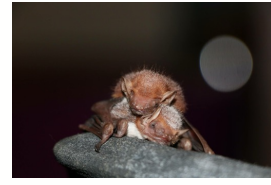
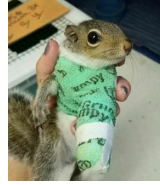


# Veterinarians, Clinics, and Wildlife – Oh my!

Auburn University Raptor Center

Auburn University – College of Veterinary Medicine

Stephanie Kadletz – Assistant Director, Raptor Rehabilitation



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## Goal of Wildlife Rehabilitation

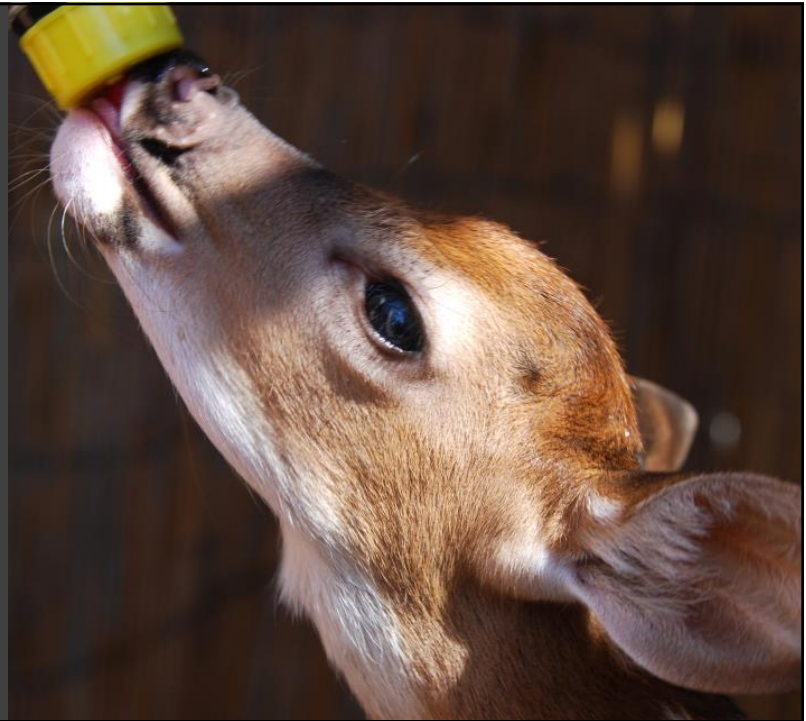


- Provide professional care to sick, injured, and orphaned native wild animals so ultimately they can be returned to their natural habitat.
  - **Return wild animals to 100% to be released back into the wild!!**
- Wild animals that sustain injuries or illnesses preventing them from living successfully 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.

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## Laws and Permitting

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



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




Caging/Enclosures  
IWRC/NWRA  
Standards for Wildlife Rehabilitators

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## 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



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## 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.



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## 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



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## 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.

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## Veterinary Clinics and Wildlife

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

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## 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, hippoboscids 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 stress
  - Noise
  - Visual barriers

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## 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!!

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## 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?

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## 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 too tight

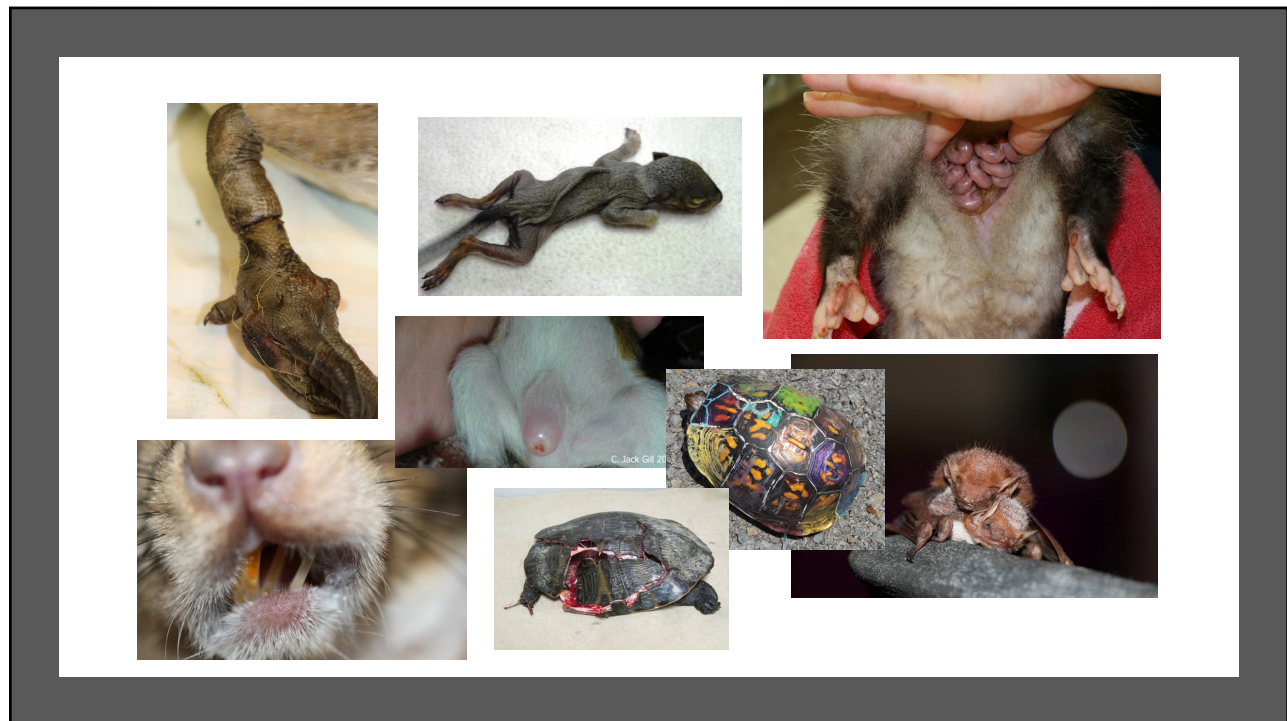
### Stereotypical behaviors

- Need enrichment for most species



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## 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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