

# 2022 Course Descriptions

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## **Wildlife Rehabilitation RVS Regulations**

*Daron Barnes, NCWRC*

RVS regulations, permit application requirements and procedures, rehabilitator responsibilities, care restrictions, release restrictions, and transport protocols are covered in this session. (RVS Rehabilitators, General, Vet CE, Vet Tech CE)

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## **Introduction to RVS Rehab**

*Toni O'Neil*

Do you want to rehab RVS? This presentation provides an overview of RVS rehab including the permit application procedure, an introduction to the disease, and a look at some of the pros and cons for rehabbing RVS. This session is designed for rehabbers who are trying to decide if they want to rehab RVS. It also provides the basics for those rehabbers who aren't planning to rehab RVS. (RVS Rehabilitators, Vet Tech CE)

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## **Rabies the Disease**

*Department of Health*

Rabies, vectors, vaccination, titers, testing procedures, and more are covered in this session. (RVS Rehabilitators, General, Vet Tech CE)

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## **RVS Rehab and Vets**

*Dr. Joni Shimp*

Get the facts about treating RVS patients as a DVM and how to work alongside RVS rehabbers and state agencies to minimize risks and optimize patient outcomes. (Vet CE, Vet Tech CE)

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## **Raccoon Rehab**

*Barbara Ray*

In this 4 hour session Barbara will teach the rabies etiology in raccoons, differential Dx (more commonly seen diseases that look like rabies) as well as some housing, handling, restraint and training for raccoon patients. An important component is HOW to interface with the public about raccoon cases, hotline calls and educating in a professional, positive manner to gain the trust and cooperation of presenters. There is a lot of "negative suspicion" about the fate of raccoons turned over to rehab and we want to be honest but we can use tact to our advantage!

*(RVS Rehabilitators, General, Vet Tech CE)*

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**Bats 101: Anatomy and Species ID**

*Linda Bowen*

Learn the unique anatomy of our only flying mammal along with specific, often time subtle features, that will be used to identify the 17 species of bats found in NC

*(RVS Rehabilitators, General, Vet Tech CE)*

**Bats 101: Adult Husbandry**

*Linda Bowen*

Housing, care and handling of healthy adult bats.

*(RVS Rehabilitators, General, Vet Tech CE)*

**Bats 101: Injuries and Illness**

*Linda Bowen*

How to identify, stabilize and treat common injuries and illnesses found in bats.

*(RVS Rehabilitators, General, Vet Tech CE)*

**Bats 101: Raising Bat Pups**

*Linda Bowen*

Techniques for raising orphaned pups for release into the wild. From formula to flight cage training. (RVS Rehabilitators, General, Vet Tech CE)

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**Captive Rearing and Rehabilitation of Striped Skunks (*Mephitis mephitis*)**

*Lis (Elisa) Fosco*

This presentation will discuss natural history as well as simple and successful methods for rearing striped skunks, one of the more common rabies vector species admitted to North American rehabilitators. Topics will include diet and feeding, housing, husbandry, behavioral and developmental considerations and release criteria.

*(RVS Rehabilitators, General, Vet Tech CE)*

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**Captive Rearing and Rehabilitation of North American Foxes**

*Lisa (Elisa) Fosco*

Fox kits are very commonly admitted to wildlife rehabilitators in North America. This presentation will discuss successful methods for rearing them in captive care. Natural behavioral development will be emphasized as this is critical for post-release survival in these species. Topics will include neonatal concerns, diet and feeding, housing, husbandry, medical considerations and release criteria.

*(RVS Rehabilitators, General, Vet Tech CE)*

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**Bobcat Rehab**

*Traci Keller*

Learn about raising orphaned bobcats and the many components associated with the rehabilitation process during their first year. This session will cover care and feeding of young kittens, their growth and development, the caging requirements, and safety protocols to keep handlers and rehabbers safe while in rehabilitation. Also, includes some case studies and success stories.

*(RVS Rehabilitators, General, Vet Tech CE)*

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**Reducing Animals' Psychological Stress in a Wildlife Rehabilitation Setting**

*Hailey Roman*

The presentation discusses the connection between stress and slower healing times in wildlife rehabilitation patients. Highly intelligent animals, such as crows, need an engaging environment to ensure they are mentally and physically stimulated. By adding proper enrichment and perching to the outside crow cage, all the rehabilitation and education crows were able to thrive and socialize with one another.

