

Are you tired of the hassle of dealing with orphaned raccoons again this year? Do you wish there was someone authorized to handle these problems in a way more acceptable to the public? Animal control organizations, police departments, veterinarians, wildlife officers and wildlife rehabilitators all receive calls from citizens about orphaned baby raccoons and other rabies vector species that are found by the public. There is no approved channel for these calls. There should be.

Wildlife Rehabilitators of North Carolina (WRNC) proposes that the North Carolina Resources Commission establish a permit that would allow specially trained rehabilitators to take in and care for rabies vector species. Our organization is prepared to arrange for training for rehabilitators who wish to obtain the permit, and we have set aside the funds to finance this training. We propose that these rehabilitators receive a full rabies pre-exposure series, monitor their titers every two years, boosting the vaccine as appropriate, complete RVS specific training and have proper caging in place prior to applying for the permit. We wish to provide a way for the public to turn over the animals with confidence that the animals will receive appropriate care. Without such an alternative citizens try to raise the animals themselves rather than turn them over to be euthanized, risking exposing themselves and others to parasites and zoonotic diseases that may be life threatening.

Every other state on the east coast has a rabies vector species program such as the one we propose. It is time for North Carolina to do so. Establishing an RVS program is sound public health planning and makes sense for the many people who are faced with dealing with RVS problems every year. We ask that you return the enclosed postcard to let us know that you support this proposal.