



Blue Ridge Wildlife Center

Maddie Kupinsky

College Park Scholars – Science & Global Change Program

Animal and Avian Sciences

Kupinsky@terpmail.umd.edu

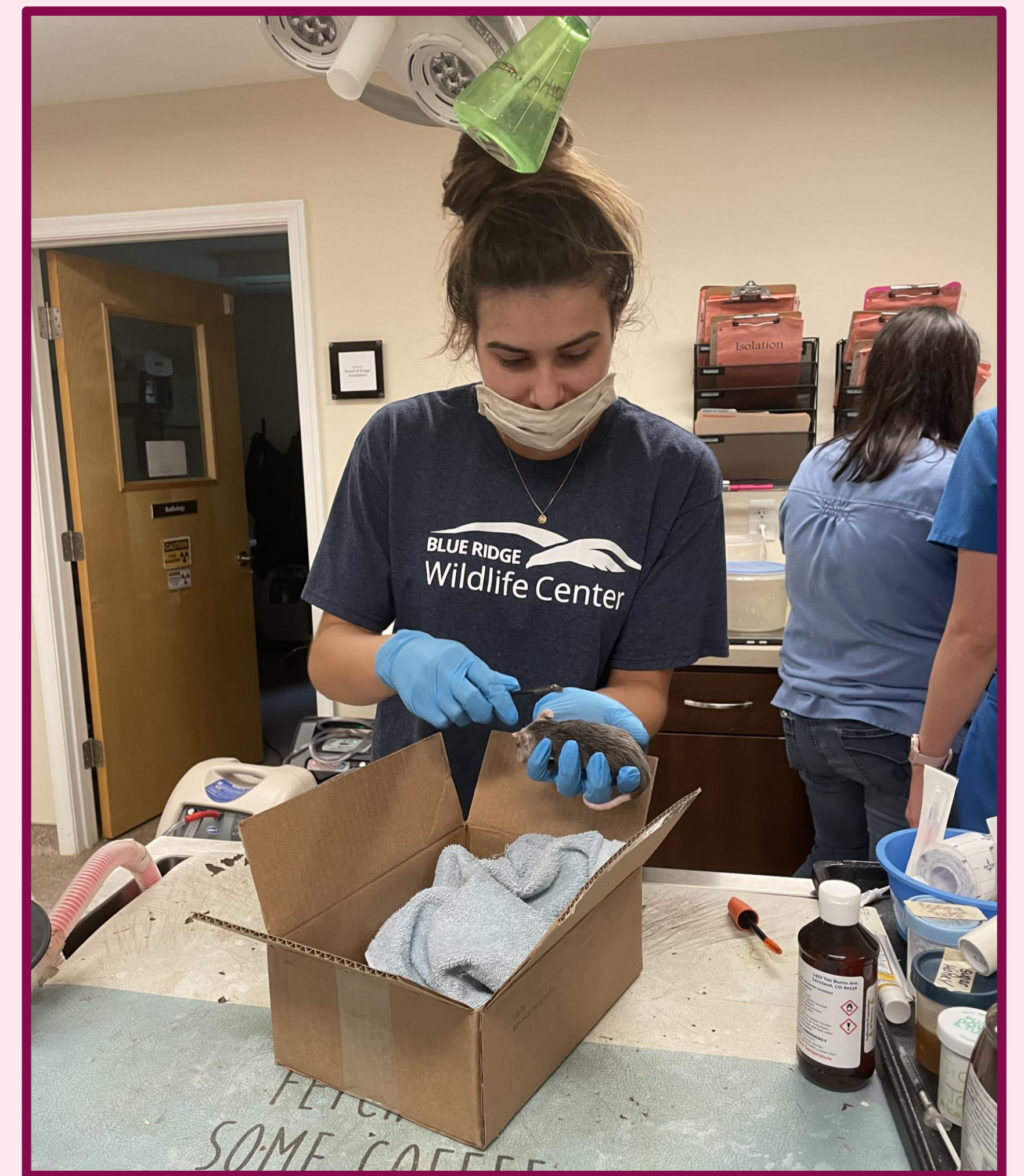
College Park Scholars Academic Showcase, May 6, 2022



Taking care of a Black Vulture in it's outdoor rehabilitation enclosure.



Mallard ducks in the recently built enclosure for them.



Removing maggots from a juvenile opossum in the veterinary clinic.

Issues Confronting Site: I interned at Blue Ridge Wildlife Center (BRWC) this past Summer of 2021. It is in Boyce, Virginia and is a wildlife veterinary hospital, rehabilitation clinic, and education center.

Activities: Working with a team, I aided in the rehabilitation of native species to Virginia. I worked with various species of songbirds, Mallard ducks, Turkey Vultures, Black Vultures, Bats, foxes, skunks, Box turtles, Snapping turtles, Virginia opossums and Eastern Gray squirrels. Some of the skills I learned were how to administer subcutaneous injections to turtles, feed newly born birds with formula and mealworms, properly handle opossums and address / wrap injuries of various species, particularly broken turtle shells and broken birds' legs.

Impact: While interning at BRWC I helped rehabilitate hundreds of animals. Each year, BRWC tends to 2,000-3,000 wild animals. Due to the team's hard work, if an animals survives the first 24 hours after they are administered at BRWC, they have a 75% survival rate. BRWC works hard to give wildlife its best chance at successfully returning to the wild. From my experience here, I gained valuable knowledge of how to properly take care of injured, ill and orphaned wildlife and what to do with the animal when found.

Future Work: Bringing awareness to Blue Ridge Wildlife Center allows the public to know where they can bring wildlife in need of help. As well, funding to the center allows the staff to continue caring for the animals. BRWC has an internship program where individuals who are interested in caring for wildlife can apply to. Additionally, a kid's camp is offered at BRWC where children can meet some of the centers ambassador animals and learn all about the various species of wildlife that roam Virginias grounds. With more help and funds, BRWC will be able to care an even greater number of animals, working hard to save their lives and restore them successfully to the wild.

Blue Ridge Wildlife Center Information

Address: 106 Island Farm Lane, Boyce, VA 22620

Contact Information: info@blueridgewildlifectr.org

Supervisor: Jessica Andersen

Mission Statement: “The mission of the Blue Ridge Wildlife Center is to care for native wildlife by integrating veterinary medicine, rehabilitation, education, and research”.

Goals: “Blue Ridge Wildlife Center envisions a world where people respect and coexist with wildlife ensuring a healthy ecosystem for all living things”.

Acknowledgments: Thank you Dr. Jennifer Riley and Ms. Jessica Andersen for being my mentors at Blue Ridge Wildlife Center this summer and for being such compassionate and hardworking leaders in animal rehabilitation. Thank you, Dr. Holtz and Dr. Merck for the wonderful two years I have spent learning from you in the Scholars Science and Global Change program.

