

Volunteering with WMWC

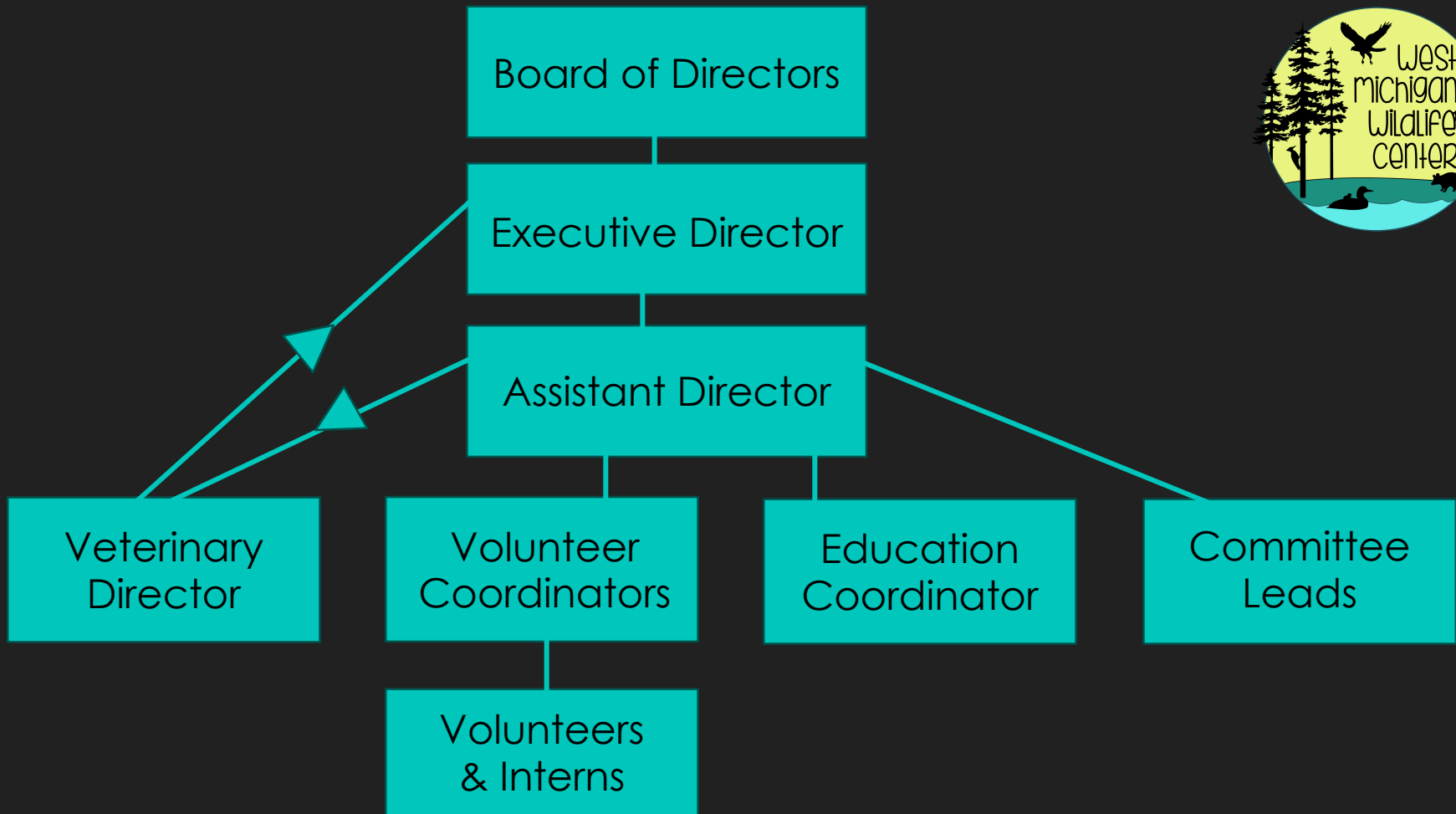


West Michigan Wildlife Center – Grand Rapids, MI

MISSION STATEMENT

WMWC is committed to the rescue, rehabilitation and release of native species while fostering a deep respect for wildlife through education and community engagement.





Allyson Swanson

Executive Director & Lead
Rehabilitator

Started as a volunteer in middle school

20+ years wildlife experience

Paid job: Animal Control Officer

Favorite Species: Opossums &
Mustelids

Least Favorite Species:

FLAT FLIES



Alesha Kolodziej

Assistant Director & Wildlife Rehabilitator

Started rehabilitation work in 2018 as a volunteer

7+ years rehab experience

Favorite Species: Opossums & Porcupine

Least Favorite Species: Cottontails
(Only because they are challenging to rehab!)



Robin Schilstra

Co-Volunteer Coordinator

Started volunteering with wildlife in 2022.

Day job: 30 year middle school math, science and ELA teacher. Also certified Environmental and Outdoor Educator.

