

# **Colorado STUDY GUIDE**

**For**

**Provisional Wildlife Rehabilitators  
And  
Wildlife Rehabilitation Sponsors**

Prepared by  
Colorado Parks and Wildlife  
Special Licensing 2009  
(Revised 2012)

Licensed wildlife rehabilitators need to know an extensive amount of information about the species that they rehabilitate, as well have skills related to a variety of tasks (e.g., responding to the public about animals in distress, admitting a stressed and injured animal, handling an orphaned animal). A Learning Plan approach and written outline is required by regulation to help guide a new Provisional Wildlife Rehabilitator's learning experiences through reading, training, classes, coaching, demonstrations, and more. While the Provisional's sponsor will guide the person's learning, both the sponsor and Provisional are strongly encouraged to utilize a variety of resources – including other rehabilitators, classes, and publications.

The Learning Plan outlines essential, though rather broad, subjects. The following provides more detailed questions and specific information that Provisionals should learn during their provisional period – and be able to answer *prior* to their upgrade to fully-licensed Wildlife Rehabilitator. Obviously, the sponsor may require additional subjects for the Provisional to become knowledgeable prior to the upgrade decision. Sponsors are strongly encouraged to add additional subjects and questions to the lists for their Provisionals related to the species to be rehabilitated as well as other topics that they believe are valuable.

A wide range of resources are available to help Provisionals and others learn about these topics and answer these and other questions. Provisionals are encouraged to review rehabilitation publications, attend training, and talk with other rehabilitators. All rehabilitators are encouraged to study and refer to resource materials to continually expand their knowledge, skill and experience. A short list of examples is provided on page 29.

While rehabilitators will be familiar with much of this information since they use it daily, other items may just need to be easily available from references. While Provisionals are not required to memorize all the information related to these questions, the more they understand these subjects, apply the information, and can quickly find answers to the types of questions is better than not having the knowledge and skill, or having to constantly rely on other rehabilitators to conduct basic rehabilitation activities and provide quality rehabilitation care. This study guide covers minimal information that many sources suggest that rehabilitators need to know.

These questions also are examples of those that the District Wildlife Manager may ask the Provisional at the time of the upgrade interview. These represent fundamental knowledge, skill and experience that the Provisional should acquired during the apprenticeship. The Provisional should be able to answer these basic questions or demonstrated the appropriate skills without relying on the Sponsor. However, it would be permissible for the Provisional to use printed resource materials, just as they would if they were rehabilitating animals. The upgrade interview is not a formal written test, but rather CPW's review and assessment of the person's ability to begin rehabilitating wildlife on their own and without sponsor's supervision and oversight.

*These questions in this document were developed over a 20 year period based on wildlife rehabilitation publications, training programs and conferences, study guides provided by other states, rehabilitation tests used by other states, experience with wildlife rehabilitation activities, and input from wildlife rehabilitators, veterinarians, and wildlife agency staff. CPW would like to thank the many people and organizations that have contributed questions and ideas to this Study Guide.*

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## **Rehabilitation Regulations**

1. What are the different types of rehabilitation licenses?
2. Describe several examples of rehabilitation facility requirements and possible reasons for them.
3. What wildlife caging and facilities are required of full Wildlife Rehabilitators?
4. What licenses are required for a rehabilitator to rehabilitate Cottontails? Crows? Starlings?
5. What does it mean that an animal is not to be “on display”?
6. What do the Colorado rehabilitation regs say about release locations and why?
7. What species are prohibited from being rehabilitated in Colorado?
8. Who is allowed to euthanize wildlife?
9. What factors are considered in making a decision to euthanize a wild animal?
10. When are the annual rehabilitation records due to CPW?
11. What information is required on the annual wildlife rehabilitation records?
12. Who can sponsor new rehabilitators?
13. What types of subjects are required in a Provisional’s Learning Plan?
14. What wildlife caging and facilities are required of Provisional Wildlife Rehabilitators?
15. What training is required to allow the use of unlicensed individuals to help with wildlife?
16. Who can supervise unlicensed individuals helping with wildlife?
17. What can an unlicensed person helping a rehabilitator do with wildlife?
18. What is required to be accomplished before an unlicensed person may assist a Provisional and/or Wildlife Rehabilitator with direct animal care?
19. Who is accountable for the activities of unlicensed people assisting a Provisional Wildlife Rehabilitator?
20. Who is responsible for training unlicensed people assisting with direct wildlife care at the Provisional Wildlife Rehabilitator’s facility?
21. What information is required to be maintained on records for unlicensed people assisting the rehabilitator with direct wildlife care?
22. Who is allowed to take wildlife in rehabilitation to their home?

23. Who can wildlife be transferred to?
24. Who can transport wildlife to a rehabilitator?
25. Chapter 14 regulations refer to “acceptable animal care”. In general, what does that mean?
26. When can unlicensed individuals remove wildlife from a rehabilitation facility?
27. How long is a wild animal allowed to be in rehabilitation?
28. What reasons might allow a rehabilitator to keep an animal for more than 180 days?
29. How long can a veterinarian keep a wild animal at their clinic?
30. What do you do if a rescuer delivers an animal that was rescued in another state?
31. What do you do if a rescuer wants to bring you a deer from 100 miles away?
32. What do you do if a rescuer wants to bring you a species that you are licensed to rehabilitate?
33. If you rehabilitate birds, describe how the state and federal rehabilitate licenses interact.
34. What are some animals considered endangered in the state? Nationally?
35. What would you do if you were presented with an endangered species?
36. What do you do if you do not know even a general source location of the animal admitted to rehabilitation?
37. What do you do if you want to release an animal beyond the distance specified in the regulations?
38. What does the MBTA refer to and how does it affect rehabilitators?
39. Are wildlife rehabilitators allowed to transfer animals to other states?
40. Is the public allowed to take wildlife across state borders?

