



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



The background features a light grey base with several overlapping organic shapes. A large, dark brown shape is on the left, partially overlapping a light green shape on the right. In the top left, there are faint, stylized grey patterns resembling pine needles or fern fronds. A white, wavy line starts from the bottom left and curves across the bottom of the frame.

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



FLUIDS



WARMTH



WOUND CLEANING



STABILIZATION

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?



Are they nocturnal?



Wildlife rehabilitation involves...

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



Wildlife Rehabilitation is not...



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

Wildlife rehabilitation

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graph TD; A[Wildlife rehabilitation] --- B[Deals with severely injured animals, death, and euthanasia]; A --- C[Needs a network of volunteers and nearby fellow rehabilitators]; A --- D[Is rewarding but also demands stressful, hard work]; A --- E[Requires time and commitment]; A --- F[Causes stress to the animal while in captivity and can be risky for children];
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Needs a network of volunteers and nearby fellow rehabilitators

Is rewarding but also demands stressful, hard work

Requires time and commitment

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

Misconceptions

- 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...

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

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

The background features a light grey base with large, overlapping organic shapes in muted green and brown. On the left, there are stylized, layered patterns of foliage in shades of grey and brown. A thin white line curves across the bottom right of the image.

Is wildlife
rehabilitation for
you?

Benefits to you

- Connection with wildlife and nature
- Opportunity for learning about wildlife
- Satisfaction from healing and releasing 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...

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

- 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

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

Rehabilitation Permits



APPLICATION
Captivity License for Wildlife Rehabilitation
Apprentice

This application is for individuals applying for a captivity license for rehabilitation that have never held this license in North Carolina or a similar license in another state. Please complete all sections of this application and return to the address listed below. Incomplete applications will be returned.

Part I: Applicant Information

Applicant's Name: _____ (Last) _____ (First) _____ (M. Initial) _____ (Date of Birth (required))
Residence Address: _____ (Street) _____ (City) _____ (State) _____ (Zip-Code)
Mailing Address: _____ (PO Box or Street) _____ (City) _____ (State) _____ (Zip-Code)
Facility location: _____ (Street) _____ (City) _____ (State) _____ (Zip-Code)
Telephone #: _____ (Area) _____ (Number) _____ (County)
Organization Affiliation (if applicable): _____

Part II: Mentor Information

I am willing to serve as the mentor for the above-named rehabilitator and will be available to provide professional assistance in the rehabilitation of wildlife.

Name of Mentor (please print full name): _____ Signature of Mentor: _____ Rehabilitation license #: _____

Part III: Applicant Signature

I hereby certify that all information contained herein is true and accurate to the best of my knowledge. I have read and understand the rules and statutes pertaining to the possession of wildlife in North Carolina under G.S. MCR 106-3401 - 3406 and G.S. 9-113-212.5 and 113-215 and agree to abide by these regulations. I understand that if I am issued a Captivity License for Rehabilitation of animals, mammals, and aquariums, I will be responsible for the humane and ethical treatment of all wildlife obtained under that license and that additional state licenses may be required. I also understand that the Commission may suspend or revoke my license and confiscate all wildlife in my possession should I violate any of these regulations or the conditions listed on my license.

Applicant's Signature: _____ Date: _____

Make check or money order for \$12.00 payable to NCRWC. Price includes \$2.00 transaction fee as mandated by G.S. 113-215.5B.
A service charge of up to \$25 will be charged on returned checks (22-25-3-084). Mail completed application with fee to:

NC Wildlife Resources Commission license Section
1707 Mail Service Center
Raleigh, NC 27609-1700

- 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

Any
Questions?

thank you

Wildlife Rehabilitators of North Carolina

