Project Toolkit

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Templates for Discussion and Partnership Agreements between the Rehabilitator and Veterinarian of Record

- Template 1, Wildlife Rehabilitator and Veterinarian of Record Agreement, Partners for Wildlife Fellow Project

- Template 2, Agreement Memorandum of Understanding Between Veterinarian and Wildlife Rehabilitator, Halley D Buckanoff, BS, CVT, CWR, 12/19/2019

- Template 3, Wildlife Rehabilitation Protocol – Adequate Veterinarian Care, WDNR

- Template 4, Wildlife Rehabilitation Principal Veterinarian Agreement, Washington Department of Fish and Wildlife

- Template 5. Wildlife Rehabilitation Permit Veterinary Assistance Voucher (Ohio)

This toolkit for wildlife rehabilitator and veterinarian communication was created by Leslie Clapper-Rentz, DVM and Peggy Popp, Wildlife Rehabilitator as a product of a fellowship through the Partners for Wildlife program (p4w@umn.edu). Additional content was assembled by Laura Johnson, DVM, as part of her P4W Fellowship project.
Links and Reference Documents

Websites

- American Veterinary Medical Association (AVMA): [www.avma.org](http://www.avma.org)
- Animal Behavior Institute, links to the various state agencies that oversee wildlife rehabilitation in the United States, along with a brief description of the requirements.: [https://www.animaledu.com/Careers/Wildlife-Rehabilitation-Careers/Wildlife-Rehabilitation-State-Requirements?d=1](https://www.animaledu.com/Careers/Wildlife-Rehabilitation-Careers/Wildlife-Rehabilitation-State-Requirements?d=1)
- AnimalHelpNow (AHNow): [https://ahnow.org/resources.php](https://ahnow.org/resources.php)
- Association of Avian Veterinarians: [https://www.aav.org/](https://www.aav.org/)
- LafeberVet, resource for exotic animal veterinary professionals: [https://lafeber.com/vet/](https://lafeber.com/vet/)
- The Humane Society of the United States (HSUS) [www.humanesociety.org](http://www.humanesociety.org)
- The Humane Society Veterinary Medical Association (HSVMA): [https://www.hsvma.org/](https://www.hsvma.org/)
- The National Association of Veterinary Technicians in America (NAVTA): [www.navta.net](http://www.navta.net)
- VIN, Veterinarian Information Network: [https://www.vin.com/](https://www.vin.com/)
- CFSPH, the Center for Food Security and Public Health: [https://www.cfsph.iastate.edu/](https://www.cfsph.iastate.edu/)
- Federal:
  - U.S. Fish & Wildlife Service Migratory Bird Program and Other Relevant Laws [https://www.fws.gov/program/migratory-bird-permit](https://www.fws.gov/program/migratory-bird-permit)
  - Endangered Species, USFWS website, [https://www.fws.gov/endangered/](https://www.fws.gov/endangered/)
  - State Territorial Fish And Wildlife Agency Contacts, Fish and Wildlife Service
- California:
  - California Council for Wildlife Rehabilitators: [https://ccwr.org/](https://ccwr.org/)
- Florida:
  - FWRA - Florida Wildlife Rehabilitators Association: [https://www.fwra.org/](https://www.fwra.org/)
- Minnesota:
  - Permitted Wildlife Rehabilitators in Minnesota: [http://files.dnr.state.mn.us/eco/nongame/rehabilitation/wildlife_rehabilitators.pdf](http://files.dnr.state.mn.us/eco/nongame/rehabilitation/wildlife_rehabilitators.pdf)
  - Wildlife rehabilitation organizations: [https://www.dnr.state.mn.us/eco/nongame/rehabilitation/organizations.html](https://www.dnr.state.mn.us/eco/nongame/rehabilitation/organizations.html)
  - Wildlife Rehabilitation and Release, “Serving the community of orphaned and injured wildlife, the community of citizens bringing animals to our attention, and the community of wildlife rehabilitators seeking education and support.”: [https://www.wrr-mn.org/](https://www.wrr-mn.org/)
- Ohio
  - Ohio Wildlife Rehabilitation Association: [https://www.owra.org/](https://www.owra.org/)
  - Ohio Department of Natural Resources (ODNR) Wildlife Rehabilitation: [https://ohiodnr.gov](https://ohiodnr.gov)
- **New York:**
  - NY State Wildlife Rehabilitation Council: [https://www.nyswrc.org/](https://www.nyswrc.org/)

- **Virginia:**
  - Wildlife Hospitals/Rehabilitation Center Websites:
    - The Wildlife Center of Virginia
    - Blue Ridge Wildlife Center (blueridgewildlifectr.org)
    - Home | Southwest Virginia Wildlife Center of Roanoke (swvawildlifecenter.org)
    - Wildlife Veterinary Care
  - General Info from the Department of Wildlife Resources (DWR):
    - Virginia's Wildlife | Virginia DWR
    - Help with Human-Wildlife Conflicts | Virginia DWR
    - Wildlife Diseases | Virginia DWR
    - Bear-Customer-Service-Guide.pdf (virginia.gov)
    - Hunting & Trapping Regulations | Virginia DWR
    - Miscellaneous Wildlife and Ecology Info
  - Other Resources:
    - Virginia Herpetological Society
    - Virginia Society of Ornithology (virginiabirds.org)
    - Virginia Master Naturalists - Home

- **Washington:**
  - Washington Wildlife Rehabilitation Association: [https://www.wwrawildlife.org/](https://www.wwrawildlife.org/)
  - Washington Department of Fish and Wildlife Wildlife Rehabilitation: [https://wdfw.wa.gov/species-habitats/living/injured-wildlife/rehabilitation](https://wdfw.wa.gov/species-habitats/living/injured-wildlife/rehabilitation)
  - Injured and Orphaned Wildlife: [https://wdfw.wa.gov/species-habitats/living/injured-wildlife](https://wdfw.wa.gov/species-habitats/living/injured-wildlife)
  - Washington Department of Fish and Wildlife/ Wildlife Diseases: [https://wdfw.wa.gov/species-habitats/diseases](https://wdfw.wa.gov/species-habitats/diseases)