## **Identification of native wildlife**

### **Birds**

1. What factors do you use to help you identify a bird?
2. What are some examples of altricial birds?
3. What are some examples of precocial birds?
4. What are some examples of raptors?
5. What are some examples of waterfowl?
6. What are some examples of shorebirds?
7. How do you know if a passerine eats seeds or insects?
8. How do you know if a bird is a raptor or passerine?
9. How do you know if a small owl is a Burrowing owl or juvenile Great Horned Owl?
10. How do you know if a small bird is a juvenile or adult?
11. How do you know the difference between a Merganser and a Cormorant?
12. How do you know the difference between a Raven, Crow and Grackle?
13. How do you know the difference between a Mountain Bluebird and a Western Bluebird?
14. How do you know the difference between a Killdeer and Sandpiper?
15. How do you identify nestlings?

### **Mammals**

16. What are some examples of rodents?
17. What are some examples of ungulates?
18. What are some examples of lagamorphs?
19. Describe some of the differences between an Eastern Cottontail and Mountain Cottontail.
20. How do you know if a fox is a Red fox or Gray fox?
21. Describe some of the differences between a Fox squirrel, a Rock squirrel and a 13-line Ground Squirrel.
22. How do you know the difference between an Elk calf and Mule deer fawn?

## **Wildlife natural history and behavior**

1. Be familiar with natural history of the species you rehabilitate: habitat, role in ecosystem, distribution and range, seasonality, predators and prey, nesting, anatomy, physiology, reproduction patterns, diet and feeding, behavior, defense and escape mechanisms, parasites, diseases, and more.
2. Recognize and understand what is normal for the species that you rehabilitate.
3. Describe how the natural history of the specific species that you rehabilitate affects your rehabilitation decisions, such as with
  - a. Caging
  - b. Placement of cages
  - c. Contents of cages, including how cages are 'set-up'
  - d. Bedding
  - e. Lighting
  - f. Diet
  - g. Feeding methods
  - h. Release
  - i. Euthanasia
4. Describe how natural history influences which animals you can have near each other in a rehabilitation room or cage.
5. What are an animal's natural defense reactions when approached by a predator, including humans?
6. Describe how natural history influences whether an animal needs to be euthanized.
7. How do you determine the sex of animals that you rehabilitate?
8. When is mating season for the species that you rehabilitate?
9. What do you do if an animal does not show appropriate grooming behavior?
10. Why is it desirable to release an adult animal back at the exact site where it was found?
11. How do you learn if an animal's behavior is normal or abnormal and a possible problem?
12. Describe how natural history determines if, when, how and where a wild animal should be released. Describe and compare differences for young of the year versus adults.
13. What months of the year are the young of the species you rehabilitate born or hatched?

## **Birds**

14. What does the term 'fledgling' refer to?
15. How do you determine if an unfeathered bird on the ground can be returned to the nest?
16. What is the difference between altricial and precocial birds? Examples?
17. How do you know if a 'tiny' bird is a young bird or a small adult bird?
18. Should ducklings and goslings be introduced to water for swimming after just hatching? Why or why not?
19. How soon after opening its eyes does a bird imprint?
20. Where is the trachea or glottis in a bird?
21. Why should birds not be fed cow's milk?
22. What is the compartment at the base of a bird's throat that can be seen to swell in a nestling during feeding?
23. How are pigeons and doves different from other passerines? How does this affect feeding in rehabilitation?
24. How do you ensure that a bird is imprinted on its own species?
25. How often do you expect a baby bird to eliminate a fecal sac?
26. What are some examples of birds that migrate?
27. Is a bird that is missing tail feathers able to be released? Why or why not?

## **Mammals**

28. How often do you expect a baby mammal to urinate?
29. Why should wild mammals not be fed cow's milk?
30. What does a mammal mother do when her young are threatened?
31. What does a mammal mother do when the nest becomes infested with parasites?
32. How does a mother mammal stimulate its young to urinate and defecate? How do rehabilitators accomplish this?
33. How do mammal parents hide their young?

## **Techniques to humanely prevent or reduce human-wildlife conflicts**

1. How would you respond to calls on the following:
  - a. A man wants to know the best way to get rid of the birds that are making holes on the side of his house.
  - b. A homeowner wants you to remove some wild animal that he believes is living in his chimney.
  - c. A golf course manager wants you to get rid of the geese from 'messing' in his yard.
  - d. A child is worried that cars will hit the newly hatched goslings when they try to cross the road between the park and the pond.
  - e. A homeowner wants you to remove some wild animal that he believes is living in his chimney.
  - f. A homeowner wants to rid of the squirrels that are getting into his bird feeder. He wants you to trap and take them, or tell him how to kill them.
  - g. An elementary school teacher wants you to move the Robin nest that is in a tree on the playground because the adult Robins are 'dive-bombing' the young students during recess.
  - h. A business owner wants you do something to get rid of the pigeons creating a mess on his building.
  - i. A homeowner wants you to immediately remove the raccoon family that has moved into his chimney or he will call the pest control company to trap and destroy them.
  - j. A child asks that you do something about wildlife that damaged the wires inside the old car that his dad was repairing before his dad decides to kill them.
  - k. A homeowner asks that you remove the family of skunks that have moved under his porch.
  - l. A gardener wants you to do something about the deer and elk that are eating his new landscaping.
  - m. A pet owner is worried that a fox may attack his small dog that he leaves in the yard while he is away from work.
2. What references do you use to learn about human-wildlife conflicts? (list published sources, online sources, people)
3. What references do you use if you get a call on a species or problem with which you are not familiar? (list published sources, online sources, people)

