

Wildlife Rehabilitation



Introduction to Wildlife Rehabilitation

Wildlife Rehabilitation

- > WHAT IS WILDLIFE REHAB?
- > IS IT FOR YOU?
- > LAWS
- > REHABILITATION PERMITS



What is Wildlife Rehabilitation?

Rescuing, caring for, arranging for veterinary care of orphaned, sick, displaced, or injured wild animals with a goal of releasing them (in a way that they may survive) back to their natural habitats.





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Rescue, Rehab, Release



What is a Wildlife Rehabilitator?

- ➤ Obtains and works under the current required government permits
- Pursues ongoing training and education to engage in the practice of wildlife rehabilitation



Wildlife Rehabilitation involves...

DETERMINING IF AN ANIMAL NEEDS REHABILITATION

Are they in a nesting location?



Is it just a healthy fledgling?



Did a cat get a hold of them?



Administering first aid

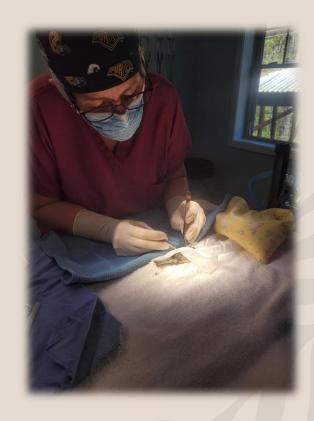


Taking the animal to a veterinarian

- Figure out the best course of treatment
- Understanding the medications and how to give them
 - SQ / PO
 - Pain meds, Antibiotic, etc.
- Following up with concerns







Caring for the animal

- Diet
- Feeding frequencies
- Housing needs
- Cleaning
- Cleaning
- Monitoring patient health and growth
- And more cleaning







Caring for the animal cont.

- > Babies
- > Fractures/wounds healing
- > PT
- Cage upgrades
- > Testing abilities







PREPARING THE ANIMAL FOR RELEASE

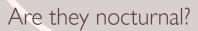
Is the weather decent for release?



Are they a migratory species?



Is survival likely?





Wildlife rehabilitation involves...

- > Arranging placement or euthanasia if not releasable
- > Educating the public
- > Resolving human-wildlife conflicts
- > Acquiring/ building and repairing cages









- > All fun
- > A paid activity
- > A hobby
- > An activity for children

Wildlife rehabilitation

Is rewarding but also demands stressful, hard work

Deals with severely injured animals, death, and euthanasia

Needs a network of volunteers and nearby fellow rehabilitators

Requires time and commitment

Causes stress to the animal while in captivity and can be risky for children

Misconceptions

- o Loving wildlife is all you need to be a rehabilitator
- Experience with pets qualifies someone to be a rehabilitator
 Wildlife likes to be petted and loved
 Wildlife appreciates the help we give them

In reality...

- o We are predators... they fear us (or should)
- o Fight or Flight
- o Withdrawal



Wild animals are NOT pets

"BAMBI SYNDROME"

We know.. They're cute..
But if you really love them,
you'll let them live how nature
designed.



CAN YOU PREPARE YOUR ANIMAL FOR A FREE AND WILD LIFE?

- o Can they preform natural behaviors necessary for survival?
 - Climbing
 - Eating
 - Running
 - Jumping
- o Do they have a fear response?

Is wildlife rehabilitation for you?

Benefits to you

- > Connection with wildlife and nature
- Opportunity for learning about wildlife
- Satisfaction from healing and releasing and animal back into the wild
- > Personal way to give back to nature
- > Opportunity to educate others
- > Connection with the community
- > Stories/memories



Why do people become rehabilitators?

- Humane
 - Nurturing and Caring
- Environmental
 - Overcome problems caused by humans
- Education
 - Tool for environmental education
- Scientific
 - Opportunity to study and learn about animals
- Egotistical
 - Promote self image



What it takes to be a rehabilitator

- > Time
- > Money
- > Emotion
- > Relationship with a veterinarian
- > Appropriate setting

Unfortunately, loving animals isn't enough





Understanding animals in rehab Could be constantly stressed due to...

- o Petting
- o Excessive handling
- o Lack of privacy
- o Frequent presence of a predator
- o Strange sights and sounds
- o Overcrowding
- o Hunger and thirst
- o Lack of natural food
- o Exposure to chemicals





Things you need to know..

- > Getting supplies and services
- ➤ Wildlife rescue, capture, & restraint
- > Natural history
- ➤ Handling wildlife nuisance situations
- > Admissions and record keeping
- > Cleaning, sanitation, & disease transmission
- > Zoonosis
- > Caging types & minimum requirements
- > Nutrition, nutritional problems
- > Release issues and requirements
- > Euthanasia



Euthanasia

Euthanasia is:

A good and painless death
The deliberate ending of the
life of an individual suffering
from an incurable or painful
disease

The ultimate gift of mercy to a wild creature doomed by its injuries

CRITERIA FOR METHODS

Ability to induce loss of consciousness and death without causing pain, anxiety, or apprehension

PENTOBARBITOL

Schedule II drug that directly depresses motor cortex causing general muscle relaxation

ADVANTAGES:

- Rapid, smooth injection of unconsciousness
- Usually aesthetically acceptable

DISADVANTAGES:

- > IV administration necessary for best results
- > Requires DEA license
- High potential for human abuse





ACCEPTABLE METHODS

Carbon Dioxide (CO2) Cervical dislocation Gunshot

METHODS CONSIDERED INHUMANE OR UNACCEPTABLE

Kill Traps Drowning Electrocution

Freezing

Air embolism

Cyanide

Nitrogen or argon gas Strychnine

Acetone

Thoracic compression

Placement

Placing a non-releasable animal in permanent captivity

Considerations for placing non-releasable animals

- > Type and quality of facility
- > Temperament of animal
- > Rarity of the species
- Quality of life for the animal
- ➤ Will the animal in captivity have psychological health, physical comforts, security, proper diet, and companionship?



Laws

WILDLIFE REHABILITATION PERMIT

o A permit, license or other written authorization issued by a federal, state, or provincial government agency authorizing the temporary possession of wildlife for the purpose of rehabilitation and eventual release back to the wild







BIRDS

- o All birds are federally protected except for pigeons, starlings, and English sparrows
- o Illegal to have them without federal permit
- o Also illegal without a permit to:
- o Own mounted/stuffed songbird, bat, game or furbearing mammal
- o Possess orphaned birds and animals
- Possess a feather of a protected species
- o Collect bird nests and eggs

Rehabilitation Permits

	APPLICATION Captivity License for Wildlife Rehabilitation Apprentice This application is for continuous approach to continuous descriptions or a part					
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- > NC wildlife rehabilitation permit
- > NC fawn permit
- Federal permit- rehabilitate federally protected species

Education Permits

- State & Federal possession permits- Possession of live migratory birds for education
- State permit & USDA License-Possession of live mammals for education
- ➤ Other permits : Salvage



Other Ways to help









Volunteer

Education programs

Answering phone calls

Transportation



thank you

Wildlife Rehabilitators of North Carolina