*(General, Vet Tech CE)*

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**Wound Management**

*Ernesto Dominguez*

In this lecture, learn how to classify and treat different kinds of wounds found on bird, mammal, and reptile patients. Wound management can be simple, but it involves a comprehensive care plan that considers all factors contributing to and affecting the wound and the patient. Simple actions can prevent good wounds from getting bad. Good management of a wound can prevent long recoveries, surgery, or long-term problems. During the lecture, discussion includes how to manage simple and complicated wounds, when they need specialized veterinary care, and what rehabilitators can do with limited resources to prevent wound complications.

*(General, Vet CE, Vet Tech CE)*

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**Regulations for Education Mammals**

*Dr. Mary Ann McBride*

This session will cover licensing requirements for covered species being used in regulated activities, including education animals. We will also talk about the regulatory changes that have occurred, including the new bird regulations.

*(General, Vet CE, Vet Tech CE)*

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**CWD: NC Surveillance and Response Plan**

*Moriah Boggess*

Chronic Wasting Disease (CWD) is the most serious threat to white-tailed deer populations nationally and locally. It is an always fatal neurological disease caused by a misfolded protein (prion) that replicates in the body of infected animals until eventually debilitating the animal, resulting in wasting and death. The prion that causes CWD is long lived in the environment and cannot be readily destroyed. The

disease has been detected in the wild herds of 26 US states, four Canadian Provinces, Finland, Norway, and Sweden. In these jurisdictions surveillance and management efforts continue to detect a spread and increase in prevalence of this disease within the effected deer populations. In May 2021, a white-tailed buck in Montgomery County Virginia tested positive for CWD just 33 miles north of the North Carolina border. This detection has prompted revisions to both the surveillance and response plans of the North Carolina Wildlife Resources Commission (NCWRC). A boost in NCWRC surveillance and educational efforts have made the 2021 fall surveillance season one of the most successful on record and the samples collected are providing valuable information to the agency about the health of the deer population. The future success of NCWRC surveillance and response actions relies on the cooperation of public and partner stakeholders.

*(General, Vet CE, Vet Tech CE)*

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### **Herptofauna Zoonoses**

*Kerri Cooper-Bailey*

In wildlife rehabilitation we are often faced with handling patients with unknown histories of either trauma or disease with varying degrees of patient illness. Some patients may not have any inherent conditions at all and yet individuals working with these patients are at risk specifically individuals with chronic conditions or immunodeficiencies.

The zoonotic diseases associated with reptile and amphibian contact often are bacterial in origin including Salmonella, Mycobacterium, Campylobacter, Aeromonas, Escheria coli, Klebsiella , Serratia and Flavobacterium meningosepticum. However, there are some species of parasites, viruses and fungi that have zoonotic potential as well.

This lecture is a review to provide background information on the common zoonotic pathogens of reptiles. As reptile rehabilitators, technicians and veterinarians it is important to remain current in the literature to this pertinent information to protect themselves, staff, and clients from potential risks.

*(General, Vet CE, Vet Tech CE)*

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### **Emerging Reptile and Amphibian Diseases**

*Kerri Cooper-Bailey*

As many are aware we are experiencing dramatic losses of biodiversity within North Carolina and the world. The two biggest obstacles facing the world are habitat loss and anthropogenic environment change, particularly for amphibians and reptiles. However, emerging infectious diseases are also partially responsible for large scale declines and the extinction of species.

In the past decade plus, there appears to be a rise in number of emerging and reemerging infectious diseases reported in reptiles. In this lecture we will discuss the potential factors contributing to these emerges, means of diagnosing such diseases and treatments and/or protocols.

This is an advanced course for herp experienced reptile rehabilitators, veterinary technicians and wildlife veterinarians.

*(General, Vet CE, Vet Tech CE)*

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**Raptor Case Studies**

*Dr. David Scott*

An interactive discussion of interesting and clinically relevant raptor cases. Bring your burning questions!

*(Avian Rehabilitators, Vet CE, Vet Tech CE)*

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**Critical Care Nutrition**

*Dr. Rebecca Duerr*

Wild animals that enter rehabilitation are often in very poor condition at arrival, and may be emaciated and often injured too. Getting these patients away from the brink of death and onto a good plane of nutrition is crucial to rapid recovery from wounds and fractures. This lecture will discuss nutritional concepts and a basis for thinking about how nutrition can help get these delicate patients on the road to recovery.

*(General, Vet CE, Vet Tech CE)*

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**Raptor ID**

*Betty O'Leary*

Diurnal Raptor ID: During this PowerPoint presentation you will learn how to identify eastern diurnal birds of prey both while perched and in flight. Both adult and juvenile plumages will be discussed and how to tell the similar plumaged species apart.