## **Intake procedures**

1. What information should be collected from the rescuer?
2. How do you select an appropriate cage?
3. How do you safely capture and transfer an animal from the rescuer's transport container to an appropriate cage?
4. What would cause you to immediately take the animal to a veterinarian?
5. How do you safely capture, handle and weigh an animal? Demonstrate. Be specific.
6. How do you prevent the spread of parasites and diseases?
7. What is the quarantine protocol by species you rehabilitate? Methods, time period, caging, sanitation, etc.
8. Describe and demonstrate how to conduct a basic physical examination on the various species that you rehabilitate. Be specific with
  - a. a juvenile animal that initially appears healthy
  - b. a juvenile animal with a fractured leg
  - c. an adult animal with a back injury
  - d. an adult that is 'collapsed'
9. What are the signs that an animal is in shock? (minimum of 3)
10. What are the signs that an animal is dehydrated? (minimum of 3)
11. What are possible signs that an animal might have been poisoned or exposed to toxins?
12. When would you use supplemental heat? When would you not?
13. How soon would you begin feeding an emaciated animal?
14. What would be the schedule to rehydrate a dehydrated animal?
15. Describe the following methods to administer isotonic fluids:
  - a. oral
  - b. subcutaneous
16. What products may be safely used to reduce ectoparasites? What do you use?

## **Diet, nutrition and feeding methods for the wildlife species that you rehabilitate**

1. What diets do you use with juvenile animals of the species that you rehabilitate? Why?
2. What types of factors might cause a diet to be problematic for an animal?
3. How do you determine if that the diets that you are considering or feeding meet the animals nutritional and energy needs?
4. How do know how much to feed a juvenile animal of the species you rehabilitate?
5. What does the term weaning refer to?
6. How do you know when to wean an animal?
7. How do you determine a schedule for weaning?
8. How do you decide that an animal is not ready for weaning?
9. What diets do you use with adult animals of the species that you rehabilitate? Why?
10. How do you know if those diets provide adequate nutrition and calories, including the correct balance of calcium/phosphorus?
11. How do know how much to feed an adult animal of the species you rehabilitate?
12. How do you know what to feed a juvenile animal of a species for which you are licensed but have not previously rehabilitated?
13. How do you know how often to feed a juvenile animal that you are licensed for but have not previously rehabilitated?
14. How do you know how often to feed a juvenile animal of the species you rehabilitate?
15. How do you determine a feeding schedule?
16. How is the feeding schedule different for an emaciated animal and a healthy animal?
17. In what position should young animals be fed?
18. What does it mean to say an animal aspirated during feeding?
19. What might cause aspiration? How can it be prevented?
20. What are the signs of aspiration?
21. How do you prevent a juvenile animal of the species that you rehabilitate from aspirating food? What do you do if an animal has been aspirated?
22. What are the signs that an animal may have been overfed?
23. What are the signs that an animal may have been underfed?

24. What do you feed an emaciated animal?
25. How do you encourage a juvenile animal to eat?
26. How do you encourage an adult animal to eat?
27. How do you safely hold and feed an adult animal with an injured spine?
28. What types of health problems might you expect if a member of the public has kept and fed the animal for several days? For two weeks?
29. What are the signs of nutritional disorders, including Metabolic Bone Disease?
30. What are some reasons that an animal might be reluctant to eat? (list at least 5)
31. What are reasons that an animal might not gain weight? (list at least 5)
32. Should an infant songbird be fed until its crop is completely full? Why or why not?
33. Gavage is another name for what feeding method used with opossums and some birds?
34. Why is a regular feeding schedule important for young animals?
35. What types of problems may occur when the feedings are too close together?
36. What methods are appropriate to clean and sanitize feeding utensils? What would be considered inadequate?
37. How often should feeding utensils be cleaned?
38. What are some ways to prevent the foods fed to wildlife from attracting pests, such as insects or mice?
39. How do you determine if a diet might be causing a problem for an animal?
40. How do you determine if the species you rehabilitate is completely self-feeding?
41. How do you determine if an adult animal in rehabilitation is eating enough food to recover?
42. How do you evaluate if an animal is demonstrating normal growth versus slow growth?
43. What factors could cause an animal to grow slower than normal?
44. Demonstrate how you prepare food for the species that you rehabilitate.

### **Safe capture and handling**

1. What problems might arise with an animal resulting from unsafe capture and handling? Be specific.
2. What are some of the methods you use to reduce risks of injury from capturing and handling the species that you rehabilitate? Demonstrate.
3. How do you reduce an animal's stress during and after capture and handling? Explain similarities and differences by species and age animal.
4. Describe and demonstrate how you prevent yourself and others from becoming injured by an animal in rehabilitation. Be specific.
5. Describe and/or demonstrate how you capture an adult animal of the major types of species that you rehabilitate, including use of any special equipment.
6. Describe and/or demonstrate how you communicate to others about safe handling of species that you rehabilitate. Include examples from the types of animals that you rehabilitate.
  - a. Robins
  - b. Flickers
  - c. Finches
  - d. Hummingbirds
  - e. Grackles
  - f. Great blue herons
  - g. Pelicans
  - h. Cormorants
  - i. Kestrels
  - j. Swainson's hawks
  - k. Great horned owls
  - l. Raccoons
  - m. Squirrels
  - n. Rabbits

