

Laurie McAleenan  
6654 Elvas Lane  
Chesterfield, VA 23838  
February 19, 2020

Dear Sir or Madam:

I have had the privilege of knowing and volunteering with Pat Dezern for the last two years. I met her in 2018 while attending the Virginia Master Naturalist (VMN) Pocahontas Chapter training program with which she was serving as a Chapter Training Coordinator. During this time, we both became involved as volunteers with wildlife rehabilitation. In addition to time spent as volunteers, we also attended training and social events for both the VMN Pocahontas Chapter and the AWARE (Alliance of Wild Animal Rehabilitation and Education) group.

Pat is a dedicated volunteer. She works hard to educate herself on the importance of conservation and wildlife education. I believe her training as both a wildlife rehabilitator and a VMN enhances her ability to ensure not only the welfare of the animals she would rehabilitate but also the importance of minimal impact on her home and community. As wildlife rehabilitators, our annual training includes topics relating to proper husbandry, sanitation, safety, restraint, housing, and population considerations. I have observed Pat asking questions and taking notes, which is evidence that she is devoted to ensuring she is meeting the appropriate needs of the wildlife and her community.

Pat is a caring, compassionate, and helpful person. She works wonderfully with others and is open to listening to their point of view. Pat takes into consideration other viewpoints and works with others to resolve conflicts peacefully. Should any situation arise relating to the rehabilitation of wildlife, I know Pat would promptly give it the required attention and concern.

In summary, I believe Pat would ensure that all aspects of her involvement with wildlife rehabilitation would create little to no impact on her community while providing a needed service in the Commonwealth of Virginia.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in blue ink that reads "Laurie McAleenan". The signature is written in a cursive, flowing style.

Laurie McAleenan  
Category 2A Wildlife Rehabilitator  
Certified Virginia Master Naturalist

# Letter of Support

for  
Patricia A. DeZern  
Special Use Permit for Wildlife Rehabilitation  
at 7345 Longview Drive  
Richmond, VA 23225

Dear Councilwoman Larson:

My family and I have read Pat DeZern's Application for a Special Use Permit for Wildlife Rehabilitation and whole heartedly support her in this endeavor. Neighbors of Pat's for almost three years, we can attest that Pat has the compassion and knowledge to care for wild animals in need. We are fortunate to live in a secluded, wooded area near to the James River where most of the properties sit on at least an acre. The location of Pat's house is perfect for rehabilitating animals and we think this permit couldn't be issued to a more appropriate Richmonder.

Please do not hesitate to call me if you would like a verbal reference for Pat as I would be happy to talk to you.

Thank you so much for considering her application and again, we fully endorse Pat for the Special Use Permit for Wildlife Rehabilitation.

Sincerely,

*Kelley Barry*

Kelley Barry

Kelley, Alex, Ben, and Jake Barry-Coppola  
7315 Longview Ct, Richmond, VA 23225  
804.317.7532

Letter of Support for Patricia A. DeZern's Application  
for a Special Use Permit for Wildlife Rehabilitation

To: City of Richmond Special Use Permitting Officials

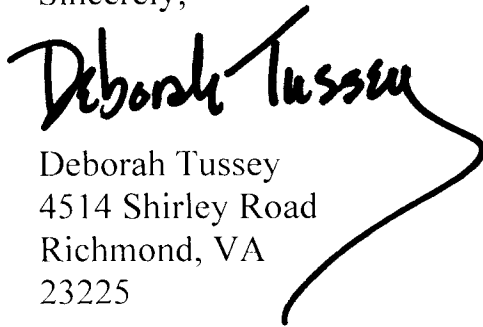
Date: 2/25/2020

I live in Stratford Hills, not far from Patricia DeZern. I have seen the facilities she offers for rehabilitation of small wildlife and talked with her about her care for flying squirrels, grey squirrels, turtles, and opossums. Pat is a trained rehabilitator, who works with the nonprofit Alliance of Wild Animal Rehabilitators and Educators (AWARE). Her rehabilitation facilities are secure and essentially invisible to anyone not on her property.

I strongly support Patricia's application for a Special Use Permit for wildlife rehabilitation of small animals at her home. Her work with these animals is invaluable and contributes to maintaining the health and biodiversity of the many natural areas in and around the City of Richmond, which make the city such an exceptional place in which to live.

I hope that you will grant her permit application.

Sincerely,

  
Deborah Tussey  
4514 Shirley Road  
Richmond, VA  
23225

Patricia A. DeZern  
7345 Longview Drive  
Richmond, VA 23225

February 28, 2020

Dear Ms. DeZern:

I am writing this letter to express my support for the special use permit for wildlife rehabilitation at 7345 Longview Drive, Richmond, VA 23225. I believe that the efforts made to ensure that animals are able to be either raised, in the case of infants, or allowed to recover from injuries or illnesses is a very noble cause. I have read your proposal and believe that it adequately expresses the precautions you will undertake to keep both the animals and the neighborhood safe.

