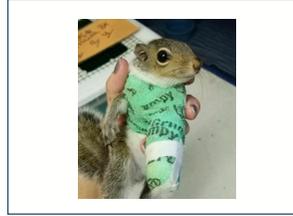


Veterinarians, Clinics, and Wildlife – Oh my!

Auburn University Raptor Center
 Auburn University – College of Veterinary Medicine
 Stephanie Kadletz – Assistant Director, Raptor Rehabilitation



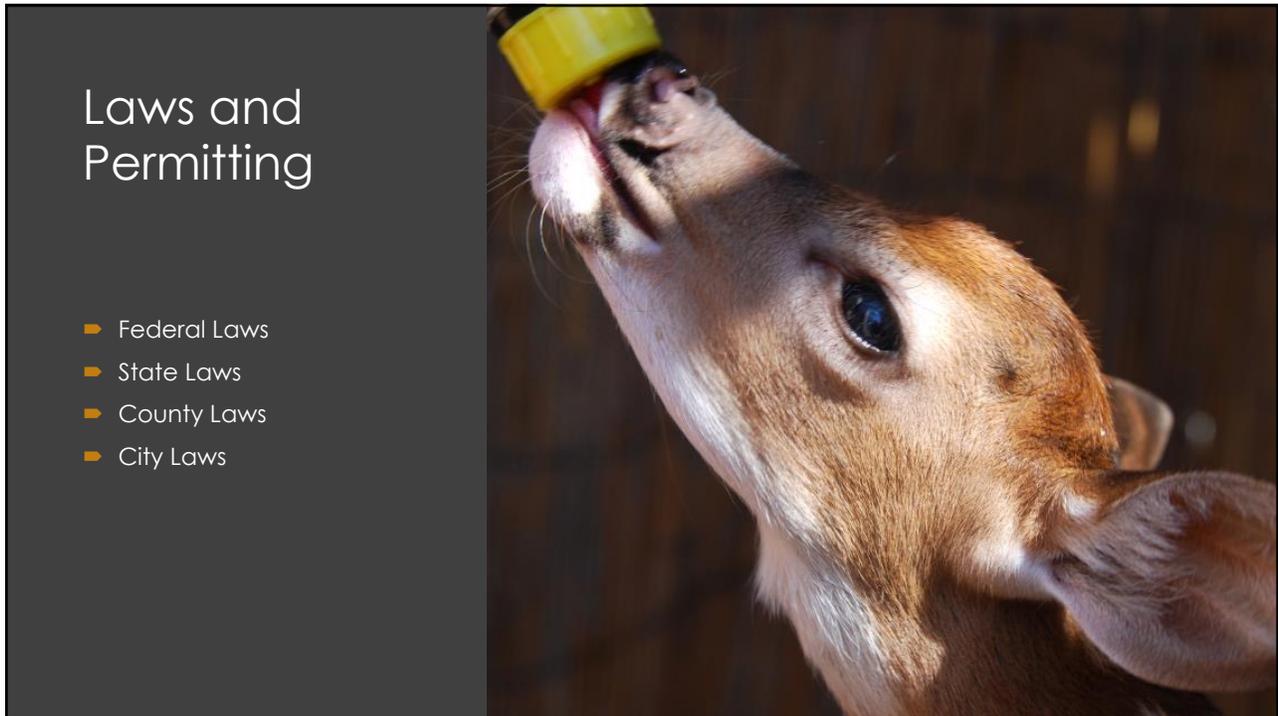
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Goal of Wildlife Rehabilitation



- Provide professional care to sick, injured, and orphaned native wild animals so ultimately they can be returned to their natural habitat.
 - **Return wild animals to 100% to be released back into the wild!!**
- Wild animals that sustain injuries or illnesses preventing them from living successfully in the wild are humanely **euthanized**.
- It is not to create pets or non-releasable wildlife.
 - *We do not treat to place!*
- Organizations:
 - National Wildlife Rehabilitation Association
 - International Wildlife Rehabilitation Council.

