

Introduction to Wildlife Rehabilitation



Wildlife Rehabilitation

Introduction to Wildlife Rehabilitation




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Introduction to Wildlife Rehabilitation

Wildlife Rehabilitation

- What is Wildlife Rehabilitation?
- Is it for You?
- It's the Law
- Wildlife Rehabilitation Permits

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Introduction to Wildlife Rehabilitation

➤ What is Wildlife Rehabilitation?

- Is it for You?
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Introduction to Wildlife Rehabilitation

What is Wildlife Rehabilitation?

Rescuing, caring for, and arranging for veterinary care of orphaned, sick, displaced or injured wild animals with a goal of releasing them back to their natural habitats




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What is Wildlife Rehabilitation?

Rescuing, caring for, and arranging for veterinary care of orphaned, sick, displaced or injured wild animals with a goal of releasing them back to their natural habitats

Rescue Rehab Release



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Introduction to Wildlife Rehabilitation

What is Wildlife Rehabilitation?

Rescuing, caring for, and 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 in their natural habitats

Rescue Rehab Release



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Introduction to Wildlife Rehabilitation

What is a Wildlife Rehabilitator?

- A person who obtains or works under the current required government permits
- Pursues ongoing training and education to engage in the practice of wildlife rehabilitation

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Introduction to Wildlife Rehabilitation

Wildlife Rehabilitation Involves

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Wildlife Rehabilitation Involves

- Determining if an animal needs rehabilitation



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Did a cat get a hold of it



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Is it just a healthy fledgling



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Is it truly abandoned?

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Wildlife Rehabilitation Involves

- Administering first aid
- Performing a physical exam
- Taking the animal to a veterinarian
- Administering medication





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Wildlife Rehabilitation Involves

- Caring for the animal (diet, feeding, housing needs)
- Cleaning, cleaning, cleaning and more cleaning
- Monitoring health and growth





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Wildlife Rehabilitation Involves

- Preparing the animal for release
- Releasing the animal (selecting site, time)

Is the weather good?



Are they migratory?

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Wildlife Rehabilitation Involves

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



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Wildlife Rehabilitation Is Not

- All Fun
- A Paid Activity
- Even a Hobby
- An Activity for Children

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Introduction to Wildlife Rehabilitation

Wildlife Rehabilitation Is Not

Interesting
Rewarding
but also
Demanding
Stressful
Hard work

All Fun
A Paid Activity
Even a Hobby
An Activity for Children

Deals with
Severely injured
Death
Euthanasia

Volunteers

Stress to Animal
Risks to Child

Commitment

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Misconceptions

- Loving wildlife is all that is needed 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 it

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Help! I've been captured by monsters!

In reality

- We are predators...they fear us
- Flight or Fight
- Conservation withdrawal



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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?



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What is Wildlife Rehabilitation?
Is it for You?
 It's the Law
 Wildlife Rehabilitation Permits



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Benefits to you

- Connection with wildlife and nature
- Opportunity for learning about wildlife
- Satisfaction from releasing animal back to wild
- Personal way to give back to nature
- Opportunity to educate others
- Memories



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Why do people become rehabilitators?

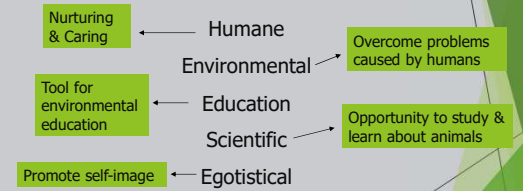
- Humane
- Environmental
- Education
- Scientific
- Egotistical

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Why do people become rehabilitators?



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What it takes to be a rehabilitator

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



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Loving animals is not enough

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Understanding animals can be constantly stressed due to...

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

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Things You Need to Know...

and will begin learning in this course

- Getting Supplies & Services
- Wildlife Rescue, Capture & Restraint
- Natural History
- Admissions & Record Keeping
- Cleaning, Sanitation & Disease Transmission
- Zoonosis




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Things You Need to Know

- Caging Types & Minimum Requirements
- Nutrition, Nutritional problems
- Release Issues & Requirements
- Handling Wildlife Nuisance Situations
- Euthanasia



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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

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Euthanasia

Criteria for methods:


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

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Pentobarbital



Schedule II drug. 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


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Other 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

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Placement

Placing a non-releasable animal in permanent captivity

Considerations for placing a non-releasable animal

- Type and quality of the facility
- Temperament of the 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?

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What is Wildlife Rehabilitation?
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Wildlife Rehabilitation Permits




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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

Issued by the North Carolina Wildlife Resources Commission (NCWRC)

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It's the Law




All birds are federally protected except Pigeons, Starlings and English Sparrows

It is illegal to have them in your possession without a federal permit



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Without a permit it is illegal to

- Own a mounted/stuffed songbird, bat, game or furbearing mammal
- Possess orphaned birds and animals
- Possess a feather of a protected species
- Collect bird nests and bird eggs




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- **Wildlife Rehabilitation Permits**

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State Rehabilitation Permits



Issued by NCWRC

- NC Wildlife Apprenticeship Rehabilitation Permit
- NC Wildlife Rehabilitation Permit
- Fawn Permit
- RVS Rehabilitation

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Apprentice Permit

- Work under a mentor
- Complete at least 12 months of supervised rehabilitation
- Rehab squirrels, rabbits, and opossums



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Federal Rehabilitation Permit

- Federal Wildlife Rehabilitation Permit – for migratory birds



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Other Federal Permits


- State & Federal Possession Permit- Possession of live migratory birds for education
- USDA License- possession of live mammals for education
- Salvage Permit

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Other Ways to Help:



- Volunteer at a center
- Education programs
- Transport

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The End

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