- **Wisconsin:**
  - Nuisance, urban, and damaging wildlife: [https://dnr.wisconsin.gov/topic/WildlifeHabitat/damage](https://dnr.wisconsin.gov/topic/WildlifeHabitat/damage)
  - Reporting sick or dead wildlife: [https://dnr.wisconsin.gov/topic/WildlifeHabitat/wildlifehealth](https://dnr.wisconsin.gov/topic/WildlifeHabitat/wildlifehealth)
  - Wisconsin Department of Natural Resources (WDNR) Wildlife Rehabilitation Directory: [https://dnr.wi.gov/topic/wildlifehabitat/directory.html](https://dnr.wi.gov/topic/wildlifehabitat/directory.html)
  - WDNR How To Get a Wildlife Rehabilitation License, [https://dnr.wisconsin.gov/topic/WildlifeHabitat/permitting.html](https://dnr.wisconsin.gov/topic/WildlifeHabitat/permitting.html) Legal aspects of Wildlife Care
Legal Aspects of Wildlife Care

- **Federal:**
  - **US Fish and Wildlife Service (USFWS)** is the regulatory agency and the permitting agency in charge of rehabilitation of migratory birds (migratory bird permit information can be found here). The Migratory Bird Treaty Act is the guiding legislation for migratory birds. USFWS is also the permitting agency in charge of rehabilitation of marine mammals (marine mammal permit information can be found here).
  - **Migratory Bird Treaty Act:** The Migratory Bird Treaty Act prohibits the take (including killing, capturing, selling, trading, and transport) of protected migratory bird species without prior authorization by the Department of Interior U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service.
  - **Fish and Wildlife Conservation Act** *("Nongame Act"; 16 U.S.C. 2901-2911; 94 Stat. 1322)*
    - Public Law 96-366, approved September 29, 1980, authorizes financial and technical assistance to the States for the development, revision, and implementation of conservation plans and programs for nongame fish and wildlife.
  - **Federal Fish and Wildlife Permit Application Form**, Migratory Bird Rehabilitation (Migratory Bird Treaty Act, 50 CFR 21.31)
  - **Endangered Species Act**
  - Endangered Species, USFWS website
  - 2003 Federal Register, 68 FR 61123; Centralized Library: U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service - FR Doc 03-26823 *(relates specifically to the role of veterinarians)*
  - **National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration (NOAA)** is the regulatory agency in charge of rehabilitation of marine mammals. The *Marine Mammal Protection Act* is the guiding legislation for marine mammals

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- **Minnesota**
  - Wildlife Rehabilitation Permits,
    https://www.dnr.state.mn.us/eco/nongame/rehabilitation/permits.html
  - Minnesota Administrative Rules, Chapter 6244, Captive Wildlife:
    https://www.revisor.mn.gov/rules/6244/
  - MN DNR Wildlife rehabilitation, Sick, Injured, or Orphaned Wildlife,
    https://www.dnr.state.mn.us/eco/nongame/rehabilitation/injured-orphaned-wildlife.html
  - Study guide & exam book:
    https://www.dnr.state.mn.us/eco/nongame/rehabilitation/studyguide.html
    - Licensed veterinarians may serve as voluntary consultants to novice, general, or master class permittees
    - Veterinarians are not required to have a department wildlife rehabilitation permit to consult with department rehabilitation permit holders nor to advise the permittees on care and treatment of animals undergoing rehabilitation.
    - Veterinarians may treat wild animals, protected birds, and protected mammals in their office or clinic without possessing a department wildlife rehabilitation permit, provided the animals are not kept at the veterinary office or clinic longer than 48 hours.
    - Veterinarians who have in their possession a wild animal longer than 48 hours are required to either have a novice, general, or master level permit or notify a conservation officer of the possession of an injured or orphaned wild animal.
    - Veterinarians may obtain a general class permit by meeting the written test requirements for these permits described in sections 6244.0100 to 6244.2000, and by maintaining satisfactory applicable facilities requirements
    - Veterinarians who have a general or master class rehabilitation permit may possess a sick or injured wild animal, for purposes of treatment. The commissioner shall be notified within 24 hours of receipt of a state or federal endangered or threatened animal.

- **Ohio**
  - Wildlife Rehabilitation Permit Requirements:
    https://codes.ohio.gov/ohio-administrative-code/rule-1501:31-25-03
  - Scientific, educational or rehabilitation collection permits:
    https://codes.ohio.gov/ohio-revised-code/section-1533.08
  - Current versions of the following documents may be found on the ohiodnr.gov website:
    https://ohiodnr.gov/buy-and-apply/special-use-permits/wildlife-specialty-permits/wildlife-rehabilitator-volunteer or by reaching out to wildlife.permits@dnr.ohio.gov
    - **Wildlife Rehabilitation Permit Application**
    - **Wildlife Rehabilitation Intake Form**
    - **Wildlife Rehabilitation Annual Year End Report**
- **Wildlife Rehabilitation Transfer Form**
  - The Wildlife Rehabilitation Permit Veterinary Assistance Voucher. The sponsoring veterinarian acknowledges the following:
    - They are a veterinarian licensed to practice in Ohio
    - agrees to advise, assist and/or supervise medical treatment, including emergencies or euthanasia, of injured and/or orphaned wild animals being rehabilitated by the permit applicant with specified exceptions,
    - has reviewed the applicant's completed permit application,
    - has visited/inspected the applicant's facility,
    - has formalized with the rehabilitator a protocol for responsibilities being delegated to the applicant regarding medical care and euthanasia.
- **Accepting animals from a Commercial Nuisance Wild Animal Control Operator (CNWACO)**
  - Not allowed. Animals abandoned because of a purposeful action by the homeowner may not be rehabilitated. Any young from adults trapped or captured as nuisance animals shall not be accepted for rehabilitation. Under Ohio Administrative Code 1501:31-15-03, ALL raccoons, skunks, coyotes, fox and opossums trapped or captured under authority of the nuisance wild animal regulation must be euthanized by the CNWACO or property owner, NOT given to or accepted by a rehabilitator.
  - The generic email for contacting the Ohio DNR is wildlife.permits@dnr.ohio.gov. Specific questions should be directed to Stormy Gibson, Stormy.Gibson@dnr.ohio.gov, the Ohio Division of Wildlife Permit Coordinator.
  - **Role of Veterinarians**
    - There are no specific rules dedicated to veterinarians regarding wildlife. All wildlife patients must be transferred to a licensed rehabilitator within 48 hours of "collection" or rescue. Licensed veterinaries and certified euthanasia technicians are allowed to euthanize wildlife animals according to humane euthanasia techniques.