## **Identification and general assessment of basic health problems**

1. Describe 'normal' for the species you rehabilitate – and compare to 'not' normal. Use specific examples.
  - a. Anatomy
  - b. Pelage
  - c. Weight
  - d. Development stages and growth
  - e. Behavior (escape, eating, nesting, playing, etc.)
  - f. Appetite
  - g. Stool
  - h. Urine or urates
  - i. Movement, balance, coordination, agility
  - j. Activity level, stamina, strength
  - k. Senses, including vision, hearing
  - l. Etc.
2. Describe and/or demonstrate how to conduct a basic physical exam on juvenile animals of the species that you rehabilitate.
3. Describe and/or demonstrate how to conduct a basic physical exam on adult animals of the species that you rehabilitate.
4. What are 5 common health problems that you see in the species that you rehabilitate?
5. Why might young animals admitted to rehabilitation be hypothermic?
6. What are the signs of and treatments for shock in the species that you rehabilitate?
7. What are the signs of and treatments for dehydration in the species that you rehabilitate?
8. Describe how to clean a minor wound (in detail).
9. Describe how to stabilize a potentially fractured limb until the animal is taken to a veterinarian.
10. When do you provide an animal in rehabilitation with supplemental heat – or not?

11. What are some causes of dehydration? (list at least 5)
12. What are the signs of emaciation?
13. How is the treatment of emaciated animals different from normal feeding schedules?
14. What can cause gastrointestinal disorders (e.g., bloat, diarrhea) in juvenile animals?
15. What are the signs of nutritional disorders in the species that you rehabilitate?
16. What are some signs of head trauma in wildlife? Spinal trauma?
17. What are some are some signs of a possible fracture?
18. What type of fluids should be administered to a dehydrated animal? Why? How?
19. How do you administer medications to an adult animal of the species that you rehabilitate? Include specific examples of treatments you have used.
20. Describe 2-3 wildlife health problems that required taking an animal to a veterinarian.
21. How do you decide that the animal's health condition is beyond first aid and that it needs to go to a veterinarian?
22. How do you stabilize an animal on arrival while you are deciding whether it needs to go to a veterinarian?
23. How do you determine if an animal needs to go to a veterinarian versus getting advice from another rehabilitator?
24. What do you do if a veterinarian wants to provide medical care that will save the animal's life but result in it being non-releaseable?
25. How do you provide supplemental heat for an animal that is unable to move off the heat source?
26. What might cause an animal to have convulsions (seizures)? What do you do if that happens?
27. What can cause coat or feather problems?
28. What are signs that a young mammal in rehabilitation is not doing well? (list at least 3)
29. What are signs that a young bird in rehabilitation is not doing well? (list at least 3)
30. What can cause 'angel wing' in juvenile waterfowl?
31. How do you determine that an animal is having an adverse reaction to a medication?
32. What are signs of air sac injuries?

33. What is bumblefoot? What causes it?
34. What are the signs of a broken back in a wild mammal?
35. What is a degloving wound?
36. How do you determine how to administer fluids to a dehydrated animal?
37. How do you determine an animal's caloric needs?
38. If you rehabilitate mid-sized mammals, how do you evaluate the benefits and risks of using vaccines for diseases such as rabies, distemper and parvovirus?
39. What do you do if an animal develops bloat?
40. Describe how the protein requirements for young birds are different from adult birds.
41. What is done to help a bird learn to adjust to an amputated wing? Foot?
42. What is done to help a mammal with severe mange?
43. Describe specifics of how you determine if an animal is improving during rehabilitation. Provide examples of specific cases.
44. How do you safely provide subcutaneous injections for juvenile or adult animals of the species you rehabilitate?
45. What are some different types of fractures observed in wildlife patients? Compare the different prognoses and how they affect your decision to rehabilitate or euthanize.
46. What causes metabolic bone disease and how is it treated?
47. How do you determine the appropriate amount of fluids to give to a dehydrated animal?
48. When would you use isotonic fluids (e.g., LRS) with wildlife?
49. What are some products that you would not use to clean a wound?
50. What do you do if an animal being given antibiotics loses their appetite or develops diarrhea?

## **Facilities, appropriate caging, and habitat needs**

1. Describe features of your caging that address safety concerns.
2. Demonstrate how your cages allow for normal behavior and movement for a healthy animal. For an injured or recovering animal? For a healthy juvenile?
3. Demonstrate how your cages allow for normal behavior and movement for an injured or recovering animal? For a healthy juvenile?
4. Demonstrate how your cages allow for normal behavior and movement for a healthy juvenile?
5. How do you determine what is safe bedding or nesting for an animal?
6. What natural contents do you place in the cage for an injured adult animal?
7. Where do you place the bedding or nesting in a cage for an injured animal?
8. How do you reduce stress on the animals with your caging and facility? Specifics?
9. How are cages different for juvenile animals that are still hand-fed versus weaned or self-feeding juveniles? Versus injured adult animals?
10. Show how the construction ensures safety for humans and occupants.
11. Show how the design and construction minimizes escapes.
12. Are the cages separated from humans and domestic animals in order to prevent habituation?
13. How are cages different for healthy animals and those with health problems, specifically
  - a. Shock
  - b. Fractured wings or legs
  - c. Head trauma
  - d. Diarrhea
14. How does cage placement affect stress of the animal? Examples?
15. Describe the substrates and floor of your indoor and outdoor cages and explain why they are appropriate for the species that you rehabilitate.
16. How do you effectively acclimate animals to being outdoors? Be specific. Demonstrate.
17. How do you decide an animal is ready to be acclimated to the outdoors? Be specific.
18. Describe how your cages and facility encourage normal behavior and skill development.
19. Why are commercial wire bird cages a problem for birds in rehabilitation?

