

# Skunks & the Stink'n Truth!



Ruby Davis 704-877-3037



Hey, I'm Rose!  
You know I'm  
cute!!

- CWCC
- Natural History
- Rearing to Release
- Necessities



# Carolina Wildlife Conservation Center

A Wildlife Rescue Clinic

- -Iron Station, NC
- -501 (c)3 Non-Profit Organization
- -105 acres of Conservation Land
- -In/Outdoor Enclosures
- -Huge focus on conservation of land & animals!



# North Carolina Wildlife Rules and Regulations

- ▶ “Individuals who do not possess a captivity license for rehabilitation may take temporary possession of injured, crippled, or orphaned wild animals or wild birds, provided they are surrendered to a North Carolina licensed veterinarian or an individual license under this Rule within 24 hours of taking possession of such animals.”- NCWRC



# Necessities

❖ Pre-exposure vaccines

❖ RVS License

❖ Intake Form




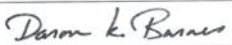
❖ Veterinarian

❖ Supplies

❖ Designated RVS area

❖ Cages for all ages

❖ Resources

Captivity License for Wildlife Rehabilitation		AUTHORITY
 North Carolina Wildlife Resources Commission Regulated Activities Permits Section 1707 Mail Service Center Raleigh, NC 27699-1700 Phone: (888) 248-6834 Fax: (919) 707-0292		GS 272.5
PERMITTEE/LICENSEE <b>RUBY MARIE DAVIS</b> CAROLINA WILDLIFE CONSERVATION CENTER 		PERMIT NUMBER <b>20-WR01432</b>
		EFFECTIVE <b>01/03/2020</b>
		EXPIRES <b>12/31/2020</b>
		COUNTY
		DISTRICT
Page 1 of 2		
TYPE OF PERMIT/LICENSEE: Rabies Species Print Date: 01/10/2020		
SPECIES AUTHORIZED: - Mammals, Small - Rabies Species (Bat, Raccoon, Skunk, Fox, Bobcat)		
AUTHORIZED LOCATION(S): 		
CONDITIONS AND AUTHORIZATIONS: This license authorizes the possession of injured, crippled, or orphaned, native wild animals or wild birds, depending on the categories listed under "Species Authorized", for the purpose of providing short term care and eventual release in to the animal's natural habitat. This license does not authorize holding any wild animals or wild birds other than those animals in the process of being rehabilitated for release. Wild animals or wild birds held under the authority of this license are authorized to be held for rehabilitation purposes only and may not be held as pets or for education, exhibition, or scientific purposes. Rehabilitation activities authorized under this license shall be conducted at the authorized location designated on this license. The licensee shall meet the minimum standards set forth in 15A NCAC 10H .1402(g)(1). All wild animals and wild birds undergoing rehabilitation shall be kept separated from pets, domestic animals, livestock, and non-native animals. All wild animals shall be kept in separate enclosures by species. Handling of animals shall be for treatment only. Wild animals and wild birds undergoing rehabilitation may remain in a rehabilitation facility for no longer than 180 days. If a longer rehabilitation period is needed, the license holder shall notify the Commission in writing. Wild animals and wild birds shall not be released on property owned by another unless the rehabilitator has written permission dated within the last 12 months from the landowner. Rabies Species: All rabies species shall be considered potentially infected with the rabies virus. If any human or domestic animal has been scratched, bitten, or exposed to saliva, the fluid that surrounds the brain and spinal cord, or brain and spinal cord material from any rabies species, the license holder shall contact the local Health Department immediately to report the incident. Rabies Species: Facilities housing rabies species shall be separate from facilities housing non-rabies species. Enclosures within the facility shall prevent escape of the animal and exposure to people, pets, livestock, and other captive or free-ranging wildlife. Exterior caging shall be locked. Rabies Species: Rehabilitated rabies species must be released in either the county where they were rehabilitated or the county where they were found. Rabies Species: Records of all rabies species rehabilitation shall be maintained on a form provided by the Commission, and submitted to the Commission within 15 days of expiration of the license or prior to the request for reissuance of the license.		
This permit/license is non-transferable and expires at midnight on the above specified expiration date.		
ISSUED BY: 	TITLE: <b>Section Chief - WI &amp; RAPS</b>	

## Good Samaritan Drop-Off Form



Name: \_\_\_\_\_ Date: \_\_\_\_\_

Address, city and zip: \_\_\_\_\_

Phone: \_\_\_\_\_ Email: \_\_\_\_\_

How did you hear about us? \_\_\_\_\_

### Animal Information

Species(s): \_\_\_\_\_ Date you received Animal: \_\_\_\_\_ # of Animal(s): \_\_\_\_\_