- **Virginia**
  - **Rehabilitator Information:**
    - [Wildlife Rehabilitation Permit Conditions (virginia.gov)](http://virginia.gov)
    - [Permit Application Form for New Rehabilitators](http://virginia.gov)
    - [Licensed Wildlife Rehabilitators | Virginia DWR](http://virginia.gov)
    - [Information for DWR Permittees and Partners | Virginia DWR](http://virginia.gov)
    - [DMAP Biologist Contact Information Map (virginia.gov)](http://virginia.gov)
  - **Guide for Law Enforcement:**

- **Washington**
  - [Wildlife Rehabilitation Grants](https://wdfw.wa.gov/species-habitats/living/injured-wildlife/rehabilitation/grants)
    - Veterinarians may euthanize wildlife or provide stabilization without a wildlife rehabilitation permit. Veterinarians must arrange to transfer the wildlife to a primary permittee within forty-eight hours of receiving wildlife. Veterinarians must separate wildlife from domestic animals.
    - Wildlife Rehabilitators must have a veterinarian associated with their practice and submit to the department a signed Principal Veterinarian Agreement form from a veterinarian who is willing to serve as the principal veterinarian for the initial or renewal
The Principal Veterinarian provides timely advice and services, veterinary treatment, and any medical protocols to primary permittee.

- **Wisconsin**
  - NR19 – Rule pertaining to wildlife rehabilitation: [https://p.widencdn.net/bnwe7I/rule](https://p.widencdn.net/bnwe7I/rule)
  - 2003 Wisconsin Act 56 established new standards and licenses for possession of captive wildlife (which is different from rehabilitation of wildlife): [https://dnr.wi.gov/topic/wildlifehabitat/captive.html](https://dnr.wi.gov/topic/wildlifehabitat/captive.html)
  - If a captive wild animal is imported into Wisconsin from a legal source in another state, an animal import permit is required from the Department of Agriculture, Trade and Consumer Protection prior to the animal entering Wisconsin: [https://datcp.wi.gov/Pages/Programs_Services/AnimalMovement.aspx](https://datcp.wi.gov/Pages/Programs_Services/AnimalMovement.aspx)
  - If you plan on exhibiting captive wild animals to the public you may also need a United States Department of Agriculture Class C Exhibit License: [https://www.nal.usda.gov/awic](https://www.nal.usda.gov/awic)
  - Veterinary Examining Board, WI Chapter 89: “‘Animal’ means any animal except a human being.” [https://docs.legis.wisconsin.gov/statutes/statutes/89/02/6](https://docs.legis.wisconsin.gov/statutes/statutes/89/02/6)
  - **Role of Veterinarians** (from WDNR) [https://dnr.wisconsin.gov/topic/WildlifeHabitat/permitting.html](https://dnr.wisconsin.gov/topic/WildlifeHabitat/permitting.html)
    - Licensed veterinarians may, at their discretion, serve as voluntary consultants for Basic and Advanced level license holders.
    - Veterinarians are not required to have a wildlife rehabilitation license to consult with or provide advice on care and treatment of animals undergoing rehabilitation.
    - Veterinarians may treat wild animals in their clinic without possessing a wildlife rehabilitation license, provided that no stay at the clinic is longer than 48 hours.
    - Veterinarians that retain wild animals for longer than 48 hours are required to have a wildlife rehabilitation license, or be working with a licensed wildlife rehabilitator, or notify the department.
  - **WI DNR Wildlife Rehabilitation Protocol Checklist**
Reference Documents

- **Standards for Wildlife Rehabilitation:**
  - [https://theiwrc.org/product/standards-for-wildlife-rehabilitation/](https://theiwrc.org/product/standards-for-wildlife-rehabilitation/)

- **Principles of Wildlife Rehabilitation:**

- **American Veterinary Medical Association**
  - Principles of veterinary medical ethics of the AVMA: [https://www.avma.org/resources-tools/avma-policies/principles-veterinary-medical-ethics-avma](https://www.avma.org/resources-tools/avma-policies/principles-veterinary-medical-ethics-avma)
  - Wildlife decision tree template: [https://www.avma.org/resources-tools/one-health/wildlife-decision-tree](https://www.avma.org/resources-tools/one-health/wildlife-decision-tree)
  - Oversight of wildlife issues: [https://www.avma.org/oversight-wildlife-issues](https://www.avma.org/oversight-wildlife-issues)
  - Documentation for wildlife cases: [https://www.avma.org/documentation-wildlife-cases](https://www.avma.org/documentation-wildlife-cases)

- **Animal Help Now**
  - Veterinary Financial Help (see listing of links on this page, scroll down about 2/3s from top): [https://ahnow.org/resources.php#maintocwildconfl](https://ahnow.org/resources.php#maintocwildconfl)


  - **Note:** Available at other sources, too.

- **Humane Society**
  - Humane Society Wildlife Care Basics Reference Guide *(has sample wildlife intake form as well as supplies and medications for clinics to have on hand and instructions for wildlife rescuers)*

- **IWRC Reference Books** [https://theiwrc.org/shop](https://theiwrc.org/shop)
  - Examples may include:
    - Initial Wildlife Care: Triage and Emergency Care, provides the wildlife professional with information on animal care at intake, triage, and stabilization in emergency settings: [https://theiwrc.org/product/initial-wildlife-care](https://theiwrc.org/product/initial-wildlife-care)
    - Wildlife Feeding and Nutrition, provides the wildlife professional with the foundations of
wildlife nutrition. Chapters include Dietary Patterns, Nutrients, Principles of Formulating Diets, Malnutrition and more.

