

## WILDLIFE REHABILITATION LEARNING PLAN – EXAMPLE I

Specialized knowledge and skill are required for a person to provide effective rehabilitative care for wild animals. The following list identifies some basic knowledge (K) and skill (S) that the new wildlife rehabilitator is expected to develop and demonstrate prior to applying for a full Wildlife Rehabilitation license. Topics listed may be changed or added. The chart also suggests some topics that relate more to the new rehabilitator finding and having available certain resources (R) than having specific knowledge or skill. Sponsors are likely to recommend additional information and/or training and resources.

<i>Completed initials/date</i>	<b><u>SOME SOURCES FOR INFORMATION</u></b>			
	<i>Videos</i>	<i>Training/ Conferences</i>	<i>Sponsor/ Rehabilitators</i>	<i>Resources</i>
_____ • <b>Ethics and minimum standards of wildlife rehabilitation</b> -- see <a href="http://www.iwrc-online.org/pub/publications.html">http://www.iwrc-online.org/pub/publications.html</a>				R
_____ • <b>Regulations affecting wildlife rehabilitation</b>				
- State Wildlife Rehabilitation Regulations	K		K	
- Federal Bird Rehabilitation Regulations			K	K
- Migratory Bird Treaty Act (protected vs. unprotected species)				R
- Federal regulations regarding sale and interstate transport of wildlife				R
- Basic confiscation and chain of custody procedures				R
- Other regulations affecting wildlife and rehabilitation: federal, state, local				R
_____ • <b>Basic identification of common native wildlife species</b>				
- Basic native wildlife identification books				R
- Ability to recognize common native wildlife species				
_____ • <b>Natural history and behavior of common native wildlife species and more in-depth knowledge of species the applicant wants to rehabilitate</b>				
- Basic information on native species (e.g., habitat, range, when they have young, litter size, nest/den description)		K	K	R
- More in-depth knowledge of species rehabilitated (e.g., developmental stages, common natural diet, acceptable diet for wildlife in rehabilitation, predators, stressors)		K	K	R
_____ • <b>Methods to prevent and resolve problems with wildlife</b>				
- Awareness of common human-wildlife conflicts	K	K	K	R
- Ability to provide the public with some suggestions for humanely preventing or solving basic problems	K	K	K	R
- Resources to get more information or refer the public (e.g., books, other rehabilitators)				R

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<b>_____ • Diet and nutrition of wildlife species applicant wants to rehabilitate</b>				
- Demonstrated understanding of basic nutritional considerations for wildlife			K	R
- Knowledge of how to evaluate effective diets as well as what is appropriate for common native species			K	R
- Knowledge of how and where to order effective juvenile diets/formula as well as for adults				R
- Demonstrated skill in preparing diets and formulas for species to be rehabilitated				R
- Demonstrated skill in feeding juveniles and adults of the species applicant will be rehabilitating			K	K
- Demonstrated skill in identifying an animal's age and condition thus determining feeding schedule, caging needs, etc.			K	K
- Demonstrated understanding of how to determine amount to feed species to be rehabilitated			K	K
- Demonstrated ability to identify and respond to problems regarding feeding technique, diet, quantity, etc.			K	K
<b>_____ • Ability to safely capture and handle wildlife species applicant wants to rehabilitate</b>				
- Demonstrated understanding of when and why animals should or should not be captured or handled			K	K
- Demonstrated skill in handling all ages of the species to be rehabilitated			K	K
- Safe capture and handling of injured animals of the species to be rehabilitated				S
- Demonstrated knowledge of when and who to call for help in capturing and handling wildlife				S
- Demonstrated understanding of handling of other common native species			S	
<b>_____ • Identification and general assessment of basic health problems (not diagnostics)</b>				
- Demonstrated ability to recognize healthy animals and those with physical problems			S	S
- Demonstrated ability to conduct basic physical examination and document results			S	K
- Demonstrated ability to recognize severity of condition/problem			K	K
- Demonstrated ability to recognize common physical problems/conditions: shock, dehydration, emaciation, fractures, punctures, lacerations, head trauma, neurological conditions, poisonings, respiratory problems, etc.			S	S
- Knowing when to take animals to the vet and doing so				
- Knowing when to call another rehabilitator for consultation and doing so				