Address found (if different from above) \_\_\_\_\_

What is wrong with the animal? Cat/dog attack? Orphaned? \_\_\_\_\_

What food or formula has it ate or drank? \_\_\_\_\_

Who has touched the animal? Gloves or bare handed? \_\_\_\_\_

Has the animal bitten or scratched anyone? \_\_\_\_\_

*I hereby acknowledge that I am surrendering this animal. I understand that I am turning over primary care of this animal to the Carolina Wildlife Conservation Center and am not financially responsible for any services deemed necessary. Care may include medical treatment, transfer to another facility, release, or euthanasia, and will be determined at the sole discretion of the rehabilitator. CWCC is not obligated to give updates/status of the animal to the good Samaritan. I handled the animal at my own risk and do not hold CWCC liable for any injury acquired from the animal.*

**For Fox, Bats, Raccoons and Skunks only:** This animal(s) are rabies vector species. Rabies is an infectious viral disease that affects the nervous system of humans and other mammals. People get rabies from the bite of a rabid animal. It is also possible, but quite rare, for people to be exposed to rabies if infectious material from a rabid animal gets directly into eyes, nose, mouth or wounds of people. If, to the best of your knowledge, no one has been bitten and you acknowledge that you have handled this animal at your own risk, please sign below.

Signature: \_\_\_\_\_ Date: \_\_\_\_\_

### Yes! I would like to Make a Donation!

Here at Carolina Wildlife Conservation Center we feel strongly about caring for all animals. We provide the best care including but not limited to our time, medications, surgical procedures, food, and housing cost to help these animals. Your Tax-deductible donation will help us continue Rescue, Rehabilitation, and Release of these animals. Thank you!

Donation Amount: \$ \_\_\_\_\_

Cash  Check  Venmo  Paypal



# Natural History

- *Mephitidae*
- Lifespan 2-3 years
- Omnivores
- Gestation 60-65 days
- Nocturnal/Crepuscular
- Solitary
- Nomadic
- Habitat
- Predators
- Vision, Olfactory, Auditory
- Nature's Pest Control
- Defense Mechanism!





Eastern spotted  
(*Spilogale putorius*)





Striped  
(*Mephitis mephitis*)





~Basic  
Supplies~

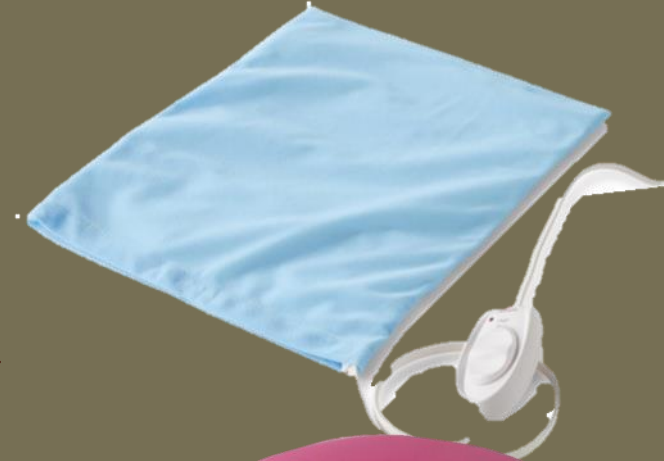




# Heating Sources

- Thermoregulate
- Incubators
- Heating pads
- Heated discs
- Car converter (plug in source)

Life  
Or  
Death!



## Formula Feeding Schedule

Age/Weight		Times/Day
Birth	15-40g	6-8/day with a night feed
1 week	40-75	6-8/day with a night feed
2 weeks	75-100g	6-7/day, eliminate night feed
3 weeks	100-200g	5/day
4 weeks	200-300g	4/day
5 weeks	300-400g	3-4/day
6 weeks	400-500g	2-3/day
7 weeks	500-600g	2/day
8 weeks	600-750g	2/day
10 weeks	800g+	weaned



Fox Valley Skunk 32/45



# Probiotics

## ➤ Mix in Formula

- Neonates
- On Antibiotics
- Diarrhea
- Changing diet
- Stress

- ▶ VetriScience
- ▶ Benebac Plus
- ▶ Goat Yogurt but low sugar
  - ▶ 5% of total amount of formula (i.e. 2 tsps./cup)
- ▶ FV LA-200