2



Laws and Permitting

- Federal Laws
- State Laws
- County Laws
- City Laws

3

Order	Restricted Activity			Limited Activity			Unlimited Activity		
	W	L	H	W	L	H	W	L	H
BOOW, BUOW, EASO, ELOW, FEPO, FLOW, NOPO, NSWO, PRSO, WESO, WHSO	12 in	17 in	12 in	3 ft	6 ft	8 ft	8 ft	16 ft	8 ft
	30 cm	43 cm	30 cm	0.9 m	1.8 m	2.4 m	2.4 m	4.9 m	2.4 m
AMKE, APFA, EUKE, GRHA, HBKI, MERL, MIKI, **NOHO, NHOW, ROHA, SNKI, SSHA, STHA	16 in	23 in	19 in	6 ft	6 ft	8 ft	8 ft	16 ft	8 ft
	41 cm	58 cm	48 cm	1.8 m	1.8 m	2.4 m	2.4 m	4.9 m	2.4 m
BNOW, BWHA, COHA, HWHA, LEOW, RSHA, SEOW, WTKI	20 in	27 in	22 in	6 ft	8 ft	8 ft	10 ft	30 ft	12 ft
	50 cm	69 cm	56 cm	1.8 m	2.4 m	2.4 m	3.0 m	9.1 m	3.7 m
BOOW, CBHA, CRCA, GHOW, HRLH, HRSH, NOGO, NOHA, RLHA, RTHA, SPOW, STKI, SWHA, WTHA, ZTHA	20 in	27 in	24 in	6 ft	8 ft	8 ft	10 ft	50 ft	12 ft
	50 cm	69 cm	60 cm	1.8 m	2.4 m	2.4 m	3.0 m	15.2 m	3.7 m
BAEA, BLVU, FEHA, GGOW, GOEA, GYFA, OSPR, PEFA, PRFA, **SEEA, SNOW, TUVU, **WTEA	3 ft	3 ft	3 ft	8 ft	10 ft	8 ft	20 ft	100 ft	16 ft
	0.9 m	0.9 m	0.9 m	2.4 m	3.0 m	2.4 m	6.1 m	30.5 m	4.9 m




Caging/Enclosures IWRC/NWRA Standards for Wildlife Rehabilitators

4

Role of the Veterinarian

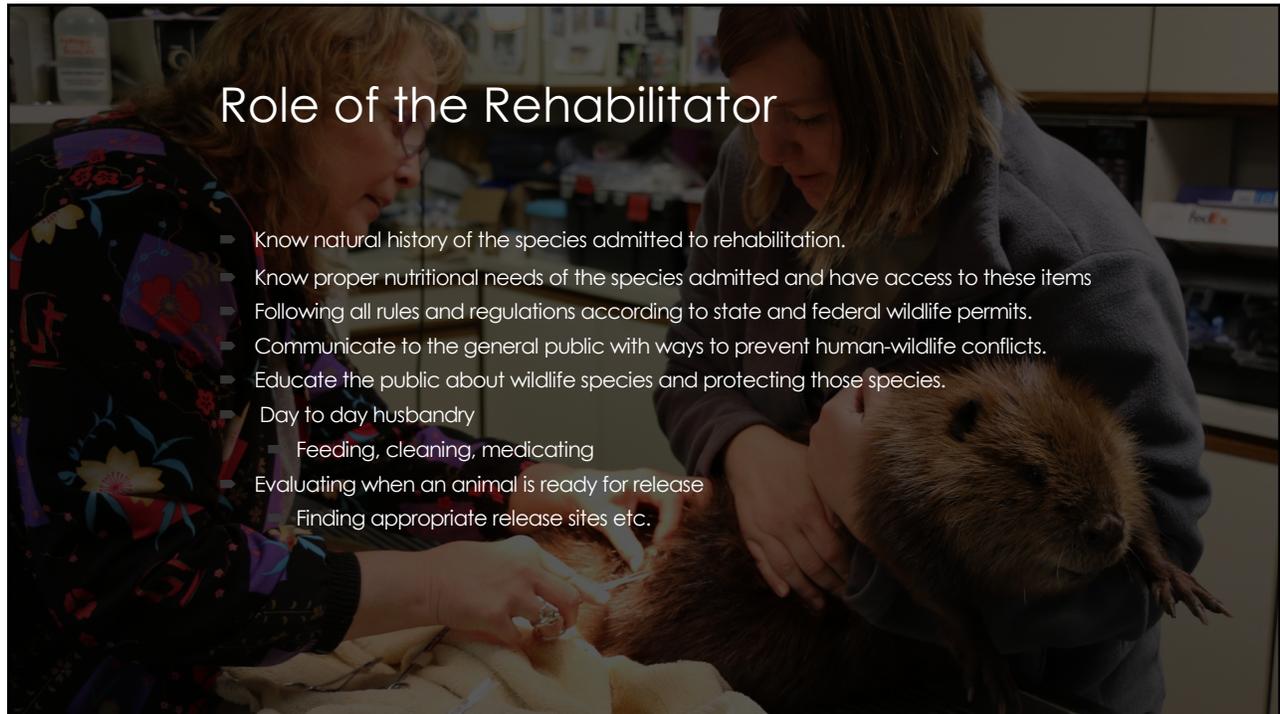
- Don't be scared.....Remember your training and think logically!
- Provide medical expertise for wildlife patients that are injured or ill.
- Diagnostics, procedures, medications, surgeries
- Advocate for the patient
 - Is this patient able to be medically treated?
 - Is it humane to continue to treat this patient.
 - Able to step back and look at it from a medical standpoint
- Preventative medicines
- Help make the decisions on outcome due to injury or illness.
- Support your rehabilitator
 - Listen to their concerns, they are doing the day-to-day care and trust that they know when the animal is suffering too.
 - Assist with cost savings – rehabilitation is costly, and many pay out of pocket