- Veterinary Parasitology, Concise reference to the drugs and dosages used to treat exotic animals
- Exotic Animal Formulary, A quick, concise reference to the drugs and dosages used to treat exotic animals
- Hand-Rearing Birds
- An Introduction to Aquatic Bird Rehabilitation
- Wildlife Rehabilitation: A Comprehensive Approach. A foundational text for studying and practicing wildlife rehabilitation. This book is an excellent resource for active rehabilitators, a cover to cover read for those considering the field, and a great companion book for biologists and veterinarians who may encounter wildlife needing assistance and who work alongside wildlife rehabilitators.


- Raptor Medicine, Surgery, and Rehabilitation

Examples may include:
  - Quick Reference, commonly used medical, anatomical & physiological info in a handy format.
  - Wildlife Formulary, provides wildlife rehabilitators and veterinarians condensed information on pharmaceuticals and biologics available for use in wildlife rehabilitation.
  - Principles of Wildlife Rehabilitation. Getting started, admitting patients, vet topics, animal handling/care, general nutrition, & more.
  - Topics in Wildlife Medicine Volume 1: Clinical Pathology
  - Topics in Wildlife Medicine Volume 2: Emergency and Critical Care
  - Topics in Wildlife Medicine Volume 3: Infectious Diseases
  - Topics in Wildlife Medicine Volume 4: Orthopedics


- Wild Mammal Babies! The First 48 Hours and Beyond, https://www.squirrelsandmore.com/products/wild-mammal-babies-the-first-48-hours-and-beyond-2nd-edition (Note: Available at other sources, too)

- Finding a Wildlife Rehabilitator:
  - Help! I've Found an Injured Animal! (nwrawildlife.org), National Wildlife Rehabilitators Association
  - State Agency Lists of Permitted Wildlife Rehabilitators, Ohio Wildlife Rehabilitators Association
  - Animal Help Now (AHNow.org), by location

- Developing a Wildlife Policy for Veterinary Clinics:
  - A Wildlife Policy Within a Clinical Setting Implementing the DOs and DON'Ts of Wildlife Handling and Treatment

- Zoonotic Diseases and Precautions:
- Compendium of Veterinary Standard Precautions for Zoonotic Disease Prevention in Veterinary Personnel
- Zoonoses Associated with Wild Carnivores

- **Resources for Wildlife Treatment:**
  - FARAD Digest: Extralabel drug use in wildlife and game animals (guidance on drug residues and withdrawal times for wildlife game species)

- **Other Resources:**
  - Basic Wildlife Rehabilitation Triage Lecture by Renee Schott
  - Avian Radiography
  - Reptile Radiography
  - Food Animal Residue Avoidance Databank
  - Animal Ethics Dilemma: An Interactive Learning Tool
  - National Association of State Public Health Veterinarians Compendia
  - Reptile Wildlife Euthanasia Techniques Lecture by Renee Schott, LafeberVet

- **Minnesota**
  - Study guide & exam book: [https://www.dnr.state.mn.us/eco/nongame/rehabilitation/studyguide.html](https://www.dnr.state.mn.us/eco/nongame/rehabilitation/studyguide.html)
    The Minnesota Wildlife Rehabilitation Study Guide and Examination Booklet serve as an introduction to wildlife rehabilitation for beginners, a reference resource for beginning and experienced rehabilitators, and a means to prepare for the written examinations required to obtain a novice, general or master rehabilitation permit.

- **Ohio**
  - Minimum Standards for Wildlife Rehabilitation

- **Washington**
  - Washington Department of Fish and Wildlife- Resources for Wildlife Rehabilitators: [https://wdfw.wa.gov/species-habitats/living/injured-wildlife/rehabilitation/resources](https://wdfw.wa.gov/species-habitats/living/injured-wildlife/rehabilitation/resources)

- **Wisconsin**
  - WI Example protocols
    - Adequate Veterinarian Care, [https://p.widencdn.net/7kj5vi/ProtoVetCare](https://p.widencdn.net/7kj5vi/ProtoVetCare)
    - Euthanasia, [https://p.widencdn.net/7qzaff/ProtoEuthanasia](https://p.widencdn.net/7qzaff/ProtoEuthanasia)
    - Pharmaceutical Use, [https://p.widencdn.net/na5kjs/ProtoPharmUse](https://p.widencdn.net/na5kjs/ProtoPharmUse)
    - Disposal of Carcasses and Animal Waste, [https://p.widencdn.net/dbe5sh/ProtoCarcDisposal](https://p.widencdn.net/dbe5sh/ProtoCarcDisposal)
Education and Training Opportunities

- **Association of Avian Veterinarians**, AAV online Education Portal: [https://www.aav.org/page/OnlineLearning](https://www.aav.org/page/OnlineLearning)

- **HSVMA Continuing Education Webinars**: [https://www.hsvma.org/webinars](https://www.hsvma.org/webinars)

- **IWRC Classes**, in-person and on-line: [https://theiwrc.org/courses](https://theiwrc.org/courses)
  - Basic Wildlife Rehabilitation
  - Pain & Wound Management
  - Pain Management
  - Wound Management
  - Fluid Therapy
  - Zoonoses
  - Oil Spill Volunteering

- **LafeberVet**, a resource for exotic animal veterinary professionals, hosts an extensive array of topics, featured content, blog posts, and webinars (often free), covering Emergency Care, Clinical Topics, Mammal, Avian, Reptiles & Amphibians, and Resources & Education pertaining to native wildlife and exotic pets: [https://lafeber.com/vet/](https://lafeber.com/vet/)
  - Basic Wildlife Rehabilitation Triage Lecture by Renee Schott, LafeberVet
  - Reptile Wildlife Euthanasia Techniques Lecture by Renee Schott, LafeberVet

- **NAVTA free virtual/online continuing education resources**: [https://ce.navta.net/](https://ce.navta.net/)

