

2023 Course Descriptions

(Additional abstracts will be listed as they are received)

RVS Training

Wildlife Rehabilitation RVS Regulations

Falyn Owens, 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)

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)

Rabies the Disease

Dr. Carl Williams, Department of Health

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

Raccoon Rehab

Ruby Davis

(RVS Rehabilitators, General, Vet Tech CE)

Bats Rehab

Leslie Sturges

(RVS Rehabilitators, General, Vet Tech CE)

Rehabilitation of Striped Skunks (*Mephitis mephitis*)

Lisa Barlow

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)

Rehabilitation of North American Foxes

Lisa Barlow

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)

Bobcat Rehab

tbd

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)

Veterinarian Lectures

Restraint and Handling

Ernesto Dominguez

(General, Vet CE, Vet Tech CE)

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)

CWD: NC Surveillance and Response Plan

FayIn Owens

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)

Avian Influenza

Dr. Joni Shimp

(Avian Rehabilitators, Vet CE, Vet Tech CE)

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)

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 emergences, 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)

Raptor Ocular and Spinal Trauma

Dr. David Scott

(Avian Rehabilitators, Vet CE, Vet Tech CE)

Vertebrate Anatomy

Dr. Amber McNamara

(General, Vet CE, Vet Tech CE)

Labs and Workshops

Opossum Wheel Workshop

Linda Veraldi

(General)

Turtle Shell Repair Lab

Dr. Gregory Lewbart

This lab covers different shell repair techniques using shell models.

(Vet CE, Vet Tech CE, Turtle Rehabilitators)

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)

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)

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)

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)

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)

Feather Imping Lab

Betty O'Leary

(Avian Rehabilitators, Vet Tech CE)

General

DEAI

Halley Buckanoff
(General, Vet Tech CE)

Everything Bird

Tanya Weil, Kaitlan Owens
This course provides the basics of bird rehab. Bird categories, permitting, resources, husbandry, enclosures, assessment, and triage is covered.
(General, Vet Tech CE)

Beaver Rehab

Ruby Davis
(General, Vet Tech CE)

Renesting Birds

Maureen Eiger
(General, Vet Tech CE, Avian Rehabilitators)

Fluid Therapy Lecture

tbd
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)

Cottontails

tbd
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)

Baby Bird ID

tbd
(General, Vet Tech CE)

Herptile Care

Halley Buckanoff

(General, Vet Tech CE)

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)

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)

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)

Rehabbing Opossums

Linda Veraldi

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)

Medical Math for Small Mammal Rehabbing

Ann Rogers

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)

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)

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)

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)

Is Mentoring for You

Linda Bergman-Althouse & Rebekah McLain

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)

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)

Alternative Habitat for Chimney Swifts

Linda Bergman-Althouse

Chimney Swifts, an environmental partner who vacuums our skies of pesky insects, are in steep decline and building a nesting/roosting tower to replace chimneys that are rapidly disappearing all over the country due to capping or removal is an important way to help this special bird. Chimney Swifts are extremely adaptable. Historically, Swifts were forest dwellers and nested in tree cavities. With the loss of trees, Swifts moved to residential areas to roost in chimneys. Now, with the loss of access to chimneys, organizations have stepped up to build alternative habitat in the way of towers. WRNC has been helping residents across North Carolina build Chimney Swift towers to increase the population of this vital bird since 2008. Learn about the different types of towers and how you can help provide this valuable resource to your community.

(General)
