr. Lance has become a key part of the SCWC team. Working hand-in-hand with Clinic Director Hannah Wilson, her innovation and clinical excellence helped to elevate our medical protocols and improve care for our patients of all species. She also led workshops to strengthen staff proficiency in physical exams, wound care, and pain management - initiatives that will continue to benefit both our team and the animals we serve for years to come.

From helping Hannah design the layout of our new building to maximize patient care "flow" (from the admissions desk through each care room needed), and planning species-appropriate outdoor enclosures, she has helped ensure that our new facility in Clarksburg will be a modern, efficient, and functional wildlife hospital with room for expansion in the future, if needed.

One of her proudest achievements was helping to design our critically needed and state-of-the-art 100' x 20' outdoor flight rehabilitation enclosure for raptors - her favorite patients - which will be the only one of its kind in Maryland.

Dr. Lance also played an instrumental role in selecting her successor, Dr. Zimmerman, ensuring a smooth and thoughtful transition for our team and our patients.

While we are sad to see her leave, we are forever grateful for the incredible legacy Dr. Lance leaves behind, and we thank her from the bottom of our hearts for all she has given us, our patients, and to all who care deeply about wildlife.