*(Avian Rehabilitators, Vet Tech CE)*

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**Cottontails**

*Paige Person*

This presentation covers the background, lifecycle, physiology, assessment and the care of orphaned cottontails from intake to release, including feeding and housing.

*(General, Vet Tech CE)*

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**Critical and Intensive Care**

*Dr. Ernesto Dominquez*

In this lecture attendants will learn the principles of critical and intensive care in wildlife, and when it is worth applying these techniques. We will review critical diagnostics tools, procedures, CPR, and intensive care for different species, reviewing clinical cases.

*(General, Vet CE, Vet Tech CE)*

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**Avian Fracture Assessment**

*Dr. Amber McNamara*

This discussion covers many components of fracture assessment that should be considered in addition to the nature of the fracture itself. These include individual patient factors, such as the animal's stress

level and likelihood to eat on his or her own, facility factors such as space and caretakers, and numerous other considerations that may affect the patient's success. Evaluating these factors for each individual should help rehabilitators make more accurate assessments of patients' prognosis for recovery and release.

*(Advanced Avian Rehabilitators, Vet CE, Vet Tech CE)*

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### **Squirrel Ailments**

*Linda Bergman-Althouse*

When Rocky is down for the count, it can be anything from infected “ANT” bites to the “POX” and everything in between. Although fast and furious, a squirrel can find him or herself in some precarious situations that demand immediate medical attention. Squirrels presenting with aspiration, burns, emaciation, car collision, cat attack, concussion, cuterebra emasculator, dehydration, hypothermia, mange, MBD, malocclusion, pneumonia, poisoning, pox or even just an intense flea problem are dependent upon us to put a treatment plan together to give them the best chance of survival. This class will help you recognize an ailment and devise a treatment plan with varying options to treat or not to treat in some cases. Let’s be ready for every ailing squirrel carried through our doors!

*(General, Vet Tech CE)*

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### **Compassion Fatigue**

*Linda Bergman-Althouse*

In our chosen field of wildlife rehabilitation, we can easily become more than tired, but we still press on because there are lives to save, and because we know what needs to be done! Let’s face it, there aren’t that many experienced and licensed wildlife rehabilitators in North Carolina to cover the vast areas we cover. So, we shift into autopilot and keep on keepin’ on! This, my friends, can very well culminate in Compassion Fatigue, or what some call “burn-out,” which can be debilitating despite being the excellent, seasoned and “God-Sent” rehabilitator you are. Yes, we know what CF is, but most of us do not dare speak of it because we are strong, capable, we can manage whatever we need to, so that won’t happen to us. Truth be told, it can, so let’s talk about it. This segment of training explores what can lead to Compassion Fatigue, how to recognize it, resources to help you move through it and what behaviors and steps we can take to prevent it.

*(General, Vet Tech CE)*

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### **Wading Birds**

*Mary Ellen Rogers*

Migrating species such as loons and gannets are discussed as well as wading birds like herons, egrets, woodstorks, rails, and bitterns. All are normally resilient and resourceful birds with few problems. They have parasites and diseases, of course, but the main issues we have to face are related to injuries inflicted by alligators and snapping turtles. How to treat these fragile species and release them are challenges to the rehabber.

*(Vet Tech CE, Avian rehabilitators)*

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### **Rehabilitating Squirrels 101**

*Cindy Bailey*

Introductory squirrel rehab classes can have lofty goals. This class is no different. The main goal for this introductory class is for you to leave with tools, techniques, information and resources that will leave you somewhat comfortable when those first babies arrive. This class will provide the tools you will need to begin putting together your rehab toolbox. The presentation will cover the intake assessment of the babies. We will include information on hydration, feeding, housing, dispensing implements, wound care, disease issues, and when you should ask for help from more advanced rehabbers or a veterinarian. In addition, we will cover record keeping and sanitation.

*(Beginner Track, General, Vet Tech CE)*

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### **Rehabilitating Squirrels 201**

*Cindy Bailey*

This will be a two-part class. Part two will continue to build the tools for your toolbox. We will investigate more advanced techniques in squirrel care. This class will continue discussing diets, disease, safe handling techniques, housing needs from neonates to release. We will briefly discuss over-wintering. We will further talk about the treatment of different injuries and diseases. Plan on contributing and asking questions. We will hopefully have time at the end of part two for everyone to share resources that have not been covered in either part one or part two. Since there is a two-hour class on release protocols being offered, which will include squirrels, we will not spend much time on release.

*(Beginner Track, General, Vet Tech CE)*

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### **Rehabbing Opossums**

*Linda Viraldi*

This presentation covers the background, lifecycle, physiology, assessment and the care of orphaned opossums from intake to release, including feeding and housing.