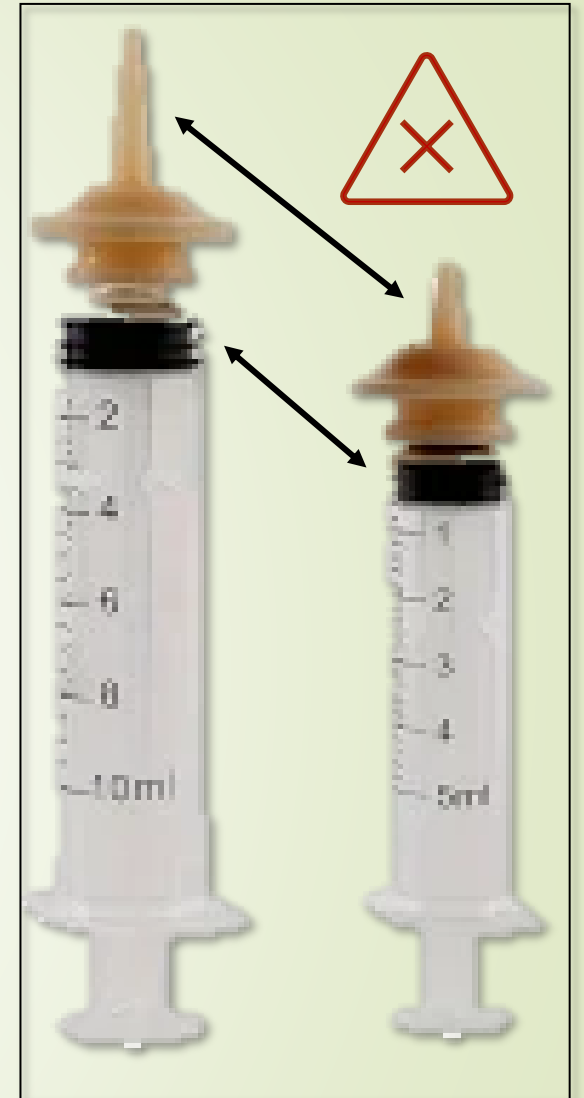




Miracle O-ring Syringe Only



Use a four paws nipple  
(kitten nipple)



