

# NEWSLETTER FOR WILDLIFE REHABILITATORS OF NORTH CAROLINA

Volume 17

Summer 2004

A quarterly newsletter produced by the Wildlife Rehabilitators of North Carolina (WRNC). WRNC's mission is to share information and knowledge about wildlife rehabilitation for the benefit of native wildlife. For comments or questions, write to: WRNC, 2542 Weymoth Rd, Winston-Salem, NC 27103.

## Continuing Education

- The next Carolina Raptor Center's Raptor Rehabilitation Seminar is Sept. 25-26, 2004. Contact Mathias Engelmann at (704) 875-6521, ext. 108 or at mathiasengelmann@birdsofprey.org for information and to register.
- Wildlife Rehab, Inc. will hold their next 11-week wildlife rehabilitation class starting Sep. 2004 at Forsyth Technical Community College on Tuesdays from 6-9 pm. For details contact Carla Johnson by email at cmjohnso@wfubmc.edu.
- The Blue Ridge Wildlife Institute will hold a Wildlife Seminar on Oct. 9<sup>th</sup>, 9 am – 5 pm (see page 5).
- Come to a WRNC Refresher Course, more information on page 3 and 6.
- Like to travel? IWRC upcoming classes and locations:

Date	Course	Location
Sep 19, 2004	3BB: Wildlife Feeding and Nutrition	Fish Camp, CA (Yosemite)
Oct 02 - 03, 2004	1AB: Basic Wildlife Rehabilitation	Itasca, IL
Oct 16 - 17, 2004	1AB: Basic Wildlife Rehabilitation	Kingston, RI
Oct 26 - 27, 2004	1AB: Basic Wildlife Rehabilitation	Portland, OR
Nov 13 - 14, 2004	1AB: Basic Wildlife Rehabilitation	Little Rock, AR
Nov 13, 2004	3BB: Wildlife Feeding and Nutrition	Flemington, NJ

The annual IWRC conference is in Portland, OR this year, October 28-30. For more info on classes and this conference go to: <http://www.iwrc-online.org/>

- The next NWRA symposium is March 8-12, 2005 in Minneapolis, MN. For more information: [www.nwrawildlife.org](http://www.nwrawildlife.org)

## Disclaimer

The opinions, techniques, and recommendations expressed in the articles of this newsletter are those of the author(s) and do not imply endorsement by WRNC.

# Spotlight



## Animal Rehabilitators of the Carolinas (ARC)

By Beth Golic

Animal Rehabilitators of the Carolinas (ARC) is located in Charlotte, NC and serves Charlotte and surrounding counties in a 50 mile radius. This includes several counties in South Carolina. All wildlife rehabilitators in ARC are home-based, as we do not have a centralized facility. Our main focus is the rehabilitation and release of small mammals, though we have a few members who rehabilitate birds. ARC's membership consists of over 57 members, almost all active in rehabilitation.

We maintain a public hotline 365 days a year from 9:00am to 9:00pm with all members rotating shifts. On the hotline, there is a strong emphasis on re-uniting non-injured and orphaned wildlife babies with their natural mothers when possible. We have had great success with this in the past year. ARC still takes in a large quantity of wildlife that has been injured or orphaned. In the year 2003, ARC received in over 1,942 animals. This would not have been possible without the dedication and perseverance of all our hard-working members.

ARC provides wildlife rehabilitation training classes three times a year in locations around Charlotte, NC. These classes are usually held in March, June and September and are open to both new members and affiliate members. Also, we plan to provide additional advanced training classes for our members on a yearly basis. We encourage our members to attend regional and national rehabilitation symposiums and many of our members attend these on a yearly basis.

We also provide public education programs, including festivals, school programs and a wide range of other events. ARC has had a wildlife education booth at several festivals in the past year including Crowder's Mountain State Park, Anne Springs Greenway Earth Day and Museum of York County to name a few.

Without the assistance of parks and other facilities offering us places to hold our classes, as well as, the support of other rehabilitation groups and individuals outside ARC, we would have a much harder time doing what we do! Thank you to everyone who works with ARC, both members and non-members.