20. Would you place ducks and geese in the same cage? Why or why not?
21. Would you place rabbits and squirrels in the same cage? Why or why not?
22. Would you place ducks and passerines in the same cage? Why or why not?
23. Would you place crows or jays in the same cage as finches or blue birds? Why or why not?
24. How do you clean the cages to prevent transmission of disease and parasites? Be specific.
25. How do you prevent stress of animals when cleaning cages?
26. Where do you place the water source for juvenile animals? Adults?
27. How do you prevent water bowls/bottles from freezing in outdoor, pre-release caging?
28. What is good nesting material for juvenile birds?
29. What would be considered inappropriate nesting material for juvenile birds?
30. What is good bedding material for juvenile mammals?
31. What would be considered inappropriate nesting material for juvenile mammals?
32. Why should different size perches be available in pre-release flight cages?
33. How do you clean nesting material for baby birds?
34. How do you clean bedding material for juvenile mammals?
35. Describe appropriate placement of cages for the species you rehabilitate and the reasons for those practices. Include proximity to other cages, animals, species, etc.
36. Describe appropriate placement of food, water, nesting areas, etc.

## **Wildlife parasites and diseases, including zoonoses**

1. What is a zoonotic disease?
2. What are some of the common internal and external parasites of the species that you rehabilitate?
3. What are some of the problems caused by parasites?
4. How do you prevent external parasites from spreading to other animals in rehabilitation?
5. If you rehabilitate raccoons or fox, describe symptoms of distemper.
6. If you rehabilitate raccoons or fox, describe the protocols to prevent the transmission of distemper.
7. What is a basic virus capable of causing disease in all mammals, including humans, that is usually transmitted through contact with an infected animal's saliva?
8. What are some of the common internal and external parasites of the species that you rehabilitate? What do they look like?
9. What are some common parasite transmission methods?
10. How do you prevent external parasites from spreading to other animals in rehabilitation? Specific treatments and products?
11. Describe the specific methods that you use to sanitize cages, bedding, feeding utensils.
12. If you rehabilitate raccoons, fox, or coyotes, describe your protocols to prevent the transmission of parvovirus.
13. Describe the symptoms of rabies.
14. Describe your quarantine methods for different species. Especially describe specific quarantine times, distance and protocols if you rehabilitate raccoons, fox, pigeons, and squirrels.
15. What methods are effective to prevent and control transmission of diseases and parasites within the rehabilitation facility?
16. What specifically do you do to prevent and control transmission of diseases and parasites in your rehabilitation facility? Explain specific products, show products, etc.
17. What methods do you use to prevent risks and transmission to pets and other animals that are not in rehabilitation?
18. What methods do you use to prevent transmission of diseases and parasites to people?
19. Why are other species not be allowed to be placed in cages used by raccoons?

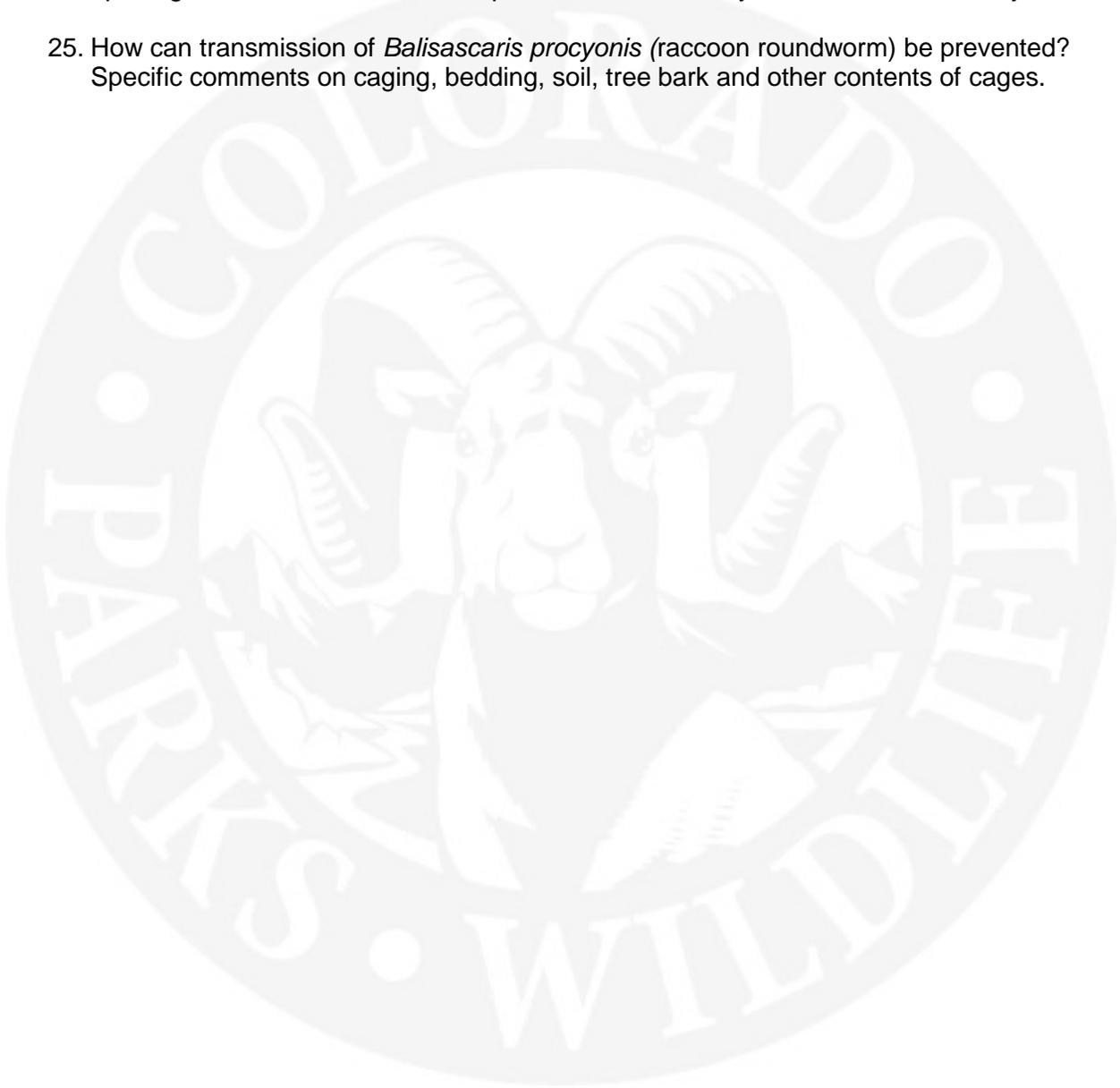
20. What are some possible signs that an animal of the species that you rehabilitate might have the following? What are the treatment or action options?