5

Role of the Rehabilitator

- Know natural history of the species admitted to rehabilitation.
- Know proper nutritional needs of the species admitted and have access to these items
- Following all rules and regulations according to state and federal wildlife permits.
- Communicate to the general public with ways to prevent human-wildlife conflicts.
- Educate the public about wildlife species and protecting those species.
- Day to day husbandry
 - Feeding, cleaning, medicating
- Evaluating when an animal is ready for release
 - Finding appropriate release sites etc.



6

Rehabilitators – Speak the Lingo

- Use medical terminology
 - Do a little bit of research and use your reference materials
- Examples:
 - OD, OS, OU = Right eye, left eye, both eyes
 - Distal, Proximal, Mid-shaft = away from center, close to the center, middle
 - Wound (size, depth, exudate?), lesion, plaque
 - Know your bones!
 - Femur, tibiotarsus, tarsometatarsus, digits 1-4
 - Humerus, radius, ulna, carpometacarpus



7

Communication between Rehabilitators and Veterinarians



- Be sure you know what species your rehabilitator is licensed for.
- Be sure you are comfortable with the species.
 - As well as your staff.
- Be sure to communicate what services you are able to provide.
 - Financial costs, Diagnostics
- Know what the rehabilitators intake policy is.
 - Have your rehabilitator talk with the staff.
 - Know and respect the limits of the rehabilitator
- Do not allow your staff to take home wildlife – It may be illegal!
 - If it needs after hours care, please call your rehabilitator.

8



Veterinary Clinics and Wildlife

- Client owned animals at risk?
- Biosecurity?
- Time and Resources?

9

Wildlife in
your
Clinic?

Accepting
the Risk?

Is it contagious?

- Same species, different species, zoonotic?
- Distemper, Parvo, Leptospirosis, HPAI, Pox Virus, Micoplasmosis, White-nose syndrome, RHD, Chytridiomycosis, internal/external parasites (fleas, ticks, lice, hippoboscid flies), CWD, Covid.

Other individuals and species at risk?

- Who would be at risk in your clinic?
- Domestic and Exotic Pets!
- Young not unvaccinated
- Young not fully vaccinated
- Adults not vaccinated
- Dogs, cats, rabbits, birds, backyard poultry

Can you keep them separate from client owned animals?

- Fomites
- Stress
 - Physiological responses to stree
 - Noise
- Visual barriers

10

Biosecurity



Definition: All procedures implemented to reduce the risk and consequences of infection with a disease-causing agent – Merck Veterinary Manual



Flow of patients in and out of clinic? Where will you house wildlife?



Identification and detection of potential infectious diseases for each patient based on species.



Have a plan in place: Detect, Contain, Disinfection, and Surveillance.



DON'T BE A FOMITE!!

11



Time and Resources

- Staff time?
- Who?
- When?
- Where?
- Training of Veterinarian and Veterinary Nurses/Assistants?
 - Wing fracture repair?
 - Turtle shell repair?
 - Restraint of wildlife?

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Rehabilitation Considerations



- Age
 - Neonates to juvenile animals are admitted to rehabilitation.
 - Mammals – Neonatal mammals are time consuming to raise and costly, High mortality rate
 - Neonates need feeding every 2-3 hours, 24 hours per day.
 - Birds – Hatchlings are hard to raise, high mortality rate.
 - Hatchling songbirds must be fed every 15 minutes from sun up to sun down, and some longer.
 - Reptiles – are on their own once they hatch. No care needed. Release in appropriate habitat or site of origin.
- Illness
 - Reportable?
- Injury
 - Can the species survive in the wildlife due to the injury?
- Medications
 - Is this a game species and need to be held for certain amount of time before release due to medications given?
 - Can you use the medication in this game species?

13

Common reasons wildlife are admitted



- Illness
 - Natural
 - Toxins
- Injury/Trauma
 - Other animals
 - wildlife or domestic
 - Natural disasters
 - Hit by car/window strikes
 - Fishing line/hooks
 - External Substances (oil, grease, garbage)
- Orphaned
 - Parent trapped/relocated
 - Killed by domestic pet/wildlife/car
- Falls from nest
 - Kidnapping
 - Public attempting to rehab
 - Nutritional deficiency
 - Illness – Aspiration in young animals

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Euthanasia




Considerations for euthanasia

- Quality of care vs Quantity
- Does the rehabilitator accept that species?
- Does the state allow the species to be rehabilitated?
- Is the survivability of the animal high or low?
- Is the injury/illness treatable and the animal can survive in the wild?