- **NWRA Annual Symposium**, usually 4 days of lectures, workshops, roundtables, classes, field trips, and networking opportunities. Multiple tracks are offered each day, e.g., in 2020 there were tracks for Collaborating for Wildlife, Avian I and II, Mammals I and II, Disease, Education Ambassadors, Herptiles, Administration, Veterinary, Waterbirds, Raptors, Medications, Oiled Wildlife and Disaster Response I and II, Toxicology, and Education and Outreach over the course of the four days. [https://www.nwrawildlife.org/mpage/Symposium_Home](https://www.nwrawildlife.org/mpage/Symposium_Home)

- **VIN**, Veterinarian Information Network: [https://www.vin.com/ce/](https://www.vin.com/ce/)

- **The Wildlife Center of Virginia** offers a variety of educational opportunities for those interested in learning more about wildlife rehabilitation: [https://www.wildlifecenter.org/training-opportunities/rehabilitation-training](https://www.wildlifecenter.org/training-opportunities/rehabilitation-training)

- **The Wildlife Care Academy** helps others take an active and educated role in the conservation of wildlife. Academy content is offered in a variety of subjects, including wildlife rehabilitation, wildlife medicine, outreach and communications, education, administration, and more. With both on-demand courses that participants can take at their own pace, and live webinars on a variety of specialty topics, the Wildlife Care Academy allows for an engaging learning experience with a qualified staff instructor while in the comfort of your home. [https://wildlifeacademy.org/](https://wildlifeacademy.org/)

- **Partners for Wildlife**, [Triage and Treatment of Wildlife Patients](https://www.partnersforwildlife.org/)

- **State and local conferences**
Frequently Asked Questions

● Are veterinarians allowed to treat wildlife without a rehabilitation permit?

Most wildlife can be seen by a veterinarian for triage and stabilization, but should be transferred to a licensed wildlife rehabilitator within 48 hours. Birds protected under the Migratory Bird Treaty Act should be transferred to a rehabilitator within 24 hours of stabilization. Keep wildlife patients in a quiet area of the clinic away from client-owned animals to minimize stress and biosecurity risks.

● Are veterinarians allowed to euthanize wildlife?

If an animal’s injuries will render it non-releasable, then relieving its suffering via humane euthanasia is appropriate. Migratory birds (including eagles and other raptors) may be euthanized if they have irreversible trauma that does not allow them to feed themselves, perch upright, or ambulate. They should be euthanized if they are completely blind, or if their injury requires a leg amputation or wing amputation. The Migratory Bird Permit Office should be contacted for authorization prior to euthanizing an endangered or threatened migratory bird species, but euthanasia of these species is allowed if you are unable to contact the office and prompt euthanasia is deemed necessary for the welfare of the bird.

● How do I know when euthanasia is the right decision?

The goal of wildlife rehabilitation is to release a healthy animal back into the wild. The following are conditions that will likely indicate humane euthanasia for wildlife patients due to a very poor prognosis for survival or return to function.

- Open fractures with significant devitalized bone
- Intra-articular fractures, luxations, or subluxations
- Severe soft tissue wounds with organ exposure
- Fractured shell with visibly damaged or severely contaminated organs
- Skull fractures with brain exposure
- Spinal trauma with absent deep pain
- Limb amputations
- Neurological signs in a Rabies Vector Species (skunks and bats are of main concern in MN)
- Distemper suspect with clinical signs (raccoons and grey foxes commonly present with seizures, abnormal mentation)
- Eye trauma resulting in permanent vision deficits
- Advanced trichomoniasis
- Neonates (age limits will depend on rehabilitator resources; pinkies have very poor prognoses)

● What kind of information should I collect from someone who brings a wild animal to my clinic?

- Name and contact information
- Exact location where animal was found
- When was the animal found, under what circumstances, and how long had it been seen there
- If juvenile, notes about whether other babies, adults, or nest were present
- Who has had contact with the animal, and whether they wore gloves
- Have there been any human or animal interactions? (i.e., tried feeding, bites/scratches, attacked by dog/cat, etc.)

● How do I handle calls about neonates and juvenile wildlife?

If you receive a call with questions about baby wildlife, please direct them to call a local rehabilitator to determine whether the animal is okay or whether it may need veterinary care. Normal, healthy babies are best left with their parents in the wild! If the animals have arrived at your clinic and you have determined they need medical care, then supportive care can be provided as needed prior to transferring to a licensed wildlife rehabilitator within 48 hours.

- General supportive care will include:
  - Heat support (85-95°F). Possible options include: heating pad set at the lowest setting and placed under 1/3 of enclosure, hot water bottles, SnuggleSafe discs. Avoid direct contact of heat source with the animal to
prevent burns. Use a thermometer to make sure the environment is not getting too hot!

- Rehydration- Warmed subcutaneous fluids (i.e. lactated Ringer’s solution, Normosol) or oral fluids. Subcutaneous fluids in small avian patients is risky due to the risk of administering fluids into the air sacs - use caution.
- Nutrition- Juveniles should be normothermic before feeding, and can be maintained on rehydration fluids for ~24 hours if they cannot be transferred to a rehabilitator or rehabilitation clinic immediately. Dextrose 2.5% can be added to subcutaneous fluids, or a small amount of Karo syrup can be administered orally using a cotton tip applicator if there are concerns for hypoglycemia. Please contact a wildlife rehabilitation facility prior to administering any formulas or food to ensure the appropriate diet is being used for the species.

**NOTE:**
- When caring for juvenile wildlife, please keep them in a quiet, dark area and minimize handling.
- Please avoid talking around juveniles because they are at risk for imprinting on humans, which could prevent them from being released.
Wildlife Rehabilitator and Veterinarian of Record Agreement

The following agreement is between [rehabilitator, address] and [veterinarian or veterinarian clinic, address], to provide veterinarian care for [rehabilitator’s] patients, specifically the following species: [insert agreed upon species].