- a. Avian pox
- b. West Nile Virus
- c. Distemper
- d. Parvovirus
- e. Plague
- f. Aspergillosis
- g. Ringworm
- h. Mange
- i. Salmonellosis
- j. Chlamydiosis
- k. Tularemia

21. What are some possible signs that an animal of the species that you rehabilitate might have parasites? What are the treatment or action options?

- a. Internal
  - i. Baylisascaris
  - ii. Tapeworm
  - iii. Giardia
  - iv. Coccidia
  - v. Gapeworm
  - vi. Trichomoniasis
- b. External
  - i. Lice
  - ii. Fleas
  - iii. Mites
  - iv. Ticks
  - v. Fly eggs

22. What do you do if the rescuer mentions that a person has been scratched or bitten by a raccoon? Fox? Bat? Squirrel?
23. What do you do if you or one of your unlicensed volunteers develops flu-like symptoms after handling rabbits at your rehabilitation facility?
24. What do you do if you or one of your unlicensed volunteers develops a fever after opening a box with a dead Rock squirrel that was left at your rehabilitation facility?
25. How can transmission of *Baliscaris procyonis* (raccoon roundworm) be prevented? Specific comments on caging, bedding, soil, tree bark and other contents of cages.



### **Survival skills for wildlife**

1. Describe your protocols to ensure that the animal is appropriately imprinted on its species?
2. Describe signs that would help you assess if an animal is habituated to people.
3. What do you do to prevent or reduce risks of animals becoming habituated to people?
4. How do you know if an older juvenile animal has predator awareness skills?
5. Describe how you know if the animal has the necessary physical skills to live in the wild.
6. What do you do to ensure an animal that has 'grown up' in rehabilitation has been acclimated to the weather?
7. How do you know that a duck is waterproof?
8. How do you evaluate if a predator can capture prey?
9. How do you evaluate if an animal can elude predators?
10. What do you do if an animal is habituated to and 'friendly' with people either due to the actions of the public (prior to admission to rehabilitation) or as a result of rehabilitation?

## **Euthanasia, necropsy and disposal**

1. What are some of the criteria used to determine if an animal should be euthanized?
2. Provide specific examples of the criteria that you used to decide to euthanize some animals in your care while you have held your Provisional license.
3. What euthanasia methods do you or your veterinarian use for the species that you rehabilitate?
4. What might cause you to have a necropsy performed on an animal?
5. How do you dispose of carcasses in general?
6. Exactly how do you dispose of the carcass if the animal has been chemically euthanized.
7. Having an animal die during rehabilitation or having to euthanize it can be emotional, difficult, and stressful. How do you handle this, especially when many animals die or are euthanized?
8. How do you decide to euthanize an animal in rehabilitation?
9. How do you decide how long to wait before euthanizing an animal that is recovering slowly?
10. What might cause you to euthanize a wild animal immediately versus waiting?
11. What do you do if a volunteer or other unlicensed person does not want to euthanize an animal that is unable to recover?
12. What do you do if a person wants to take the carcass or fur of a mammal to be preserved?
13. What do you do if a person wants to take the carcass or feathers of a bird?
14. Are there circumstances when an animal that dies in captivity would be fed to a predator species? When? Why?
15. Under what conditions would you decide transfer a carcass to CPW or USFWS instead of using your common disposal methods? (minimum of 3 reasons)

