



NJ Department of Environmental Protection
Mail Code 501-03
Division of Fish and Wildlife
Wildlife Rehabilitation Program
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WILDLIFE REHABILITATION PERMIT INFORMATION

Dear Sir/Madam:

Thank you for your interest in wildlife rehabilitation!

As you know, wildlife is naturally subject to territorial conflict, predation, disease, and parasites. However, New Jersey's wildlife is facing another problem. Our wildlife is increasingly threatened by the loss of habitat incurred by continued construction, forest fragmentation, and deforestation of our lands often resulting in negative human/wildlife interactions such as vehicle accidents, accidental poisonings, and pollution.

The goal of the rehabilitation program is to release sick, injured and/or orphaned wildlife "back to the wild".

Before you begin an apprenticeship, please contact your local municipality and confirm if wildlife rehabilitation is an allowable activity in your area. Be advised several municipalities do not allow for wildlife rehabilitation.

Wildlife rehabilitators cannot charge a fee for their services; however, they may apply for 501(c) (3) non-profit status and accept donations. Rehabilitators often absorb all expenses related to rehabilitation.

Many states now require basic training, written and/or oral testing, and continuous education. Therefore, our requirements are subject to change.

The following is the basic criteria to apply for and maintain a rehabilitation permit; however more detailed information is available at http://www.state.nj.us/dep/fgw/rehab_info.htm :

- Apprenticeship – completion of a one year minimum apprenticeship with a licensed rehabilitator. The numbers of hours per day, week and/or month as well as other details of the apprenticeship are to be worked out between the apprentice and the sponsor, but the minimum requirement is four (16) hours per month. It is extremely important that the apprentice be exposed to a complete calendar year of experience.
- Letter of Recommendation – from the sponsor who details the proficiency with regards to the species and type of care.
- Veterinary Services Form – to be completed by a veterinarian that is willing to work with you and the species for which you are applying. Be advised that veterinarians may, and often do, charge for their services.

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- Interview/Questionnaire – which measure the knowledge, skills and abilities of various aspects of rehabilitation, as well as a description of caging and facility, often done in conjunction with the facility inspection.
- Facility Inspection – successful inspection of proposed facility. The facility must meet the requirements to successfully rehabilitate the species requested.
- Federal Permits – as required for migratory birds
- Annual Report and Renewal Form – must be completed annually and submitted with required documentation.
- Continuous Education – Recommended participation in a minimum of one continuous wildlife rehabilitation education program each year.

Rehabilitation permits are currently issued for one (1) calendar year and all permits expire on December 31st each year. An annual report and renewal form must be submitted to the Division by January 15th along with the required documentation necessary to review and renew your permit authorizing you to continue rehabilitating wildlife.

I hope you follow through on the apprenticeship and continue to advance to your own wildlife rehabilitation facility.

Respectfully,

Amy Wells
Wildlife Permitting Unit
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