

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)

Raccoons: Should YOU rehab raccoons; why or why not? The reality of rehabbing raccoons; the basics and more!

Bats Rehabilitation

Leslie Sturges

This section will introduce the seasonal ecology of temperate North American bat species and touch on management in rehabilitation, including a brief discussion of disease issues. The second half of the session will focus on neonates through juveniles of the most common species encountered in rehabilitation. Feeding methods, diet selection, housing, conspecifics, monitoring development, and release methods will be discussed.

(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

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

Sarah Van de Berg

Chronic wasting disease (CWD) biology, regulations, rehabilitator responsibilities, transport protocols, and current CWD surveillance efforts will be brought up in this session.

(General, Vet CE, Vet Tech CE)

Avian Influenza

Dr. Joni Shimp

(Avian Rehabilitators, Vet CE, Vet Tech CE)

Wild Herp Rehab: Start to Finish & Wild Herp Diseases

Dr. Kerri Cooper-Bailey

The rehabilitation of reptiles encompasses two overlapping disciplines. One involves actual physical rehabilitation, which includes the diagnosis and physical treatment of reptiles with pathological processes that may hinder their healing or recovery. Application of rehabilitation practices enables these injured reptiles to become as healthy, mobile, and functional as possible. Secondly, rehabilitation includes habituation of a reptile to a new environment, a new facility, or the preparation of an individual for release into the wild. This two part lecture series will address these two disciplines in Wild Herp Rehab: Start to Finish and Wild Herp Diseases.

These lectures will fill the requirements of herp rehabilitators as well as wild herp veterinary professionals. The two lectures are recommended together but can also work as separate entities.

(General, Vet CE, Vet Tech CE)

Raptor Ocular and Spinal Trauma

Dr. David Scott

Spinal and ocular trauma are very common findings in birds of prey admitted to rehabilitation centers. The prognosis for these cases is variable and depends on many factors. Therefore, identification of any prognostic indicators is crucial for the proper management of these cases. This presentation describes two retrospective studies undertaken to identify any factors associated with a good or bad outcome for patients suffering from these types of injuries. In both categories of injuries, a simple severity scoring system was developed that can be used to more reliably and accurately assess and triage these cases.

(Avian Rehabilitators, Vet CE, Vet Tech CE)

Vertebrate Anatomy

Dr. Amber McNamara

This lecture will introduce participants to the basic anatomy of birds, mammals, and reptiles, especially

as it relates to wildlife rehabilitation. An understanding of anatomy is important for performing physical exams, appropriate bandaging, physical therapy, and evaluating normal vs. abnormal structures. This would be a great precursor to a bandaging, necropsy, or fluid therapy lab.

(General, Vet CE, Vet Tech CE)

Chelonian Anatomy, Husbandry, & Triage

Dr. Jessica Buchy

In North Carolina turtles are common wildlife rehabilitation patients that require special care and husbandry that differs from our mammal and avian cases. In this lecture Dr. Buchy will give an overview of turtle anatomy, basics of husbandry/care, and how to triage/examine various species of turtles.

(General, Vet CE, Vet Tech CE)

Labs and Workshops

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

In this lab you will learn how to replace broken flight and tail feathers with new ones so you can release birds sooner without having to wait for them to molt. I will demonstrate how to do one and then the participants will have time to practice imping feathers on bird cadavers.

(Avian Rehabilitators, Vet Tech CE)

General

DEAI

Halley Buckanoff

(General, Vet Tech CE)

Everything Bird

Tanya Weil, Kaitlan Adkins

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

Chewing through a successful rescue, rehab, and a surprise release of beavers!

(General, Vet Tech CE)

Renest or Rehab; deciding what is best when a "good samaritan" finds a baby bird

Maureen Eiger

Do all baby birds that people find need to be rehabbed?

Learn which situations or baby bird species are good candidates for renesting and how to work with the finder so that those baby birds will actually survive.

Learn the criteria for absolutely not considering renesting as an option.

We will discuss how you can still promote your rehab and get donations even if you don't intake a bird.

A win win for you and the birds.

(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)

Rehabilitating Cottontail Rabbits

Peggy Hentz

(General, Vet Tech CE)

Baby Bird ID

Linda Adams

The identification of baby birds, especially chicks of altricial species with seemingly few clues is challenging, even for experienced observers. This class teaches a systematic approach to help the observer ID birds as soon as possible to decide if the bird is behaving normal for the species and to provide appropriate diet and housing. Subject matter includes anatomy, behavior (imprinting), growth, development, estimating age, and comparisons of similar chicks. Slides are beautiful illustrations and

photos of eastern species that point out the most important features for correct ID.
(Beginning to Experienced Avian Rehabilitators, *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*)

Eastern Grey Squirrels - 16 weeks in a little less than 2 hours!

Betsy Shank
So, you have decided to rehabilitate squirrels. Yay! These little monsters are my favorite. They are a lot of fun, but the younger they are the more specific their needs. In this course we will be talking about raising Eastern Grey Squirrels from birth to release, which is a time period of approximately 16 weeks. We will talk about everything from aging to formula, to enrichment to identifying common life-threatening health issues and all the good stuff in between. We are going to break these items down and go one at a time. Ya ready?
(*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, and our state needs experienced and seasoned wildlife rehabilitators with the expertise to do just that. If you have been a rehabilitator for a while and would like to pass your knowledge and skills on to others, we need you, North Carolina wildlife needs you and potential wildlife rehabilitators need you! So the question is, would you like to be an invaluable 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, this class will help you see if your toolbox is equipped with the right background and teaching tools to do that!
(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)

Diversity & Inclusion: Enticing Under-represented Individuals into Wildlife Rehabilitation.

Halley Buckanoff

This presentation will explain what is Diversity, Equity, & Inclusion, give suggestions on how to implement practices into your facility, and allow for open and honest discussions on the topic.

Herptile Care

Halley Buckanoff

Initial Assessment and Care of Herptiles is a beginners approach to caring for the reptile and amphibian patient. Topic will include housing, husbandry, zoonoses, stabilization and supportive care.

Tips & Tricks for Raising Songbirds Roundtable

Maureen Eiger

Bring your questions and get some answers from a panel of experienced bird rehabilitators. Beginner bird rehabbers or advanced bird rehabbers can safely ask any questions (without judgment) in this forum of many topics relating to rehabbing birds.

Let's figure out how to solve your rehab problems and exchange some good ideas.

USDA Regulatory Updates for Wildlife Rehabilitators

Mary Ann McBride

Keynote Speaker Address

The Awesome Opossum!

Jerry Reynolds

The Virginia Opossum, North America's only marsupial, is common throughout much of North America. Even though this animal is probably living near most people, it is not well-known by most people. Through the lens of a trail camera, we will explore the secret life of the Virginia Opossum and how amazing they really are.