**\*\*DO NOT USE\*\***





May 17<sup>th</sup>  
30 g Male Striped Skunk





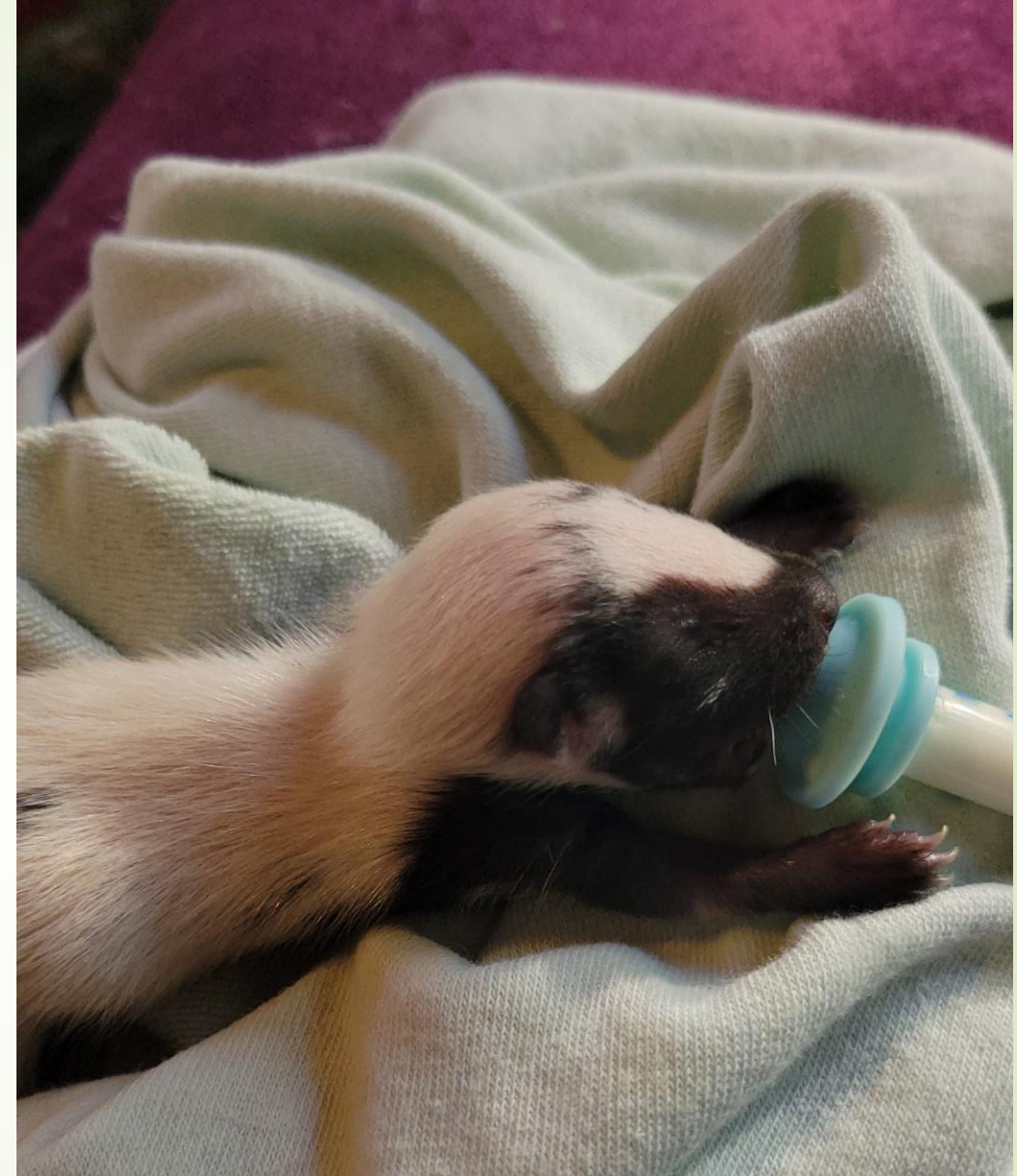
May 25<sup>th</sup>  
93g







May 25<sup>th</sup>  
93g




June 2<sup>nd</sup>  
140g





June 14<sup>th</sup>  
237g





June 17<sup>th</sup>  
260g





Must have minimum **Taurine** 250mg

Must always have shallow bowl of H<sub>2</sub>O





# Housing

## Indoors



Soft blankets



Towels &  
Pee Pads /  
Hide box



## Outdoors/Pre-Release

MUST be secured

Bottom wired/then substrate

WILL escape



# Inside/Playtime



Wire sides/bottom  
Covered roof



Hide boxes/holes



Natural substrate /  
Enrichment

Water dish





# Soft

- Greater success
- Released from enclosure
- Enjoyable
- Adapted to environment
- Continue food
- Can monitor
- Safe "Home base"
  - Return if scared/hurt/sick



# Hard

- Less successful
- Taken from enclosure and carried to new location
- Stressful
- Disadvantage /Hostile territory
- Must be fatter
- Get carsick / stress diarrhea
- Hesitate to come out of carrier



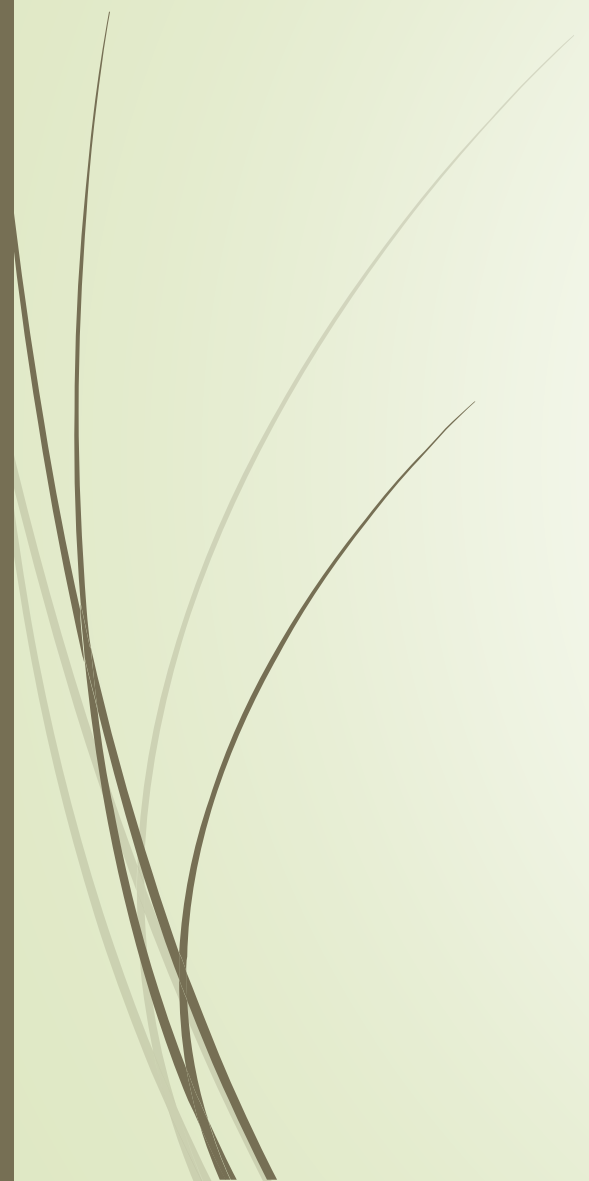
# Release criteria

- No health issues/complications
- Size of adult
- Eating natural foods
- Exhibiting natural behaviors