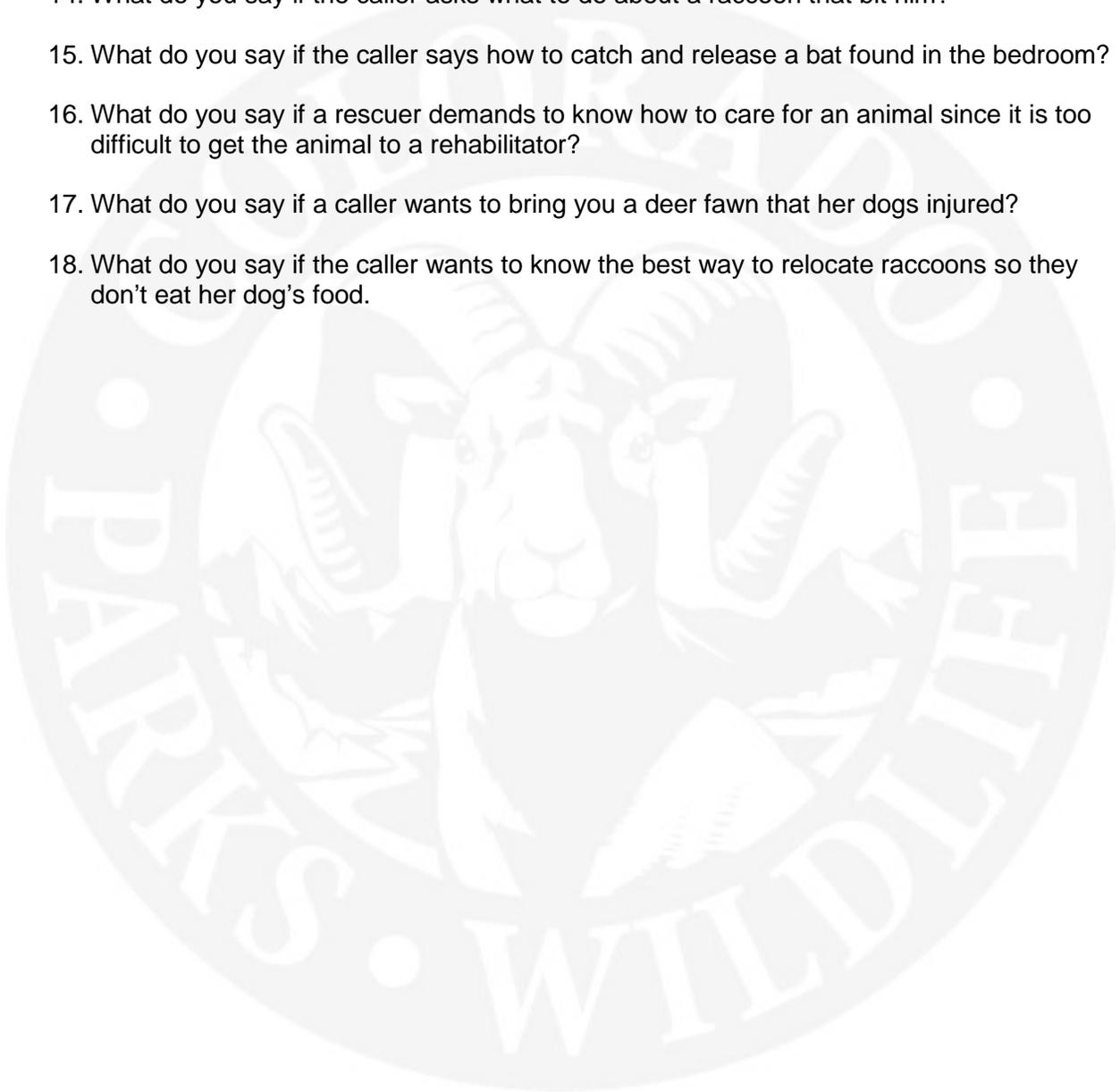
## **Release criteria, considerations, and preparation**

1. Describe specific criteria that you consider to determine if an animal is ready for release. Be specific for species and age of animals (e.g., juvenile or adult).
2. How do you evaluate/assess those criteria in your rehabilitation animals?
3. What do you do if an animal meets some of the release criteria but not all of them? For example, the animal is healthy and acts normal most of the time, but has a convulsion about once a week.
4. Can an animal be released if it is normal except for a blind eye? Or is missing a toe/claw/talon?
5. What do you do if the animal almost but not quite ready for release, but is so stressed in captivity (e.g., injuring self on cage, refusing to eat) that you are concerned for its survival?
6. Describe specifically how you select the time for release (season, day, hour, etc.).
7. Describe criteria for a good release site for the types of species that you rehabilitate. Be specific.
8. Describe how you find a good release site for the types of species that you rehabilitate.
9. Describe things that would be problems in a release site.
10. Describe in detail how you conduct a release, including finding the site, deciding on time, capturing in pre-release cage, transport to the site, release, etc.
11. If an unlicensed person will conduct a release for you, describe their training – and show copies of the protocols.
12. If an unlicensed person assists with a release, describe exactly what they do (in detail).
13. If an animal has been transferred to another rehabilitator for rehabilitation due to caging, etc., where can the animal be released?
14. If an animal has been transferred to another rehabilitator for rehabilitation, who does the release?
15. Describe how an animal is transported for release. Be specific as to caging, time, etc.
16. What do you do if you are uncertain of the location where an animal was originally found? (such as when a vet clinic did not get the address from the rescuer)

**Public contact (phone calls, getting information to and from the public, etc.)**

1. How would you respond to calls on the following:
  - a. A woman found a deer fawn from a park in another part of the state and wants to bring it to you when she gets home.
  - b. A child wants to know what to feed the baby bird that her cat brought in.
  - c. A man wants to bring a young skunk that he caught in a live-trap under his deck.
  - d. A woman wants to know what to feed two baby raccoons that she found on the road next to the dead mother.
  - e. A woman wants to know how to care for a baby squirrel that her cat brought in the house.
  - f. A child wants to bring a nest with baby birds that she found on the ground a few minutes ago after a storm.
  - g. A tree service employee wants to know what to do about the Great Horned Owl babies in a nest in a tree he is supposed to remove.
  - h. A driver wants you to get an injured deer lying on the side of the road.
  - i. A woman wants know what to give the baby rabbit to stop the diarrhea (she fed it cow's milk?)
2. How do you know if an animal needs rescue and rehabilitation or should be left alone?
3. What do you do when your rehabilitation facility is full? Be specific.
4. How do you convince the public to surrender wildlife? Be specific.
5. What do you do when you get calls about animals that you don't rehabilitate?
6. What do you do when a member of the public asks if they can come see the animals in rehabilitation?
7. What do you do when a member of the public asks about purchasing wildlife?
8. What do you do if a member of the public asks for advise in caring for a fawn that they have rescued and plan to keep?
9. What do you do if a member of the public wants you to bring an animal to a school to show the students? They promise that they will watch quietly and not touch.
10. What do you do when the caller says he/she there are no rehabilitators nearby and that there is no one that can transport the several hours to a rehabilitator?
11. How do you accomplish a reunion or renesting for the species you rehabilitate. Be specific. If possible, describe actual examples from your experience.

