

life threatening. With the alternative of having access to properly trained, vaccinated, permitted rehabilitators the public can legally turn these animals over to, the best situation for public health and the animals can be achieved.

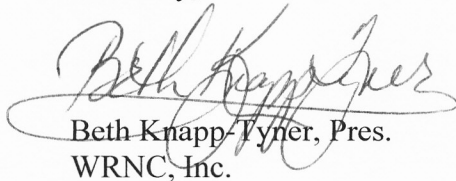
Every other state on the east coast, abiding by wildlife rehabilitation regulations, has an established RVS program such as the one we are proposing. To ensure safety for our state's residents and tourism, we feel it is time for North Carolina to follow suit. Establishing an RVS program is sound public health planning and makes sense for the many people who face dealing with RVS issues and problems every year. The need for such an RVS program has been well documented in a study done by Drs. Schopler and Hall (Schopler RL, Hall AJ, Cowen P. Survey of wildlife rehabilitators regarding rabies vector species. J Am Vet Med Assoc. 2005 Nov 15;227(10):1568-72).

WRNC would like to work with NCWRC to make the RVS permit available as soon as possible. We can schedule the special RVS training class for state certified wildlife rehabilitators as early as our next annual symposium, which will take place at the end of January 2010. Application for this special permit could then be offered in early spring of 2010. Our board of directors is in full support of this program and we have an RVS Committee already established that is ready to begin working with NCWRC Permits and Planning supervisor, Daron Barnes, to implement the proposed RVS permit application process.

We are asking that you adopt our proposal to grant a permit for RVS rehabilitation with the appropriate pre-requisites for application of same.

We look forward to hearing from you soon and continuing our work with the NCWRC; providing the best management and care of our natural resources and professional service to North Carolina citizens. If you have any questions, please do not hesitate to contact either our RVS Committee chair, Jean Chamberlain, at 336-983-6543; jchamberlain1@windstream.net, or myself at 828-863-0505; WildatHeartRehab@aol.com.

Sincerely,



Beth Knapp-Tyner, Pres.
WRNC, Inc.

ENCLOSURE

cc: RVS Committee file
Daron Barnes, NCWRC Planning and Permitting supervisor