Non-releasable





~Additional  
Supplies~



# Parasites



Fenbendazole

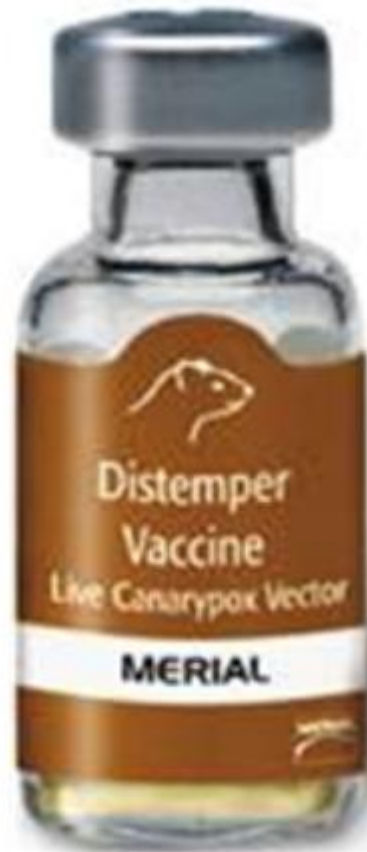


# VACCINATIONS



# Vaccinations

- Expensive
- Fundraise
- Buy online
- Be prepared



at only

efore season starts

**Rabies  
Distemper  
Parvo**

Shield of Armor!





# Vaccinations

## **Merial Imrab 3 TF:**

Rabies 16 weeks +

3 Years not 1 year

TF: Thimerosal Free

(Thimerosal is a preservative containing mercury)



## **Merial PureVax**

Weeks 8, 11, and 14



# Vaccinations

- REDUCE THE NUMBER OF SUSCEPTIBLE ANIMALS & MINIMIZE ENVIRONMENTAL CONTAMINATION
- MLV recombinant vaccines provides rapid immunity (within hours of administering) in the absence of maternally derived antibodies
- Killed viruses take longer to induce an immune response
- MLV less likely to cause adverse side effects than KV
- Current research shows that Duration of Immunity after vaccination with MLV is 7+ years based on challenge and serological studies



# Sprayed...

- ❖ **DO NOT** apply water!
- ❖ Combine 1 quart hydrogen peroxide, 1/3c baking soda, 2 tsps Dawn
- ❖ Lather
- ❖ Rinse
- ❖ Poof?!







Need Help?

# What's the situation? Details!

HBC

Fly  
strike/Maggots

Poisoned

Trap (glue, leg,  
cat)

Shot

Orphaned

\*Sick\*

Predator  
Attack

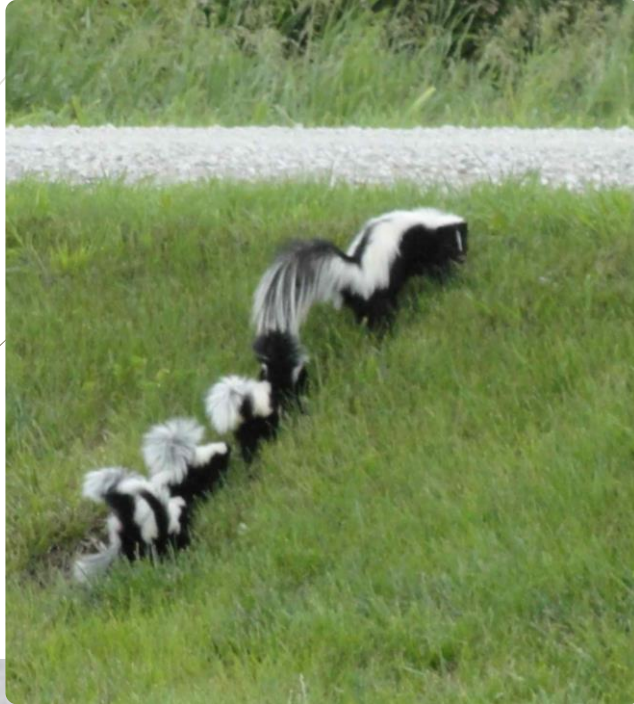
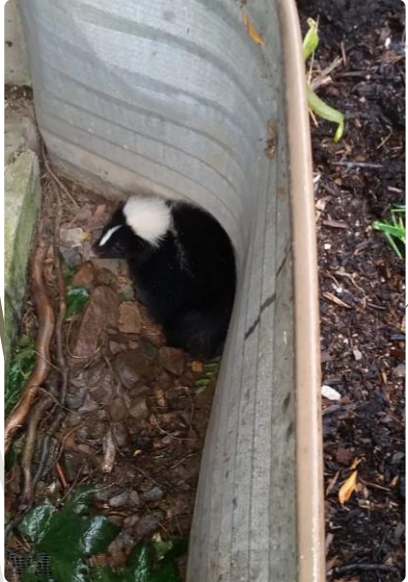
Drowning/Wet

Window Well

\*Human  
Conflict



# Skunk Calls



▶ Issue: Loner/Group without mom = repeatedly seen alone

(Frantic = Orphaned/Hungry)