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### **From the editor's desk**

This newsletter is your tool for reaching everyone else in WRNC. Please feel free to submit comments, corrections, announcements and submissions for future newsletters to Sally Davis at [wekaterrapin@hotmail.com](mailto:wekaterrapin@hotmail.com) or by phone at (919) 462-3249. **Next editorial deadline is Fri., Oct 30<sup>th</sup>.**

## Basics for Beginners – Preparing Formula

By Jean Chamberlain

Mix formula fresh daily. Formula has a tendency to become lumpy when it is mixed with water. One method to obtain a smooth mixture is to start by mixing the powder with a small amount of water. Use cool or lukewarm water. The powder doesn't blend well in hot or cold water. Blend it into a paste with a fork, breaking up the lumps. Slowly add the rest of the water while continuing to stir. Use distilled water if your water quality is poor.

Another way to mix the formula is to use a whisk. This will add air to it. If you use this method, refrigerate the mixture before using it to let the air bubbles settle out.

Before using the formula, warm it over hot water. Don't boil or microwave it, as this will destroy the nutrients. Heat only the amount needed for one feeding. Discard any unused portion that has been heated. Refrigerate the unheated portion for use later in the day.

Always test the temperature of the formula before feeding. It must be warm. The baby may refuse to eat, if the formula isn't warm enough. Keep the formula warm the entire time you are feeding. The baby may stop feeding if the formula cools. A small dish of formula can be suspended in hot water or the syringe can be capped and immersed in warm water. Placing the container in warm water inside an insulated coffee mug can also be used to keep the formula warm longer.

## Refresher Training

WRNC is offering the refresher course to all wildlife rehabilitators in North Carolina (members and non-members of WRNC) at various locations throughout the state this year. You are invited to attend these half-day sessions.

The sessions are a comprehensive review of nearly everything that is usually taught in a full basic rehabilitation course. The student is expected to have some rehabilitation experience. This is not a course for a beginner as it will be too much material for a beginner to grasp in a half-day session.

We are covering squirrels and opossums. Do you know at what age a squirrel can be introduced into a cage with others? Do you know how to stimulate an opossum? We are covering cottontails. Do you know what to do when you receive a bunny that has been fed cow's milk or how to treat a bunny with diarrhea? How should you pick up a cottontail properly?

Zoonoses and basic medical topics are also covered. Do you know the most common route of transmission of zoonotic disease? How about how to treat dehydration? Hypothermia?

Come to our refresher class. It addresses these questions and much more.

The course is designed for rehabilitators

- who are experienced, but have never taken a full course in wildlife rehabilitation and wish to fill any gaps in their knowledge
- who are experienced in some species/areas but would like to learn about others
- who's last training in wildlife rehabilitation was several years ago and who would like to learn about the current techniques and methods

(continued on page 6)

## Questions about Coyotes

By Jean Chamberlain

### Should I rehab a coyote?

Here's some information that may help you decide.

### What do coyotes look like?

Coyotes are mostly brownish gray but their color can vary greatly. They have a light gray to cream-colored belly. They have erect ears and bushy tails. The males here weigh about 45 pounds, the females about 30 pounds.

### Where are they found in North Carolina?

Everywhere. Historically they were found in the Great Plains. They have extended their range throughout the US and beyond. Twenty years ago there were only a few in North Carolina. Today they have spread to every part of the state. They adapt to all habitats from deserts to forests to swamps and even cities.

### What do they eat?

Coyotes eat many things. They are predators. They really like rabbits. Their diet includes carrion, rodents, fawns, insects, livestock (lambs, sheep and calves) poultry and fruit. They eat whatever is available. They love watermelon to the dismay of many farmers and gardeners.

### Why are they such effective predators?

Coyotes have good eyesight, hearing and a keen sense of smell. They can reach speeds of 40 miles per hour. They are active mostly at night and early morning. They sleep in sheltered areas, but they only require a den when raising their young. They are adaptable and may live close to people.