Fee Structure: The following fee structure will be in place, with payments remitted [specify time frame, form of payment, etc.]:

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Services</th>
<th>No charge</th>
<th>At Cost</th>
<th>% markup from cost</th>
<th>% discount</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Exams/evaluations</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Clinic visit</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>On-site visit</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
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<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>- Travel Time</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
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<tr>
<td>Certificates of Veterinary Inspection</td>
<td></td>
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</tr>
<tr>
<td>Diagnostics</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>In-clinic lab tests</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Outside lab tests</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
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</tr>
<tr>
<td>Imaging</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
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</tr>
<tr>
<td>Sedation/Anesthesia (per 15-minute interval)</td>
<td></td>
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<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Surgical procedures (per 15-minute interval)</td>
<td></td>
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<td></td>
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<tr>
<td>Materials (bandages, syringes, tape)</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
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<td></td>
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<tr>
<td>Prescriptions/dispensed medications</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
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</tr>
<tr>
<td>Euthanasia</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Disposal of remains</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>In-clinic necropy</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Send-off necropsy</td>
<td></td>
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</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

Telephone and Electronic Consultations:
- [Veterinarian] will be available for telephone consultations at [clinic, cell, other phone number] during the following hours or under the following circumstances:

- E-mail communication will/will not be available for [photos, treatment plans, follow-up, other] at [email address] during the following hours or under the following circumstances:

Examinations, Evaluations, and/or Treatments:
- In person examinations, evaluations, and/or treatments will be conducted [at the clinic, at the rehabilitation facility] under the following circumstances [add or delete as appropriate]
  - With a scheduled appointment
  - Animal will be safely and appropriately contained for transport
  - Rehabilitator will/will not be present during the examination
  - Rehabilitator will be available for proper restraint or guidance in handling as needed or when appropriate.

- Protocols will be established for commonly seen diseases/injuries, including: [list common ailments with routine treatment such as cat attacks, fly strike, de-worming, etc.]
**Record Keeping:**
- [Rehabilitator] will keep accurate records of all treatments and drugs dispensed, and will make them available to [veterinarian] (e.g., upon request, monthly, annually, etc.).
- [Veterinarian] will fill out forms or paperwork provided by the rehabilitator.
- [Veterinarian] will provide copies of the patient’s medical record upon request.

**Euthanasia:** In cases requiring euthanasia [Veterinarian] will be consulted except in extreme cases where there is obvious suffering and s/he is unavailable. Under those circumstances [insert euthanasia protocol] will be used when necessary. Carcasses will be disposed of in the following manner (note – many cremation services offer free group cremation for wildlife):

This agreement is effect upon signature of both parties, and may be terminated, without cause, by either party upon written notice.

Signed:

________________________  __________________________  _____________
Veterinarian’s Name       Signature                  Date

Signed:

________________________  __________________________  _____________
Wildlife Rehabilitator’s Name   Signature             Date

This Wildlife Rehabilitator and Veterinarian of Record Agreement template was created as a product of a fellowship from the Partners for Wildlife program.
MEMORANDUM OF UNDERSTANDING

BETWEEN

VETERINARIAN AND WILDLIFE REHABILITATOR

1. **Parties.** This Memorandum of Understanding (hereinafter referred to as “MOU”) is made and entered into by and between the Veterinarian __________________, whose address is, ______________and the licensed wildlife rehabilitator, __________________ whose address is, ______________

2. **Purpose.** The purpose of this MOU is to establish the terms and conditions under which the veterinarian will provide services, diagnostics and/or treatments for the native wildlife in the care of the wildlife rehabilitator.

3. **Term of MOU.** This MOU is effective upon the day and date last signed and executed by the duly authorized representatives of the parties to this MOU and the governing bodies of the parties’ respective counties or municipalities and shall remain in full force and effect for not longer than __________. This MOU may be terminated, without cause, by either party upon written notice, which notice shall be delivered by hand or by certified mail to the addresses listed above.

4. **Responsibilities of Wildlife Rehabber.**
   
   A. The wildlife rehabilitator is expected to work in accordance with the Wildlife Rehabilitators’ Code of Ethics as established through The Minimum Standards of Wildlife Rehabilitation as written by the International Wildlife Rehabilitation Council and National Wildlife Rehabilitators’ Association, understanding that the care and treatment of wildlife under this MOU is for the sole purpose of release in a condition that is optimal for independent survival upon return to the wild.
   
   B. The wildlife rehabilitator is responsible to maintain licensing/permitting for the native wildlife within their care and to ensure they are in accordance with local, state, and federal regulations.
   
   C. The wildlife rehabilitator is relied upon to communicate and coordinate veterinary care of wildlife patients in a timely fashion.
   
   D. The wildlife rehabilitator is to follow the direction of the veterinarian and subsequent treatment plans as prescribed per animal and/or protocol. At no point should the wildlife rehabilitator be utilizing prescribed medications for any other animals/protocols outside those originally dictated by the veterinarian.
   
   E. The wildlife rehabilitator is required to remit payment to the veterinarian as established by this MOU in the agreed upon time frame ______________ (day of the month or how many days after exam/treatment)
5. Responsibilities of Veterinarian.

A. The veterinarian is expected to work in accordance with the Wildlife Rehabilitators’ Code of Ethics as established through The Minimum Standards of Wildlife Rehabilitation as written by the International Wildlife Rehabilitation Council and National Wildlife Rehabilitators’ Association, understanding that the care and treatment of wildlife under this MOU is for the sole purpose of release in a condition that is optimal for independent survival upon return to the wild.

B. The veterinarian agrees to examine and treat the following species of native wildlife:

[insert agreed upon species]

C. The veterinarian will see wildlife at [insert location]. If the designated location is a veterinary clinic, to reduce risk to domestic patients and stress to wildlife patients, the veterinarian and rehabilitator agree on the process of scheduling appointment and/or dropping of wildlife as written: [insert agreed upon process]

D. The veterinarian will follow the Food Animal Residue Avoidance Databank and will not prescribe medications that may be harmful to humans if animals are lawfully consumed and will be conscientious in regards to medication withdrawal times and the implications of off-label use of medications for wildlife; The Veterinarian will ensure lawful disposal of animals chemically euthanized.