*(Beginner Track, General, Vet Tech CE)*

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### **Tips & Tricks for raising Songbirds Roundtable**

*Maureen Eiger*

Ever lose songbird in a room? So how do you find it quickly? We will discuss *all* aspects of songbird rehabilitation. This round table is Q & A discussion based, so bring your questions! An experienced panel of home and center based bird rehabilitators and an avian veterinarian are available to answer those “I am afraid to ask questions.” So ask away in this judgement free session. Let’s learn and share how to make our rehabilitation of songbirds a little bit easier for us and better for the birds.

Audience participation is encouraged.

*(General, Vet Tech CE, Avian Rehabilitators)*

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## **Essentials for Rehabilitating Swallows and Swifts**

*Maureen Eiger*

Learn how to become extremely successful when rehabilitating Barn Swallows, Tree Swallows and Chimney Swifts. We will discuss why certain protocols should be carefully followed and what criteria to look for to make sure these aerial insectivores get the best chance of leaving your rehab and surviving their long journey south. Hopefully this session will inspire you and remove the mystery of why these adorable birds are considered “difficult” to raise.

*(General, Vet Tech CE, Avian Rehabilitators)*

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## **Medical Math for Small Mammal Rehabbing**

*Ann Rogers, Victoria Benson*

This session will explain the basics of all things “number-related” in the rehabilitation of wild animals. The target audience is the novice rehabber, but even many seasoned rehabbers need help in understanding how to do drug calculations. We will try and make this easy to understand!

*(Beginner Track, General, Vet Tech CE)*

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## **Bat House Workshop**

*Mathias Engelmann*

Each attendee will be assembling their own single-chamber bat box using pre-cut lumber. We will be using some power tools and probably stain the boxes so bring an old apron or a change of clothes.

*(General)*

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## **Turtle Shell Repair Lab**

*Dr. Gregory Lewbart*

This lab covers different shell repair techniques using shell models.

*(Vet CE, Vet Tech CE, Turtle Rehabilitators)*

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## **Avian Physical Exam Lab**

*Betty O'Leary*

This lab covers the basics of avian external anatomy and examination. Student are supplied with bird cadavers and an examination form to practice during the class.

*(General, Vet Tech CE)*

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**Large Bird Bandaging Lab**

*Dr. David Scott*

This lab will focus on learning to properly place the most common bandages and splints used in large bird species including raptors. Using cadavers, each student will learn how to place a figure-8 wrap with and without a body wrap, as well as to place splints for fractures of the lower leg (tibiotarsus, tarsometatarsus and digits). Guidelines for when to use each wrap and splint will be covered.

*(Vet CE, Vet Tech CE, Avian Rehabilitators)*

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**Avian Necropsy Lab**

*Dr. Rebecca Duerr*

Wildlife rehabilitators often encounter birds that die or are euthanized, and may be left wondering why a particular animal died or was unresponsive to the care provided. A necropsy can provide answers to some of these cases and may help alleviate feelings of guilt if something that was not treatable is found. In this class we will discuss the basics of anatomy, how to perform a dissection, and what sorts of problems can be identified on a simple necropsy vs needing a diagnostic lab for definitive results.

*(Vet CE, Vet Tech CE, Avian Rehabilitators)*

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**Songbird Bandaging Lab**

*Dr. Amber McNamara*

This is an introductory-level lab to introduce participants to basic types of bandages and splints specific to songbirds. A brief anatomy refresher will precede demonstrations of songbird bandaging techniques. Participants will have an opportunity to practice using paper tape, paper clips, vet wrap, and more to provide support to songbird wounds and fractures. Common mistakes will also be covered.

*(Vet CE, Vet Tech CE, Avian Rehabilitators)*

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**Fluid Therapy Lecture**

Fluid therapy is one of the most basic initial supportive treatments which can make the difference between life and death for wildlife patients. Program participants learn to responsibly and effectively evaluate: administration of fluids, types of fluids, routes and volume of fluid administration and monitoring the effects of fluid therapy.

*(Beginner Track, General, Vet Tech CE)*

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**Fluid Therapy Lab**

*tbd*

Subcutaneous injections are a common route for rehabilitators to give many medications and fluid therapy to the animals in their care. Here's your chance to learn the techniques, common locations, and gain some practice for subcutaneous injections of wild birds and mammals. The lab is part of the beginner track, is appropriate for intermediate rehabilitators who want to learn the technique and is approved for Vet Tech CE.

