

Introduction to Wildlife Rehabilitation



Wildlife Rehabilitation

Introduction to Wildlife Rehabilitation



Wildlife Rehabilitation

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

Introduction to Wildlife Rehabilitation

➤ **What is Wildlife Rehabilitation?**

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

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



Photo by warriorwoman531 CC BY ND 2.0

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Rescue Rehab Release



Photo by Audrey [CC BY 2.0](#).

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



Photo by New England Cottontail CC BY 2.0

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

Introduction to
Wildlife Rehabilitation

Wildlife Rehabilitation Involves

Wildlife Rehabilitation Involves

- Determining if an animal needs rehabilitation



Photo by T.J. Blackwell CC BY-NC 2.0



Photo by Gary Robertson CC BY-NC 2.0

Is it truly abandoned?



Photo by Nick Morieson CC BY-NC 2.0

Did a cat get a hold of it

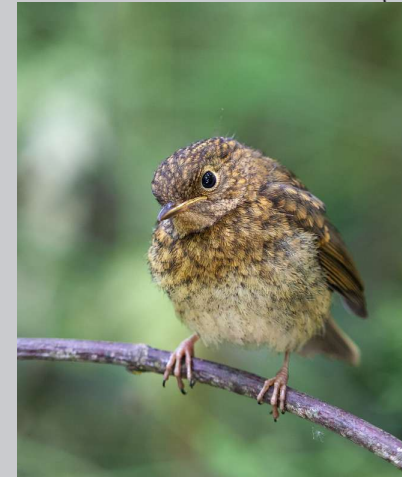


Photo by Edward Badley CC BY-NC 2.0

Is it just a healthy fledgling

Wildlife Rehabilitation Involves

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



Wildlife Rehabilitation Involves

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



Wildlife Rehabilitation Involves

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

Is the
weather
good?

Are they
nocturnal?



Are they
migratory?

Introduction to Wildlife Rehabilitation

Wildlife Rehabilitation Involves

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

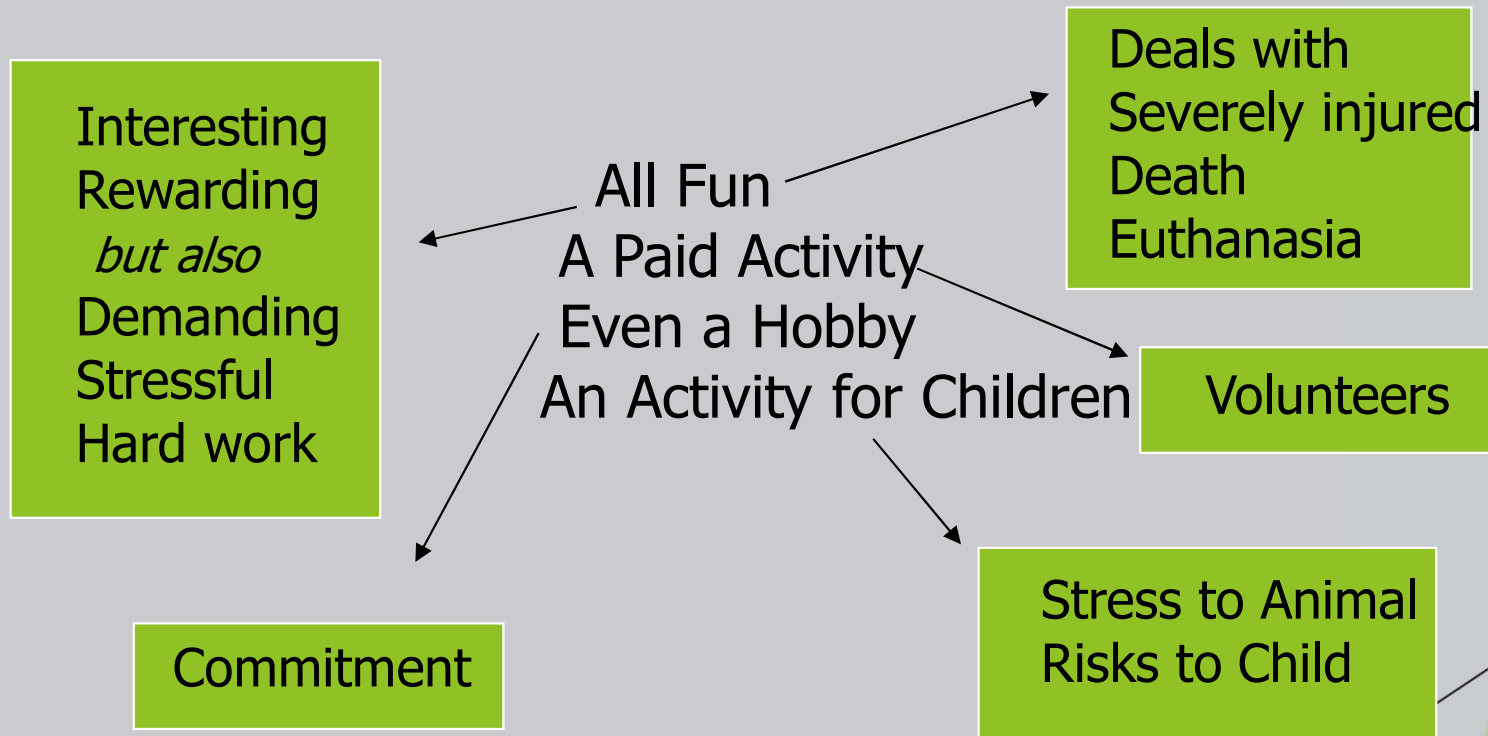


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Wildlife Rehabilitation Is Not

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

Wildlife Rehabilitation Is Not



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

Help!