The property located at 7368 Longview Drive, Richmond, VA 23225 is owned by the Josephine Audrey Menk Revocable Trust, and I am the trustee that is directing all aspects related to this property. While I do not live in this location, I am responsible for the proper management of this property for the benefit of the beneficiaries of the trust. In this position, I must consider the potential impact of the special use permit for wildlife rehabilitation on the value and rental income from the property held by the trust. I am comfortable that the special use permit for wildlife rehabilitation will not have an impact on the property that I manage.

As both the trustee for the property and as a member of the community, I support the approval of the special permit for wildlife rehabilitation. If you should need any additional information, please feel free to contact me at (804) 516 – 9485 or through e-mail at [menkk@duq.edu](mailto:menkk@duq.edu).

Thank you for your time and consideration in this matter.



K. Bryan Menk, PhD, CPA  
Trustee, Josephine Audrey Menk Revocable Trust  
250 Pennsylvania Blvd.  
Pittsburgh, PA 15228  
(804) 516 9485



Chris Linardos  
Treasurer/Co-Founder  
2847 Corso Drive  
Powhatan, VA 23139  
804-376-7437  
[wildlifema@comcast.net](mailto:wildlifema@comcast.net)

February 20, 2020

TO: WHOM IT MAY CONCERN

RE: Special Use Permit for Wildlife rehabilitation for Patricia A DeZern

Wildlife rehabilitators are few and far between. There is a great need for them in Richmond and the surrounding counties. I've been rehabbing over 20 years in Powhatan county and take in a lot of wildlife from Richmond. Patricia DeZern has helped so much by taking some of those orphans to rehab and release back into their native area. That gives me and other rehabbers in the surrounding counties space and time to help wildlife in need. Due to all the progress around the Richmond area, a lot of wildlife are injured or orphaned. It is important to have a trained and conscientious wildlife rehabilitator such as Patricia DeZern in the city of Richmond.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in cursive script that reads "Lola C. Linardos".

Lola C. Linardos  
ARK Co-Founder/Treasurer  
State Permitted Category II  
Wildlife Rehabilitator

Feb 19<sup>th</sup>, 2020

Virginia Department of Game and Inland Fisheries  
7870 Villa Park Drive, #400  
HENRICO VA 23228

RE: Patricia DeZern's application for "Special Use Permit for Wildlife Rehabilitation"

To whom it may concern,

I am an Assistant Professor at VCU directing a medical research program worth in excess of \$5.2M. This position involves directing my staff to work with laboratory animals developing drugs that will ultimately improve the quality of life for humans with diseases and traumatic injuries. As part of my Professional duties I am also a member of VCU's Animal Care and Welfare Program (ACUP) that is designed to ensure all animal research is performed in compliance with State and Federal regulations, which involves participation in our annual inspections of VCU animal laboratory and housing facilities.

I live at 7344 Longview Drive, Richmond VA 23225 and I am a direct neighbor of Ms. Patricia DeZern, who lives at 7345 Longview Drive, Richmond VA 23225. Our end of Longview Drive is a very woody area, with large lot sizes (averaging ~1 acre each), which connect to the James River Park "Pony Pasture" and "Wetlands" areas. There is an extensive wildlife population in our immediate and surrounding areas, and members of our community, including Patricia, are heavily involved in protecting the James River Park and surrounding areas from urban threats, including highway expansions and increased vehicular traffic. In this regard, I fully support all of the volunteers who make our neighborhood the best it can be.

During 2019 while I was talking with Patricia, she was explaining to me her involvement in the local wildlife rehabilitation program. I must admit I was quite surprised to learn of this because her outside cages are not visible from the street, despite me having walked past her house almost every day for the past year. In talking with Patricia I was immediately impressed with her enthusiasm and ability to care for these animals with such dedication and skill, and the woody environment in which we live is perfect for her rehabilitation program providing the animals an opportunity to be amongst their natural environment, albeit within secure cage, prior to their final release. It is clear that Patricia provides exceptional dedication and care for her animals, and she clearly plays a critical role in providing a safe environment for them to recover. In part of our recent discussions, I was made aware that Patricia is required to apply for a Special Use Permit for wildlife rehabilitation at her home. It goes without saying that I fully support Patricia's application for a Special Use Permit for wildlife rehabilitation, and wish her the best in continuing to providing care for our injured and young wildlife. Our wildlife need volunteers like Patricia caring for them.

Sincerely



Kirsty J. Dixon, Ph.D.  
Assistant Professor, VCU Dept. of Surgery  
7344 Longview Drive  
Richmond VA 23225  
Cell: 786-301-3046