▶ Resolve: If <24 hrs; Place lattice laundry basket over to see if mom comes back – DO NOT put weight on top. If No mom after 24 hrs, use gloves/towel to place in ventilated/secured container to transport

▶ Issue: Fell into window well

▶ Resolve: Place container in well on side; walks in, lift up/out; lay container on side to walk out to reunite with mom, if present and < than 24hrs; if no mom, transport; COVER window well

▶ Issue: Soaking wet/drowning

▶ Resolve: Use gloves/towel to pick up, dry off, warm up, secure, transport

▶ Issue: Rice grains = Fly strike

▶ Resolve: Use gloves/towel to pick up, keep warm, secure, transport



# REMEMBER TO ALWAYS

Ask for a picture of the skunk.





# Safe containment & transport

- ❖ **Always** treat with respect.
- ❖ Protection!!
- ❖ Thick gloves
- ❖ Towel or blanket
- ❖ Size appropriate container





Misc 4  
2/26/16 05:51:01

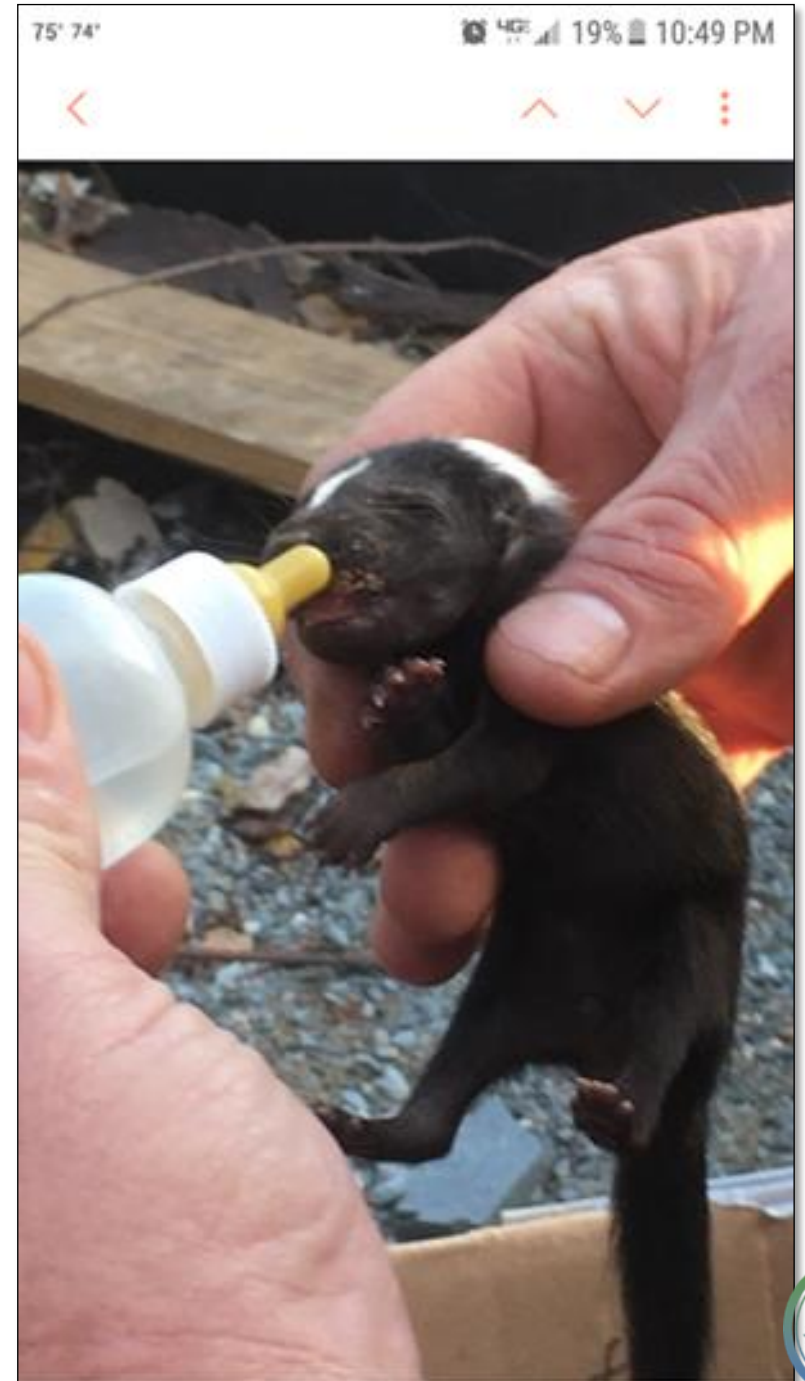


Misc 2  
2/26/16 05:47:08



Is there anything wrong with this picture?