I've been captured by monsters!

In reality

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



Photo by Florida Fish and Wildlife

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



Photo by Audrey [CC BY 2.0](#).

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?

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Wildlife Rehabilitation Permits



Photo by Paul VanDerWerf CC BY 2.0

Wildlife Rehabilitators of North Carolina 2021

Benefits to you

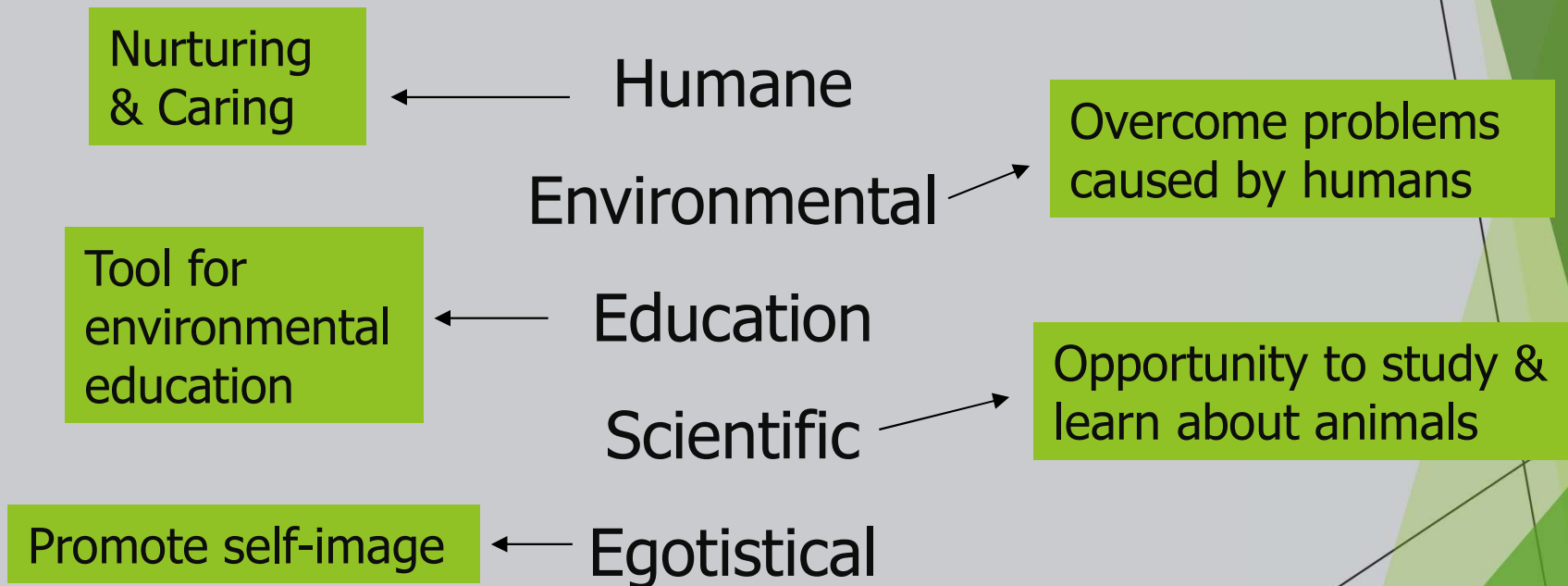
- Connection with wildlife and nature
- Opportunity for learning about wildlife
- Satisfaction from releasing animal back to wild
- Personal way to give back to nature
- Opportunity to educate others
- Memories



Why do people become rehabilitators?

- Humane
- Environmental
- Education
- Scientific
- Egotistical

Why do people become rehabilitators?



What it takes to be a rehabilitator

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



Photo by Wendy [CC BY-NC-ND 2.0](#).

Loving animals is not enough

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

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



Things You Need to Know

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

Euthanasia

Criteria for methods:

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

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

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

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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Wildlife Rehabilitation Permits



Photo by Vladeb CC BY-ND 2,0

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)

Introduction to Wildlife Rehabilitation



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



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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Permits**

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State 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))
Resident Address:	(Street)	(City)	(State)	(Zip Code)
Mailing Address: <small>(if different from resident)</small>	(PO Box or Street)	(City)	(State)	(Zip Code)
Facility Location: <small>(if different from resident)</small>	(Street)	(City)	(State)	(Zip Code)
Telephone #: ()	Email:	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 15A NCAC 10H .1401 - .1406 and G.S. § 113-272.5 and 113-275 and agree to abide by these regulations. I understand that if I am issued a Captivity License for Rehabilitation of squirrels, rabbits, and opossums, 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 NCWRC. Price includes \$2.00 transaction fee as mandated by G.S. 113-270.1B. A service charge of up to \$25 will be charged on returned checks (GS 25-3-506). Mail completed application with fee to:

NC Wildlife Resources Commission License Section
1707 Mail Service Center
Raleigh, NC 27699-1700

Issued by NCWRC

- NC Wildlife Apprentice Rehabilitation Permit
- NC Wildlife Rehabilitation Permit
- Fawn Permit
- RVS Rehabilitation

Apprentice Permit

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



Photo by Jim Isaacs

Federal Rehabilitation Permit

- Federal Wildlife Rehabilitation Permit –
for migratory birds



Other Federal Permits

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

Other Ways to Help:



- Volunteer at a center
- Education programs
- Transport

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The
End