E. The veterinarian will supply the wildlife rehabilitator copies of the patient’s medical record.

F. The veterinarian is responsible to provide veterinary medical care in the form of

  a. Physical Exams for the fee of: $________________ per animal
  b. Radiographs for the fee of $________________ per view.
  c. Bloodwork (CBC, Chem, PCV/TP) for the fee of: $________________ per sample
  d. Fecal parasitology for the fee of: $________________ per sample
  e. Euthanasia for the fee of: $________________ per animal
     i. disposal for the fee of: $________________ per anima
  f. Other __________________ for the fee of: $________________ per anim
6. **General Provisions**

   A. **Amendments.** Either party may request changes to this MOU. Any changes, modifications, revisions or amendments to this MOU which are mutually agreed upon by and between the parties to this MOU shall be incorporated by written instrument, and effective when executed and signed by all parties to this MOU.

   B. **Applicable Law.** The construction, interpretation and enforcement of this MOU shall be governed by the laws of the State of [insert State name]. The courts of the State of [insert State name] shall have jurisdiction over any action arising out of this MOU and over the parties, and the venue shall be the [insert the Judicial District and County], [insert State name].

   C. **Entirety of Agreement.** This MOU, consisting of [insert number] pages, represents the entire and integrated agreement between the parties and supersedes all prior negotiations, representations and agreements, whether written or oral.

   D. **Severability.** Should any portion of this MOU be judicially determined to be illegal or unenforceable, the remainder of the MOU shall continue in full force and effect, and either party may renegotiate the terms affected by the severance.

   E. **Third Party Beneficiary Rights.** The parties do not intend to create in any other individual or entity the status of a third party beneficiary, and this MOU shall not be construed so as to create such status. The rights, duties and obligations contained in this MOU shall operate only between the parties to this MOU, and shall inure solely to the benefit of the parties to this MOU. The provisions of this MOU are intended only to assist the parties in determining and performing their obligations under this MOU. The parties to this MOU intend and expressly agree that only parties signatory to this MOU shall have any legal or equitable right to seek to enforce this MOU, to seek any remedy arising out of a party’s performance or failure to perform any term or condition of this MOU, or to bring an action for the breach of this MOU.

7. **Signatures.** In witness whereof, the parties to this MOU through their duly authorized representatives have executed this MOU on the days and dates set out below, and certify that they have read, understood, and agreed to the terms and conditions of this MOU as set forth herein.

   The effective date of this MOU is the date of the signature last affixed to this page.

   Veterinarian’s Name: ______________________ Signature: ______________________ Date: ______________________

   Wildlife Rehabilitator’s Name: ______________________ Signature: ______________________ Date: ______________________

   Halley D Buckanoff, BS, CVT, CWR, 12/19/2019
Facility/Rehabilitator Name: __________________________

This is only a recommendation of what your protocol should cover. Your facility may insert, change or delete any sections of this protocol to fit the mission of your rehabilitation facility, or submit an existent protocol in a different format. All protocols must be reviewed and approved by a consulting veterinarian.

Veterinarian’s Role
1. Licensed veterinarians may, at their discretion, serve as voluntary consultants for Basic and Advanced level license holders.

2. Veterinarians are not required to have a wildlife rehabilitation license to consult with or provide advice on care and treatment of animals undergoing rehabilitation.

3. Veterinarians may treat wild animals in their clinic without possessing a wildlife rehabilitation license, provided that no stay at the clinic is longer than 48 hours.

4. Veterinarians that retain wild animals for longer than 48 hours are required to have a wildlife rehabilitation license, or be working with a licensed wildlife rehabilitator, or notify the department.

Please review and check applicable points and fill in required information.

☒ Veterinary services are readily available to meet either routine or emergency needs.

☒ Our veterinarian(s) has sufficient knowledge of wildlife medicine and is familiar with the general care and conditions associated with wildlife patients.

☒ Days and times when the veterinarian(s) will be available are established. It is agreed that (insert veterinarian name here) will see patients/return phone calls at the following times:

☒ Our veterinarian(s) is available for phone consultation.

☒ Our veterinarian(s) will come to our facility under these circumstances:

☒ Species for which our veterinarian(s) will provide care have been identified. (List in space provided.)

☒ Species for which our veterinarian(s) will not provide care have been identified. (List in space provided.)
Goods and services that our veterinarian(s) is willing to provide have been discussed. They include (attach additional sheet if necessary):
Arrangements for admitting wild animals to the clinic (appointment only, in case of emergency, etc.) are established.

Arrangements for how and where wild animals enter the clinic (secure carrier, through a back door, etc.) have been established.

Arrangements for where wildlife will be kept while at the clinic have been established [in order to minimize stress to the wildlife and clinic patients (noise, foot traffic, proximity to predators, etc.)].

Diagnostic procedures that our veterinarian(s) is willing to perform have been discussed. They include (attach additional sheet if necessary): (example - radiographs, hematology, etc.)

Our veterinarian(s) will provide the following therapies (attach additional sheet if necessary): (example - prescribe and administer medications, fracture management, surgery, etc.)

Written guidelines for use in our rehabilitation facility regarding the selection and use of anesthetics, analgesics, and tranquilizing drugs for different species are provided and periodically reviewed by the veterinarian.

Our veterinarian(s) exercises good professional judgment in selecting the most appropriate pharmacologic agent(s) and methods to relieve animal pain or distress and ensure the humane treatment of animals.

Protocols for follow up care, treatments, record keeping, and communications have been discussed.

Protocols and agreements regarding euthanasia have been established.

All agreements abide by the laws and regulations governing the practice of veterinary medicine.

Rehabilitator Signature Date

Consulting Veterinarian Signature Date
Template 4:
Washington Department of Fish and Wildlife
Wildlife Rehabilitation
Principal Veterinarian Agreement

All Washington Wildlife Rehabilitators are required to have a Principal Veterinarian who oversees veterinary care and to submit this agreement to the WDFW Wildlife Rehabilitation Manager with the Permit Application.

| Name of Applicant or licensed Wildlife Rehabilitator: |
| Wildlife Rehabilitation Facility Name: |
| Wildlife Rehabilitation Facility Address: |
| Principal Veterinarian Name: | WA DVM Lic #: |
| Hospital or Clinic Name: |
| Hospital or Clinic Address: |
| Telephone Number: |
| Email: |

**Veterinary Services Information * **

Please list the types of services you are willing to provide to the Applicant or Wildlife Rehabilitator or are willing to provide assistance with (e.g., physical exam, initial stabilization, dispensing medication, surgery, radiology, euthanasia, training, etc.). You are not obligated to provide these services forever; please keep communications open with your Wildlife Rehabilitator.