Favorite species: Porcupines, Woodchucks, Owls and all Reptiles/Amphibians

Least Favorite Species: Opossums (Because of the stink, not the personality)



Bobbi Bloom

Co-Volunteer Coordinator

Started volunteering 2021

Day job: Professional dog & cat groomer of ~15 years, studying pet nutrition, and behavior improvement through R+ training. Background in working on cars & engineering. Also involved with local cat TNR/rescue.

Favorite: opossums - We have the same daily routines: Hissing at people, eating, and sleeping

Least favorite: birds - How do they even work?! I still have so much to learn!



What do we do?

West Michigan Wildlife Center (WMWC) is a volunteer run nonprofit organization dedicated to providing West Michigan with reliable, high-quality resources for the rehabilitation of orphaned, abandoned, injured, or incapacitated wildlife. Located in the Grand Rapids area, we service and receive wildlife from the entire lower peninsula. Licensed by both the Michigan Department of Natural Resources and the U.S. Fish & Wildlife Service, WMWC offers professional and simple ways to guarantee the swift and humane return of wounded animals and migratory birds to their natural habitat.

Species accepted: Songbirds, Waterfowl/Shore birds, Corvids, Raptors, Opossums. Squirrels, Cottontails, Mustelids, Woodchuck, Muskrat, Fox, Reptiles, etc.

Species not currently accepted: Raccoons & Deer/Fawns

Species not allowed by law: Bats & Skunks



About our Space:



- Located in the Forest Hills Area
- Location not disclosed to public
 - Prevent animals left outside during closed hours
- “Veterinary” Clinic Space – Currently renting
- Most Surgeries On Site
- Fundraising for X-Ray
- Seeking land/funding to build permanent facility

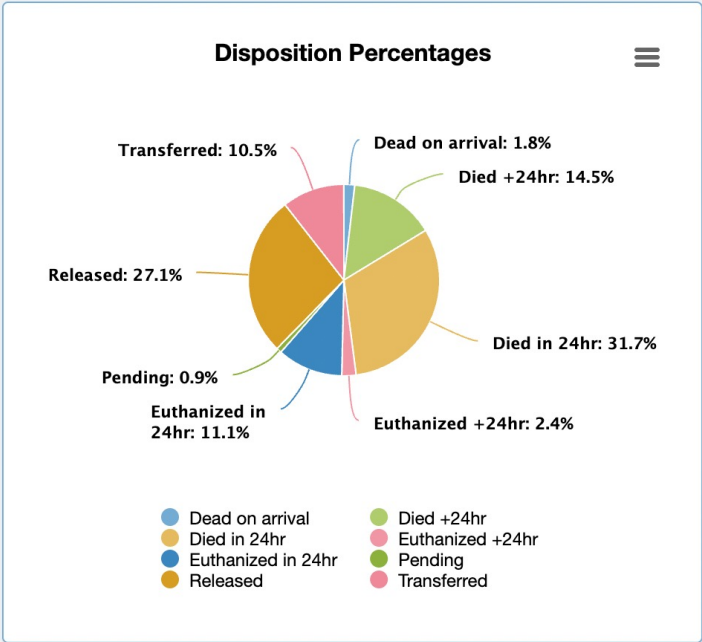
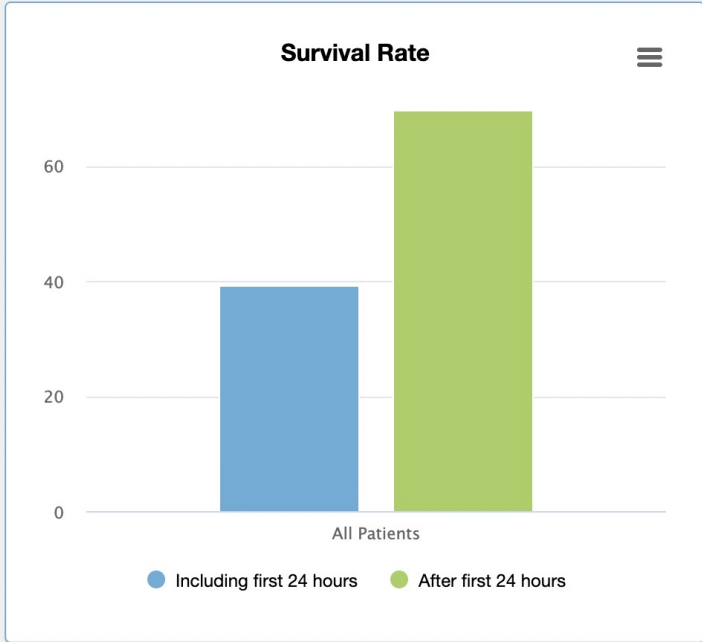
Not just a “Walk in the Park”



For our animals, the first 24 hours is hardest...