### What diseases do they get?

Coyotes are susceptible to distemper, hepatitis, parvo virus, mange, rabies and tularemia. They often are infested with parasites including mites, ticks, fleas, worms and flukes.

### What good do they do?

Being an opportunistic hunter they will eat the species that is abundant, keeping down their numbers.

### What harm do they do?

They kill livestock, primarily sheep, lambs and poultry and damage crops such as watermelon. It is predicted that they will eliminate the red fox and may reduce the gray fox population in our state.

### What is their legal status in NC?

There is a year-round open hunting season on coyotes. Coyotes have made many human enemies and have few supporters.

WRNC is planning a session on coyotes at the symposium in January.

### Ask WRNC

If you have any questions you would like WRNC to answer in future newsletters, submit them to Jean Chamberlain at [jchamberlain1@alltel.net](mailto:jchamberlain1@alltel.net)

## Directory Updates

Have you moved? Has your email address changed? Is your phone number listed incorrectly in the directory? Send updates to Carla Johnson at [wildlifefeed2@aol.com](mailto:wildlifefeed2@aol.com)

Vicky Comer changed her email address to [squrly1@earthlink.net](mailto:squrly1@earthlink.net)

## From the editor's desk

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## Names of Young

Beaver	Pup, kitten
Bird	Chick
Deer	Fawn
Eagle	Eaglet
Fox	Kit, cub, pup
Bat	Pup
Hawk	Eyas
Opossum	Joey
Owl	Owlet
Rabbit	Kitten, bunny, kit
Raccoon	Cub
Snake	Snakelet
Skunk	Kit
Squirrel	Pup, kit, kitten

## Wildlife Medicine Seminar

sponsored by The Blue Ridge Wildlife Institute

Date: October 9, 2004

Time: 9am - 5pm

Place: Lees McRae College, Banner Elk, NC. At the Cannon Student Center Auditorium

CE Credits: 6 hours for Veterinarians and Veterinarian Technicians. Certificates will be given upon completion of the course.

Course taught by:

Erica Miller, DVM

Tri-state Bird Rescue and Research, Inc., Newark, Delaware

Registration Fees:

Veterinarians- \$80

Veterinary Technicians- \$50

Veterinary Students- \$30

**PLEASE ENCOURAGE YOUR VETS TO ATTEND THIS VERY IMPORTANT WORKSHOP!!**

Contact: Nina Fischesser, Director

(828) 733-6142

[wildcarebr@vistatech.net](mailto:wildcarebr@vistatech.net)

# TIP

**The following questions about feeding cottontails were asked during our refresher class:**

**What greens are safe to feed cottontails? Is red clover safe?**

Cottontails can be given carrot tops, clover, chickweed, plantain, dandelions and soft grasses. Do not offer broccoli or cabbage, as cottontails cannot digest them well. Also, rhubarb is toxic and iceberg lettuce has almost no nutritional value. Be sure to introduce greens gradually to prevent bunny bloat.

There are many varieties of clover. Some clovers that are reddish are toxic; others are not. It is generally safe to feed native red clover. Beware of any clover that is not native.

Who is invited to attend?

## All wildlife rehabilitators in North Carolina

Where?

Raleigh	Sat, July 10	1-5 pm	Richard B Harrison Library
Greenville	Sun, July 18	9 am - 1 pm	River Park North
Charlotte	Sun, August 1	1-5 pm	North County Regional Library
Asheville	Sat, August 28	1-5 pm	WNC Nature Center
<b>Wilmington</b>	<b>Sat, October 23</b>	<b>8:30 – 12:30 am</b>	<b>Brunswick Community College, Leland</b>
<b>Winston-Salem</b>	<b>October 30, tentative</b>		<b>tbd</b>

Course materials?

The course manual is free to all members.  
Non-members may purchase a manual for \$15

How much?

**Free**

For directions and additional information see [www.ncwildliferehab.org](http://www.ncwildliferehab.org) or email Jean Chamberlain at [jchamberlain1@alltel.net](mailto:jchamberlain1@alltel.net)

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ADDRESS CORRECTION REQUESTED