12. What conditions with the animal would cause you to recommend that the caller not attempt a reunion or renesting? What could be problems with a location? With the caller's abilities?
13. What conditions are required for a reunion or renesting to work?
14. What do you say if the caller asks what to do about a raccoon that bit him?
15. What do you say if the caller says how to catch and release a bat found in the bedroom?
16. What do you say if a rescuer demands to know how to care for an animal since it is too difficult to get the animal to a rehabilitator?
17. What do you say if a caller wants to bring you a deer fawn that her dogs injured?
18. What do you say if the caller wants to know the best way to relocate raccoons so they don't eat her dog's food.



## **Recordkeeping**

1. What information should be collected from the rescuer or person delivering the animal to the rehabilitator?
2. What information should be kept on the daily records for each animal?
3. What information should be maintained about the use of unlicensed people helping with wildlife?
4. What records are kept on releases?
5. When are the annual rehabilitation reports due to CPW?
6. Review the Provisional's daily rehabilitation records for some animals in care. Are they complete? Useable?
7. Were the Provisional's annual rehabilitation reports submitted by the required date?
8. What do the disposition codes on the rehabilitation report mean: R? DOA? EOA? TOA? D? T? P?
9. Review the Provisional's annual rehabilitation reports to CPW. Are they all completed correctly?
10. Review the summary form submitted with the annual rehabilitation records. Discuss the general disposition of animals. What has influenced the various dispositions?
11. Do the Provisional's annual rehabilitation records reveal any concerns?
12. What records need to be maintained on any unlicensed people helping with direct wildlife care?
13. When are the records regarding unlicensed people helping with direct animal care due to CPW?
14. How long are wildlife rehabilitation records maintained by a wildlife rehabilitator?
15. What records are maintained on animals transferred to other rehabilitators?

## **Other questions**

1. Why do regulations require a rehabilitator to have a consulting veterinarian?
2. What do you do if your regular veterinarian is not available for a consultation?
3. What do you do when someone calls with an injured animal and you are not able to admit wildlife (need to be away from home, your rehabilitation facility is in quarantine due to disease outbreak, have reached your rehabilitation capacity, etc.)?
4. What do you do if a wild animal has bitten a person before it arrives to your care?
5. What do you do when a problem develops with an animal in your care?
  - a. Resources?
6. What is the difference between imprinting and habituation?
7. How do you assess which unlicensed people may work directly with animals versus those you do not want to work with animals?
8. What do you do if one of the unlicensed individuals assisting you with wildlife care does not want you to euthanize an animal that is non-releaseable?
9. What do you do if one of the unlicensed individuals assisting you with wildlife care takes some action that results in harm to an animal? Describe and compare the difference between a single mistake and continuing pattern of not following instructions or protocols, and minor versus serious problems.
10. What are some of the supplies that you believe are essential to rehabilitating wildlife?
11. What do you do if your rehabilitation facility is full (cages, time to care for the animals, etc.)?
12. How do you determine how many animals you can rehabilitate at your facility? Be specific.
13. What would you do with the wildlife in your rehabilitation facility if you were required to leave for a month during 'busy season'? (e.g., health condition, family emergency)
14. What factors do you think contribute to stress related to rehabilitation?
15. How do you manage the stresses related to rehabilitation?
16. How do you continue your wildlife rehabilitation education?
17. What do you do if an unlicensed individual assisting you with wildlife care released an animal without assessment of the animal or your approval?
18. How do you review and evaluate your own rehabilitation practices to determine areas to improve?

## Resources

### Wildlife rehabilitation regulations

- CPW – Chapter 14
- USFWS Regulations - [www.fws.gov/](http://www.fws.gov/)

### Wildlife rehabilitation - General

- Wildlife Rehabilitation Code of Ethics - [www.nwrawildlife.org](http://www.nwrawildlife.org)
- Minimum Standards of Wildlife Rehabilitation - [www.nwrawildlife.org](http://www.nwrawildlife.org)
- NWRA Principles of Wildlife Rehabilitation- *The Essential Guide for Novice and Experienced Rehabilitators*, 2<sup>nd</sup> edition
- NWRA publications and reprints - [www.nwrawildlife.org](http://www.nwrawildlife.org)
- IWRC Basic Skills Seminar 1A/B – [www.iwrc-online.org](http://www.iwrc-online.org)
- IWRC publications and reprints– [www.iwrc-online.org](http://www.iwrc-online.org)
- New York Wildlife Rehabilitation Study Guide and Answers
- Minnesota Wildlife Rehabilitation Study Guide and Answers
- Wisconsin Wildlife Rehabilitation Study Guide and Answers
- CPW Special licensing website resources
- State rehabilitation association newsletters

### Wildlife diseases

- General
  - o [http://www.nwhc.usgs.gov/publications/field\\_manual/](http://www.nwhc.usgs.gov/publications/field_manual/)
  - o CPW Special licensing website resources
- Mammals
  - o [http://www.nwhc.usgs.gov/outreach/mammalian\\_zoonotic\\_course.jsp](http://www.nwhc.usgs.gov/outreach/mammalian_zoonotic_course.jsp)
- Birds
  - o [http://www.nwhc.usgs.gov/outreach/avian\\_zoonotic\\_course.jsp](http://www.nwhc.usgs.gov/outreach/avian_zoonotic_course.jsp)

### Humane solutions to human-wildlife conflicts

- Wild Neighbors (Hadidian)