



WRNC, Inc.
P.O. Box 2844
Durham, NC 27715

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WRNC is a 501(c)3
nonprofit corporation
whose mission is to share
information and
knowledge about wildlife
rehabilitation for the
benefit of native wildlife.

July 3, 2009

Mr. Gordon Myers, Executive Director
North Carolina Wildlife Resources Commission
1701 Mail Service Center
Raleigh, NC 27699

RE: Proposal to implement special RVS Rehabilitation Permit

Dear Mr. Myers,

Every year animal control organizations, police departments, veterinarians, wildlife rehabilitators and North Carolina Wildlife Resources Commission (NCWRC) officials face the dilemma of dealing with orphaned and injured rabies vector species (RVS) across our state. All of these agencies receive calls from concerned citizens regarding raccoons, skunks, fox and bats they have found, especially neonates. Currently, there is no channel to deal with these species that is viewed morally acceptable by many NC citizens or which minimizes public health risks. We feel that it is time to establish a more acceptable way to deal with the rabies vector species in our state.

Wildlife Rehabilitators of North Carolina, Inc. (WRNC) proposes that the NCWRC establish a permit allowing specially trained wildlife rehabilitators to accept and provide appropriate care for RVS. Our organization is prepared to coordinate and provide the essential training required for rehabilitators who wish to apply for the permit and has set aside the necessary funding to finance this training. We propose that prior to applying for the RVS permit the rehabilitators would be required to meet the following criteria:

1. Receive complete rabies pre-exposure vaccinations, have antibody titers checked every two years and maintain immunization with vaccine boosters as appropriate
2. Complete the RVS specific training class
3. Have RVS appropriate caging in place
4. Have at least one full year of wildlife rehabilitation experience prior to submitting application
5. Have no record of wildlife violations

We wish to provide a way for the public to surrender RVS animals with the confidence that the animals will receive appropriate care. Without such an alternative, untrained private citizens often try to raise these animals, risking themselves and others to exposure to parasites and zoonotic diseases that may be