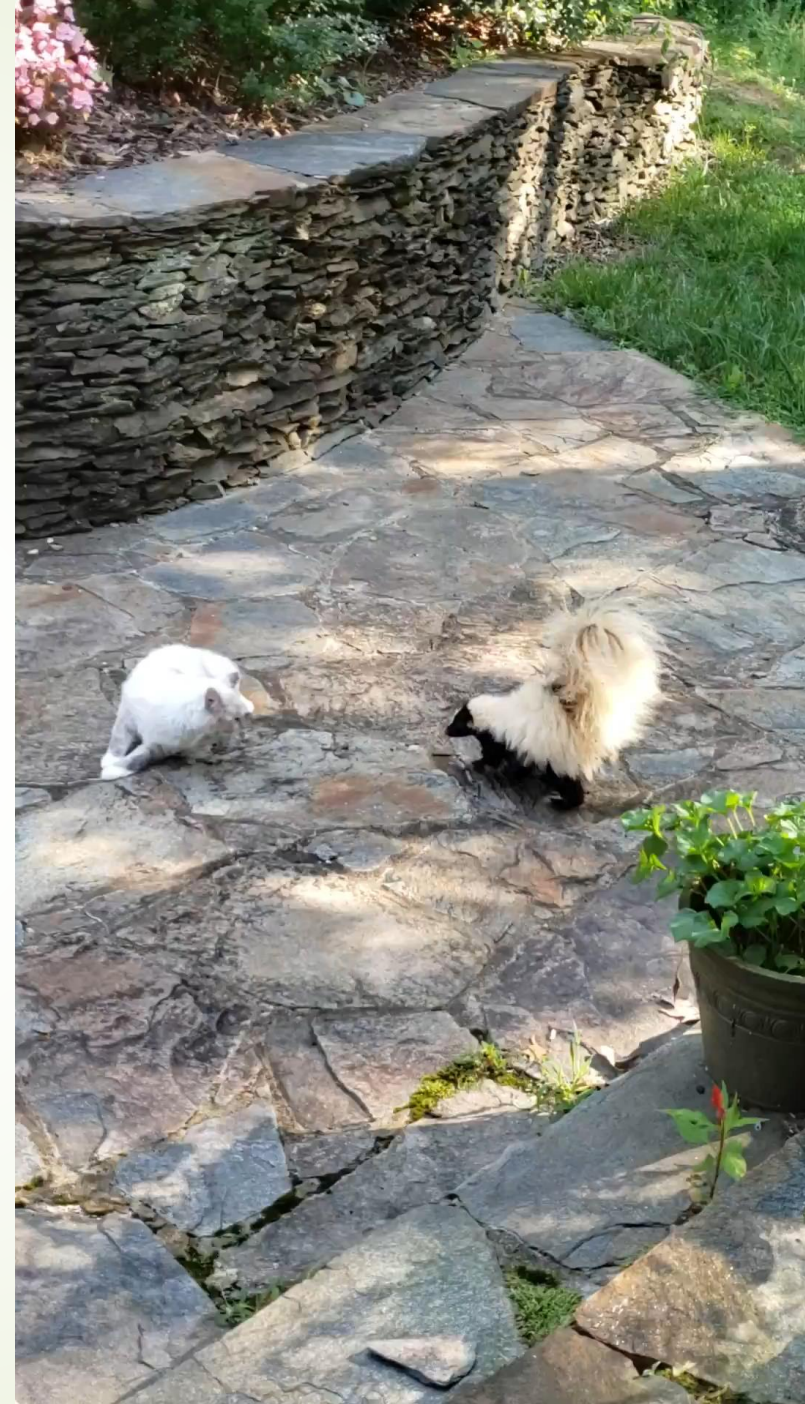
Does this baby need to come into care?



# Don't freak out!!

NOT rabid!