Survival Rate

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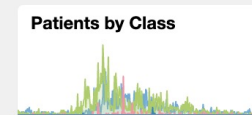
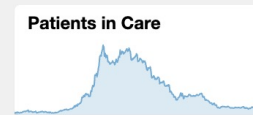
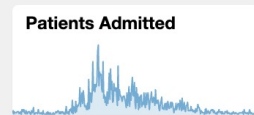
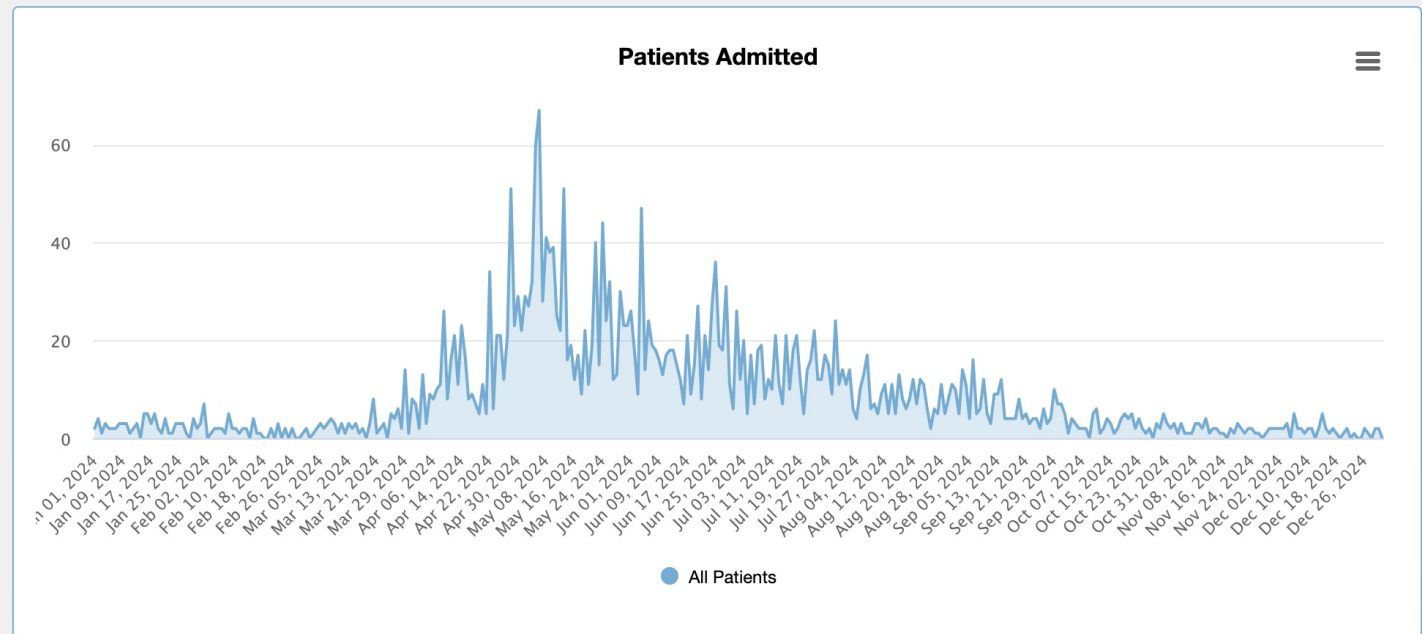


And they
come in
waves
based on
season...

Most
intakes in
May
through
August

Patients Overview

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Patients Admitted
3,177

Species Admitted
150





Sensitive Content

You may be exposed to the following...

Wounds and Maggots



Broken Bones



Other Medical Oddities



Creepy Crawlies

On/in the patients



And as food....



Predator Diets

We do not feed or house live prey – you will NOT be expected to kill “food” animals

Some live minnows are used



Euthanasia

At the West Michigan Wildlife Center, we are committed to the well-being of all the animals in our care. We recognize that humane euthanasia is sometimes necessary to prevent suffering in certain patients who may be critically injured or terminally ill. Our team approaches this difficult decision with compassion and careful consideration, always prioritizing the welfare of the animal and adhering to ethical standards in wildlife rehabilitation.



IMPORTANT TO KNOW:



- Submitting a volunteer application indicates your interest in contributing to our organization, but it does not guarantee acceptance. Each application is carefully reviewed based on our current needs, the roles available, and the qualifications of the applicants. We appreciate your enthusiasm and commitment to volunteering, and we will notify you about the outcome of your application as soon as possible.
- You will be expected to commit to ONE 4-hour shift ONCE A WEEK for a minimum of 1 Year (some exceptions MAY be made for college students)
- Along with your submitted volunteer application, a \$15 application fee is required. This fee covers various costs associated with processing your application, including a background check and administrative expenses. We appreciate your understanding, as this helps us ensure a safe and efficient volunteer experience for everyone involved.
- Once approved you will be invited to an Orientation where you can ask additional questions

Want to join the team?

Scan the QR Code or
click the link below to be
taken to the application:

[https://forms.gle/8syYcc
azsyuHLEFMA](https://forms.gle/8syYcc
azsyuHLEFMA)





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