



# Working With Your Vet

Liz Schmid  
Owl's Roost Wildlife Education

# Finding a Vet

## RULE #1

Not all veterinarians  
want to work with wildlife



# Finding A Vet

## RULE #2

The Veterinarian - Rehabilitator  
Relationship is VERY important



# Finding a Vet - Solicit

- ▶ Check with your current pet vet practice
- ▶ Reach out to new practices
- ▶ Exotics Vet practices
- ▶ Ask at Pet Shops
- ▶ Veterinarians used by other rehabbers (no poaching!!)



# Communication

- ▶ Find out what they are willing to do (assess & treat?)
- ▶ Communicate cost expectations (free services or reduced cost)
- ▶ Discuss your wildlife needs
- ▶ Help the vet to understand rehabbers
- ▶ Understand your vet

# Rehabbers Wear Many Hats

- ▶ Medical caregiver
- ▶ Transporter
- ▶ Counselor
- ▶ Student
- ▶ Educator
- ▶ Carpenter/builder
- ▶ JANITOR!



# Understand Your Vet

- ▶ Busy - respect their time
- ▶ Time Limits - paying customers come first
- ▶ Passion for Wildlife varies



# Discuss Boundaries

- ▶ Always call ahead
- ▶ Appointments VS Emergencies
- ▶ Learn the Hospital Protocol - where to enter front or back



# Building Bonds

- ▶ Be willing to learn together
- ▶ Share medical articles - but don't bombard!
- ▶ Sponsor their symposium (WRNC, NWRA, IWRA)
- ▶ Offer to assist
- ▶ Offer to help with cleaning services
- ▶ Offer to deliver samples



# Treat Them Well!

- ▶ Occasional treats for the office - cookies, tasty goodies
- ▶ Treat vet and/or staff to lunch
- ▶ Make the visit special - let them see education animals
- ▶ Invite them to share in releases and successes



# Resources

- ▶ NANCY PORTER Coordinates Wildlife Transport  
(336) 414-2339 Best to text to establish a conversation.  
Nancy is well-connected with rehabilitators and may be able to assist with finding a mentor.
- ▶ Animal Arc (Clemmons)  
3515 Lawrence St, Clemmons NC 27017  
(336) 778-2738
- ▶ Ard-Vista Animal Hospital  
527 S. Stratford Rd, Winston-Salem NC 27103  
(336) 765-3070

These resources are listed and can be used as a starting point for inquiry. No guarantees!



# Resources

- ▶ Reynolda Veterinary Hospital  
2600 Reynolda Rd, Winston-Salem NC 27106  
(336) 725-9111
- ▶ Southside Animal Hospital  
3601 S. Main St, Winston-Salem NC 27127  
(336) 784-0808
- ▶ Happy Tails Veterinary Emergency Clinic  
4525 Lawndale Dr, Greensboro NC 27455  
(336) 288-2688
- ▶ Lawndale Veterinary Hospital  
4314 Lawndale Dr, Greensboro NC 27455  
(336)288-3233

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# Resources

- ▶ North Davidson Veterinary Hospital  
5042 Old U.S. Hwy 52, Lexington NC 27295  
(336) 731-6978
- ▶ Carolina Veterinary Specialists Winston-Salem  
(assess and euthanize only)  
1600 Hanes Mall Blvd, Winston-Salem NC 27103  
(336) 896-0902

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