Moms are seen during the day





## Reminder:

RVS

Wear gloves/Use towel

Quiet/low noise

Keep Warm

DO NOT attempt to feed

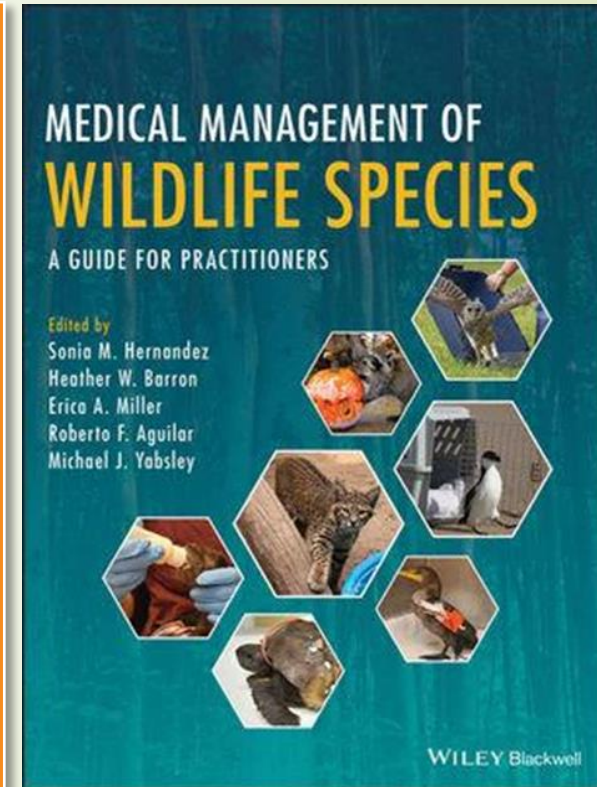
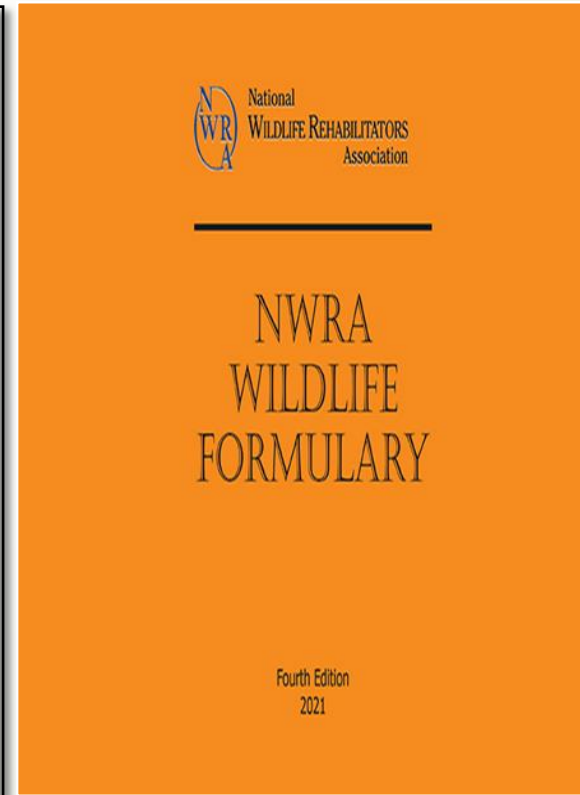
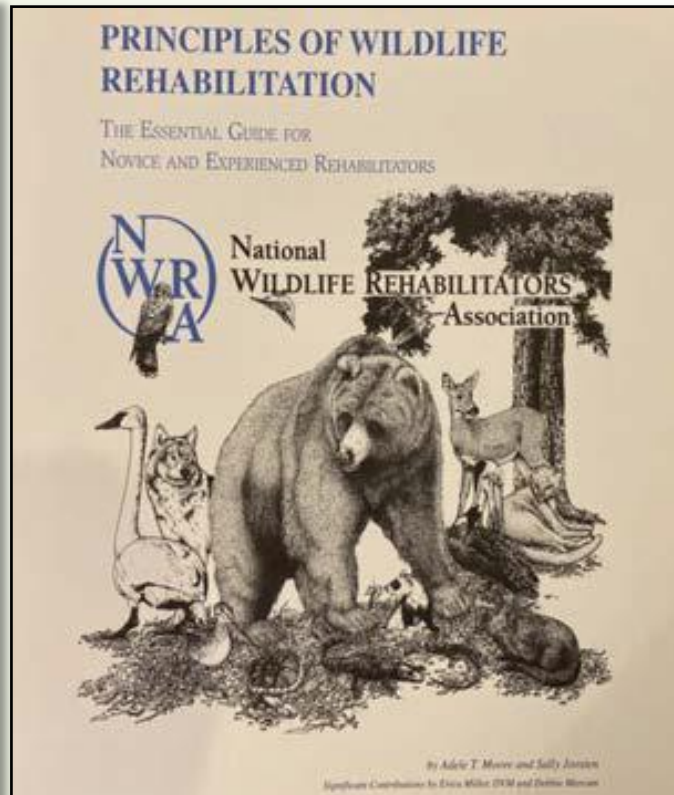
**Tuck tail**

Place in a secured & ventilated  
container



# Resources

Standards for  
**Wildlife**  
Rehabilitation



# Wildlife Rehabbers

- ❖ \* Be a better rehabber today than yesterday
- ❖ Forgive yourself when you make mistakes
- ❖ Never stop learning BUT learn from the mistakes
- ❖ Networking is essential
- ❖ Take care of yourself!!!
- ❖ ENJOY THIS PRIVILEGE!!



Thank you for your  
time and  
for helping save our  
wildlife!!

Ruby Davis

704-877-3037

rdavis@carolinaconservation.org



SCOTT JOHNSTON

©micheltcomers@gmail.com 01-20

