



## **WILDLIFE REHABILITATION PERMIT INFORMATION**

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 town. Be advised several municipalities do not allow for wildlife rehabilitation.

Wildlife rehabilitators cannot charge a fee for their services. Rehabilitators often absorb all expenses related to rehabilitation. However, they may accept donations and/or apply for 501(c)(3) nonprofit status.

The following is the basic criteria to apply for and maintain a rehabilitation permit; however more detailed information is available at [www.njfishandwildlife.com/rehab\\_info.htm](http://www.njfishandwildlife.com/rehab_info.htm).

Federal regulations do not allow for more than one avian rehabilitator to operate out of the same facility. However, New Jersey allows more than one mammal / reptile rehabilitator to work at the same location.

Apprenticeship – completion of a one year minimum (200 hours) 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. Four days or sixteen hours per month is recommended. 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.

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 some basic requirements to successfully rehabilitate the species requested.

Federal Permits are required to rehabilitate migratory birds.

The rehabilitation of black bear, bats, snakes, endangered species and threatened species is conducted in close consultation with the Division. Contact the Division prior to apprenticing for these species.

Annual Reports and Permit Renewal Forms must be completed and submitted annually.

Continuous Education –Participation in one continuous wildlife rehabilitation education program each year is recommended for all wildlife rehabilitators.

Rehabilitation permits are issued for one 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.