Migratory Birds – Permit Regulations USFWS

- You are required to euthanize any migratory bird that will not be able, even after medical treatment and rehab, to perch upright and/or ambulate without inflicting additional injuries to itself.
- You must euthanize any bird that is blind
- Diurnal raptors with loss of vision in 1 eye not a candidate for release.
- You must euthanize any bird that has sustained an injury requiring amputation
 - wing at the elbow (humero-ulna joint) or above
 - a leg or a foot
- DO NOT TREAT TO PLACE!

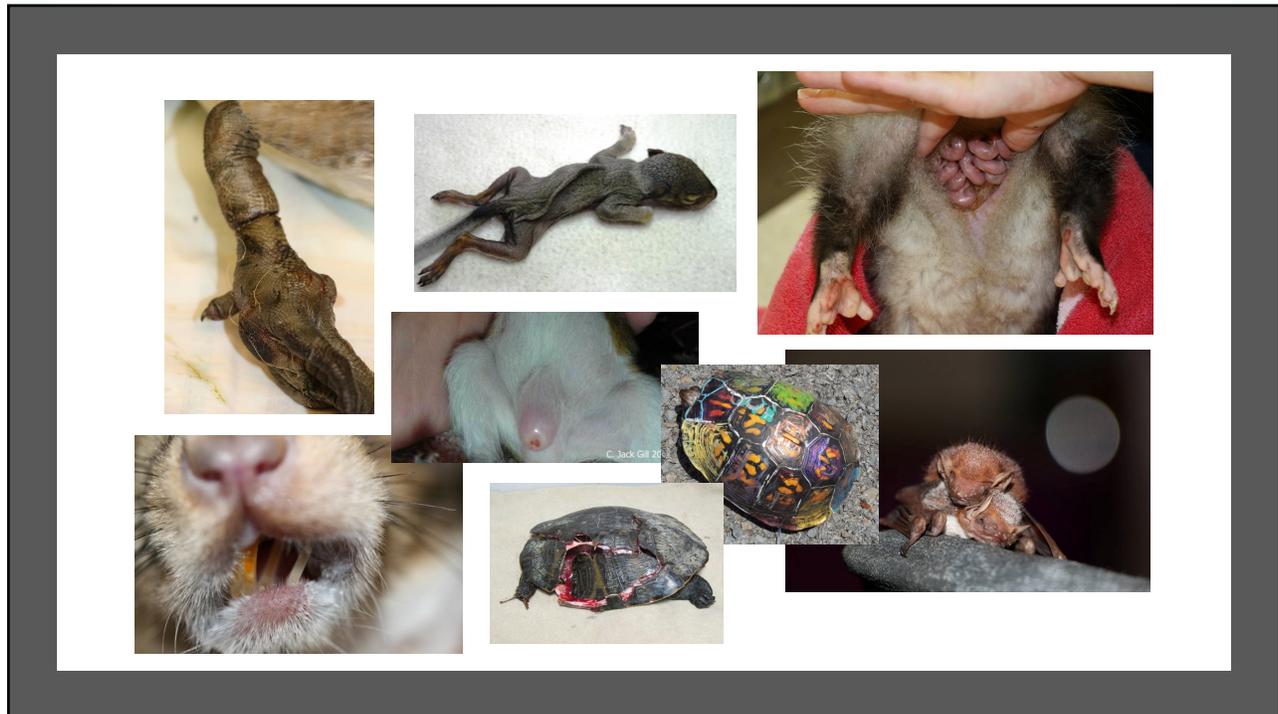
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Issues that can arise while wild animals are in rehabilitation

- Husbandry issues**
 - Bumble foot - inappropriate surfaces
 - Inappropriate housing - over crowding
 - Nutritional issues
 - Inappropriate diets – They need more than cat and dog food!!!
 - MBD
- Poor biosecurity between species or new admissions**
 - No quarantine procedures
- Cannibalism**
 - Virginia Opossums
- Injuries while in rehabilitation**
 - Toes caught in cage, flying into side of aviary, handling issues
- Self mutilation – Nerve damage**
- Poorly trained rehabilitation techniques**
 - Aspiration of young animals, no PT on wing wraps, bandages to tight
- Stereotypical behaviors**
 - Need enrichment for most species




16



17

Resources

- ▶ State/province fish and wildlife agency website for information on regulations, wildlife possession and rehabilitation.
 - ▶ List of licensed wildlife rehabilitators
- ▶ National Wildlife Rehabilitation Association (NWRA)
- ▶ International Wildlife Rehabilitation Council (IWRC)
- ▶ State/Province Wildlife Associations
- ▶ United States Fish and Wildlife Service (USFWS)
- ▶ United States Department of Agriculture (USDA)

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Thank you!



Questions:

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