

2024 Course Descriptions

(Additional abstracts will be listed as they are received)

RVS Training

Introduction to RVS Rehab

Speaker: tbd

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)

Wildlife Rehabilitation RVS Regulations

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)

Rabies the Disease

Department of Health

Rabies, vectors, vaccination, titers, testing procedures, and more are covered in this session.

(RVS Rehabilitators, General, Vet Tech CE)

Raccoon Rehabilitation

Ruby Davis

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

(RVS Rehabilitators, General, Vet Tech CE)

Bat Rehabilitation

Lelie Sturges

(RVS Rehabilitators, General, Vet Tech CE)

Skunk Rehabilitation

Ruby Davis

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)

Fox Rehabilitation

Dr Miranda Torklison

(RVS Rehabilitators, General, Vet Tech CE)

Veterinarian Lectures

Opossum Medicine

Antonia Gardner

(Mammal Rehabilitators, Vet CE, Vet Tech CE)

Avian Influenza

Dr. Joni Shimp

(Avian Rehabilitators, Vet CE, Vet Tech CE)

Avian Orthopedics

Dr. David Scott

(Avian Rehabilitators, Vet CE, Vet Tech CE)

Fracture Management

Antonio Gardner

(Avian Rehabilitators, Vet CE, Vet Tech CE)

Neoplasia in Birds of Prey

Tracey Ritzman

(Avian Rehabilitators, Vet CE, Vet Tech CE)

Neurological Disease in Avians

Dr. David Scott

(Avian Rehabilitators, Vet CE, Vet Tech CE)

Interpreting Rads – Mammal Focus

Laura Lathan

(Mammal Rehabilitators, Vet CE, Vet Tech CE)

The Impact of CWD in NC

Miranda Turner

(Fawn Rehabilitators, Vet CE, Vet Tech CE)

Ambassador Candidacy and Long term Welfare of Raptors

Colleen Hartman

When a non-releasable raptor is considered an ideal candidate for education placement, understanding bird behavior, and applying basic training techniques can help set them up for success for their life under human care. Becoming increasingly aware of bird behavior, changing how food is offered, and modifying the environmental set-up can have a positive impact on the ambassador candidate. The sooner we can implement these changes, the more likely we can create meaningful relationships between human and animal and have a positive impact on their future welfare.

(Avian Rehabilitators, Vet CE, Vet Tech CE)

Interpretation Radiographs – Mammal Focused

Dr Laura Lathan

(General, Vet CE, Vet Tech CE)

Interesting Amphibian and Reptile Clinical Cases; An Interactive Learning Experience

Dr. Gregory Lewbart

(General, Vet CE, Vet Tech CE)

Dermatology

Dr. Karra Pierce

(General, Vet Tech CE, Vet CE)

Labs and Workshops

Turtle Shell Repair Lab

Dr. Gregory Lewbart

This lab covers different shell repair techniques using shell models.

(Turtle Rehabilitators ,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

Sunny Cooper

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 (tibia/tarsus, tarsometatarsus and digits). Guidelines for when to use each wrap and splint will be covered.

(Vet Tech CE, Avian Rehabilitators)

Fluid Therapy Lab

(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)

Raptor ID Lab

Betty O'Leary

(Avian Rehabilitators, General, Vet Tech CE)

Biosecurity Lab

Sunny Cooper & Malan Starr

(General, Vet Tech CE)

Possum Wheel Workshop

Linda Veraldi

Participants will build an opossum wheel to take home.



(General)

General

Intro to Songbird ID and Diet Needs

Tara Frost

(Avian Rehabilitators, Vet Tech CE)

Loon Rehab

Andrew Baughman

Avian Rehabilitators, Vet Tech CE)

Hazards of Wildlife Rehabilitation

Linda Bergman-Althouse

Is Mentoring for You

Tonya Weil & Rebeka Kriston

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)

Natural History of Small Mammals

Kathy Lillard

It is essential to know the natural history of the animals we rehab to give them proper care. This presentation covers the natural history of the 3 small mammals rehabbed by beginners in North Carolina: squirrels, opossums and cottontails. It covers their characteristics, habitats, activity patterns, feeding habits, ecology, population dynamics, behavior and social organization.

(Beginner track, General)

Is it a Bird I Hear? A Mammal? An Amphibian?

Jean Chamberlain

(General)

Volunteering

Maggie Stein

(General)

Beginner

Introduction to Wildlife Rehabilitation

Tara Frost

Want to start Rehabilitating Wildlife? There are a few things you need to know to make sure wildlife rehabilitation is for you. This presentation covers the basics of rehabilitation, such as pros and cons, basic care, and expectations, to prepare beginners for what rehabilitation involves.

(Beginner Track)

Applying for an Apprentice Permit

Rebeka Kriston & Tonya Weil

The NCWRC has a new online procedure for applying for permits. Applying for your first permit as an apprentice can be very confusing. This presentation will go through the procedure step by step.

(Beginner track)

Basic Medical Terminology and Math for Beginners

Ann Rogers

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. This session will also 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)

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)

Opossum Rehabilitation

Melisse Hopping

(Beginner Track, General, Vet Tech CE)

An Introduction to Feeding and Caring for Young Squirrels

Cindy Bailey

Feeding and caring for young squirrels involves a delicate balance of providing proper nutrition and mimicking natural conditions to ensure their optimal growth and development. We will look at key stages of milk feeding to the transition to solid food. We will discuss the housing needs and the transition to larger caging. We will briefly talk about a couple of medical issues to watch for while raising these babies.

(Beginner Track, General, Vet Tech CE)

Enrichment or Codependency for your Squirrels

Cindy Bailey

Enrichment is crucial for the well-being of captive animals, including squirrels, as it helps mimic natural behaviors and provides mental stimulation. However, if the enrichment provided is inadequate or inappropriate, it can indeed have negative consequences when the squirrel is released into the wild. We will look at some potential issues.

(Beginner Track, General, Vet Tech CE)

Keynote Speaker Address