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<b>• Basic first aid and problem solving of wildlife species applicant wants to rehabilitate</b>				
- Demonstrated skill treating shock	K	K	S	S
- Demonstrated skill treating dehydration (e.g., oral fluids, subcutaneous injections of Lactated Ringers Solution); different types and affects of rehydration fluids	K	K	S	
- Demonstrated skill cleaning and treating minor wounds	K	K	S	
- Demonstrated knowledge of types of questions to ask about medications and treatments, their effects and potential results, and when they are not indicated			S	S
- Demonstrated ability to administer medications and treatments on veterinarian's instruction			S	S
<b>• Wildlife parasites and diseases, including zoonotic diseases</b>				
- Demonstrated awareness of wildlife diseases and parasites	K	K	K	R
- Demonstrated awareness of and skill in controlling and preventing parasites	K	S	S	R
- Demonstrated awareness of and skill in reducing risk of disease transmission (e.g., animal to animal, animal to human)	K	S	S	R
- Demonstrated skill in maintaining sanitary conditions, quarantines, releasing within required range, etc.			S	R
- Communicating risks related to handling wildlife to the public			S	R
<b>• Survival Skills for Wildlife</b>				
- Knowledge of ways and to ensure the animal is properly imprinted on own species				
- Action to ensure that wildlife is not imprinted on humans, pets, species other than its own (e.g., minimal handling, distance to cages, normal sounds)				
- Ensuring that wildlife has awareness and proper responses of predators (including humans); appropriate social behavior around members of own species; etc.				
<b>• Euthanasia, Necropsy, and Disposal</b>				
- Demonstrated understanding of criteria for euthanasia and process to make the euthanasia decision (e.g., consultation with other rehabilitators, veterinarians)		K	K	R
- Demonstrated understanding of euthanasia methods for different species	K	K	K	R
- Demonstrated ability to know when to euthanize			K	R
- Demonstrated ability to make the euthanasia decision in a timely manner			K	
- Awareness of and sensitivity to the grieving process for self and others		K		R
- Demonstrated awareness of when a necropsy is needed or useful and how to arrange for it or do it		K	K	R
- Demonstrated awareness of methods to dispose of carcasses and reasons for those decisions	K	K	K	R
- Demonstrated appropriate disposal of carcasses				

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<p>_____ • <b>Release criteria, considerations, preparation</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- Demonstrated knowledge of appropriate release criteria (e.g., habitat, season, regulations)</li> <li>- Demonstrated ability to evaluate animal's potential and readiness for release</li> <li>- Demonstrated ability to find appropriate release sites (e.g., meets regulatory criteria, appropriate habitat, not overcrowded)</li> <li>- Demonstrated ability to release wildlife appropriately</li> </ul>	<p>K</p>	<p>K</p>	<p>K S S S</p>	<p>R   R</p>
<p>_____ • <b>Public contact (handling phone calls, getting info and animals, education, etc.)</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- Demonstrated willingness to take phone calls on wildlife</li> <li>- Demonstrated ability to communicate general information to caller (e.g., safety and health issues, when not to rescue, humane solutions, laws)</li> <li>- Demonstrated ability to gather and document information from the rescuer on the phone and in person</li> <li>- Demonstrated ability to communicate when rescue is or is not needed</li> <li>- Refers wildlife to other resources (e.g., rehabilitators, vets, wildlife agency)</li> <li>- Demonstrated ability to influence person without a rehabilitation license to surrender a wild animal to a rehabilitator</li> </ul>			<p>S</p>	
<p>_____ • <b>Recordkeeping</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- Keeps accurate and complete records on wildlife admitted to rehabilitation</li> <li>- Compiles and submits timely records to the appropriate government agencies according to regulations</li> <li>- Provides records and information to rehabilitation sponsor as requested</li> </ul>	<p>K</p>	<p>K</p>	<p>K K</p>	

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**\_\_\_\_\_ Facilities/caging/habitat needs for the wildlife species applicant wants to rehabilitate that are appropriate to animal's size, age, physical condition; safe for animals and humans; sanitary; and so forth per wildlife regulations**

- Assorted baskets (with lids), aquariums, incubators or small cages as appropriate for infants
- Assorted mid-sized cages for juveniles, injured adults, and transport
- Assorted cages for weaned juvenile and adult animals, including pre-release caging
- Appropriate nesting place and bedding materials
- Cages/facilities that are kept clean and sanitary, and locked when outside
- Water sources
- Knowledge of and demonstrated ability to create an appropriate habitat for wildlife in care, including where to obtain habitat items
- Place to quarantine animals as needed
- Familiarity with types, sizes, materials used with cages
- Awareness of the Caging Guidelines in the *Minimum Standards of Wildlife Rehabilitation* and how to evaluate
- Separation from humans except during care, feeding, etc.
- Caging is separate from areas with humans, domesticated animals, other captive private wildlife
- Wildlife is not exposed to loud sounds (e.g., television, vacuum cleaners), strong scents, and so forth that they would not encounter in the wild

K            K            K            R

**\_\_\_\_\_ • Communicating and working with rehabilitators and others for the good of wildlife in rehabilitation and in the wild and people**

**\_\_\_\_\_ • Basic resources and references**

**\_\_\_\_\_ • Demonstrated commitment to and ability to rehabilitate and release wildlife**

- Physical health to meet requirements of rehabilitating wildlife
- Ability to work with animal injury and death (including euthanasia), exposure to animal trauma, difficult conversations with the public, etc.
- **Demonstration of doing what is best for wildlife and people**

Apprentices(s) Name(s) \_\_\_\_\_ Apprentice's License No.: \_\_\_\_\_

Dated \_\_\_\_\_

Sponsor(s) Name(s) \_\_\_\_\_ Sponsor's License No.: \_\_\_\_\_

Dated \_\_\_\_\_