What, if any, wildlife species are you not willing to handle, assist with, or provide services for?

I agree to act as Principal Veterinarian in assisting and directing the licensed Wildlife Rehabilitator in wildlife rehabilitation activities and lawfully provide prescription medication, euthanasia solution, and immobilization drugs as per DEA and Board of Pharmacy laws and regulations. I have reviewed with the applicant or licensed wildlife rehabilitator the Discussion Points outlined on the reverse of this agreement. Please check off the items in the Discussion Points table as you review those points.

I further agree to the following:

1) To approve necessary prescription medications
2) Provide reportable disease diagnostic procedures and diagnoses.
3) Wildlife suffering and unlikely to recover must be humanely euthanized as soon as possible.
4) It shall be unlawful to provide wildlife care that impairs the successful release of animals back to the wild.

**Signatures**

Principal Veterinarian Signature ____________________________________________ Date ______________________

Applicant/Wildlife Rehabilitator Signature ____________________________________________ Date ______________________

Note: This agreement does NOT authorize the Principal Veterinarian to act as a licensed wildlife rehabilitator. Unless a veterinarian holds a WDFW Wildlife Rehabilitation Permit, wildlife must be transferred to a wildlife rehabilitator upon stabilization. A Principal Veterinarian is not required to provide any services, supplies, or medications pro bono but may elect to do so. Those signing this agreement must abide by the laws and regulations governing the practice of veterinary medicine and wildlife rehabilitation in Washington State.
**Discussion Points** for establishing a contract with your principal veterinarian for your Washington State Wildlife Rehabilitation Permit. Please place a check mark next to the item when finished discussing.

| 1. | Goods and materials your veterinarian is willing to provide. |
| 2. | Goods and materials your veterinarian is willing to provide pro bono. |
| 3. | Estimated or approximate amount of time and when your veterinarian might be available for you. |
| 4. | Procedures and services* your veterinarian is willing to perform (radiographs, hematology, fracture management, surgery, lab work, etc.) and costs to you, if any. |
| 5. | Wildlife species your veterinarian will and will not handle. |
| 6. | Wildlife species for which your veterinarian has sufficient medical and care knowledge, or feels comfortable and capable providing care for. |
| 7. | Types of phone consultation. |
| 8. | Willingness to come to your facility. |
| 9. | Arrangements for bringing wildlife to the clinic or not (appointment only, emergency, midnight calls, etc.). |
| 10. | How wildlife should be brought into the clinic (back door, after hours only, etc. - wildlife should not be brought through the public front door if possible). |
| 11. | Housing facilities for wildlife at the clinic to minimize stress (noise, foot traffic, proximity to predators, etc.); and contact with domestics. |
| 12. | Follow up care protocols, record keeping and communications. |
| 13. | Protocols and agreements on euthanasia and carcass disposal. Agree in advance on a process of how you and your veterinarian will make euthanasia decisions. |
| 14. | A veterinarian must diagnose and provide treatment protocol for all Reportable Diseases (this list is provided to the Wildlife Rehabilitator). |

*Examples of services and procedures provided by Principal Veterinarians:*

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Physical Exam</th>
<th>Initial Diagnosis</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Initial Stabilization</td>
<td>Reportable Disease Diagnosis <strong>(Required)</strong></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Prescription Drugs</td>
<td>Dispensing Medication</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Agree to arrange for Controlled Drugs <strong>(Required if controlled drugs are to be administered)</strong></td>
<td>Euthanasia</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Administering Medication</td>
<td>Follow-up Exams</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Radiology</td>
<td>Lab Work</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Surgery <strong>(Required if surgery is anticipated)</strong></td>
<td>Fracture Stabilization</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Rehabilitation Facility Site Visits</td>
<td>Necropsy</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Carcass Disposal</td>
<td>Training</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

- Any licensed veterinarian may render emergency care and treatment to sick or injured wildlife but any such wildlife shall be transferred to a licensed rehabilitator within 24 - 48 hours.
- Any licensed veterinarian may euthanize injured wildlife if no other reasonable action would be humane or effective.
- Any licensed veterinarian euthanizing wildlife using chemical agents must provide for appropriate burial, incineration or other lawful disposition.

**Return this form with your Wildlife Rehabilitation Permit Application to:**
Wildlife Rehabilitation Manager
WDFW
16018 Mill Creek Blvd, Mill Creek, WA 98012
I acknowledge I am a veterinarian licensed to practice in Ohio and that I am aware of the following:

_________________________ is applying for a Category I or II Rehabilitation Permit from the

APPLICANTS NAME

Ohio Division of Wildlife to raise orphaned or provide care to injured native wild animals for the purpose of rehabilitation and release back into the wild. It is understood that Category I Rehabilitation Permit applicants may only raise healthy, species specific orphaned wild animals for release back to the wild.

I agree to advise, assist and/or supervise medical treatment, including emergencies or euthanasia, of injured and/or orphaned wild animals being rehabilitated by the permit applicant with the following exceptions:

________________________________________________________________________

________________________________________________________________________

________________________________________________________________________

________________________________________________________________________

________________________________________________________________________

________________________________________________________________________

I have reviewed the applicant's completed permit application, Ohio Administrative Rule Section 1501.31-25-03 Rehabilitators Permit, and Publication 5475 Minimum Standards for Wildlife Rehabilitation.

I have visited/inspected the applicant's facility.

The applicant and I have formalized a protocol for responsibilities being delegated to the applicant regarding medical care and euthanasia.
### VETERINARIAN INFORMATION:

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>FULL NAME</th>
<th>TELEPHONE</th>
<th>OHIO DVM LICENSE NUMBER</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td></td>
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</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

**MAILING ADDRESS** (street, city, state, zip code)

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**VETERINARIAN’S SIGNATURE**

**DATE**

---

**Partners for Wildlife**  
The Raptor Center | College of Veterinary Medicine | University of Minnesota  
Updated 10/26/22  
p4w@umn.edu