*(Beginner Track, General, Vet Tech CE)*

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**Introduction to Rehabilitation**

*Kathy Lillard*

This session is the first session of the beginner track. It covers what it means to be a wildlife rehabilitator, the rules and regulations covering rehabilitation, and the general principles for raising baby mammals.

*(Beginner Track)*

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**Mammal Physical Exam Lab**

*tbd*

In this class, participants will learn the basic principles and importance of performing a physical examination on small mammals. Attendees will have the chance to practice their physical exam skills on cadavers.

*(Beginner Track, General, Vet Tech CE)*

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**Basic Medical Terminology for Beginners**

*Jean Chamberlain*

Have you ever been to pick up an animal from a veterinarian and feel like you are hearing a different language as they go through the patient's condition and prognosis (likely outcome or future for patient)? Well, medical terminology is like a new language for many new, or non-medical rehabilitators. This lecture aims to teach some of the more common terminology, used in caring for wildlife in the rehabilitation and veterinary settings. Sound boring? Not at all! We'll have some fun too

*(Beginner Track, General)*

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**Zoonosis: Sanitation/Keeping it Clean**

*Carla Johnson*

This presentation covers the causes, modes of transmission, description of common zoonoses, symptoms of infection, and most of all, prevention.

*(Beginner Track, General, Vet Tech CE)*

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**Handling Wildlife Calls**

*Carla Johnson*

'My dog has brought me a baby bird.' 'I don't think the mother rabbit is feeding the young in the nest in my back yard.' 'There's a bat in my chimney.' Carla covers many of the calls frequently received by rehabilitators and vet offices.

*(Beginner Track, General, Vet Tech CE)*

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**Observation: First Look at an Old Problem**

*Linda Ostrand*

The first step in wildlife rehab is often the most critical, but how many of us take the time? The brief but important initial introduction to our wildlife clients will be discussed and examined in this program.

*(Beginner Tract)*

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**Falconry**

*Joni Shimp*

The ancient sport of Falconry has very real modern day benefits for reconditioning raptors for the goal of release after rehabilitation. Learn which techniques and why these techniques are so beneficial for conditioning and release.

*(General)*

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**The Making of a Mentor**

*Michele Poe/ Cindy Bailey*

Training the next generation of wildlife rehabilitators is quite a responsibility. Do you want to be a mentor? Do you qualify? Learn about North Carolina's new wildlife rehabilitation apprenticeship requirement to help you decide. If you're considering mentoring an apprentice, come see if your toolbox is equipped, come see if you are.

*(General)*

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**Capture & Restraint of Small Mammals & Birds**

*Toni O'Neil*

Learn how to safely plan the capture of injured birds and animals that reduces the chances of capture myopathy and the serious effects of stress during restraint. Each species reacts differently when approached and you can use their natural history to develop the most effective method to quickly contain them. Safe handling techniques prevents harm and damage to both the wildlife and you. PPE and safety equipment will be demonstrated and tips shared about proper holds for songbirds, raptors, reptiles, and different mammals.

*(Beginner Track, General)*

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**Social Media and Rehab**

*Jennifer Gordon*

Results of a survey conducted by Edge Research revealed the positive impact social media has had on the animal shelter and rescue community. According to rescuers surveyed, use of social media among this group is on the rise and communication tools like Facebook, Instagram and Twitter have helped generate increased public support and make it possible for more animals to be saved. Learn how to harness the power of social media to do more for the animals in your care and make your job as a rehabilitator easier.

*(General)*

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**Targeted Electromagnetic Field Therapy: an integrative treatment modality**

*Dr. Eva Welch*

Pulsed electromagnetic field (PEMF) therapy is a noninvasive technology that has been used in human medicine for over 40 years. Using low-level micro-currents of targeted electromagnetic energy, these FDA-cleared devices activate the body's own anti-inflammatory compounds to decrease pain, inflammation, and increase the speed of healing in diseased tissues. This presentation details how PEMF therapy works on a cellular level, provides examples of research studies that support its efficacy, explores the benefits of using it in wildlife patients, and introduces an easy-to-use device that provides hands-off treatment in often stressed species.

*(Vet CE, Advanced Rehabilitators)*

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**Everything Bird**

*Tanya Weil*

This course provides the basics of bird rehab. Bird categories, permitting, resources, husbandry, enclosures, assessment, and triage is covered.

*(General, Vet Tech CE)*

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**Wildlife Programs for Children**

Melissa Coe

We share tips and techniques for designing, preparing and presenting wildlife education programs, especially for those looking for new ideas, the shy or uncomfortable with children and groups without educational animals.

*(General)*