



COMMONWEALTH OF VIRGINIA

Meeting of the Board of Pharmacy

Perimeter Center, 9960 Mayland Drive, Second Floor
Henrico, Virginia 23233

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Tentative Agenda of Wildlife Rehabilitator Workgroup Meeting

July 21, 2015

9:00AM - Noon

Pages

Call to Order: *Ellen Shinaberry, Chairman*

- Welcome & Introductions
- Reading of Emergency Evacuation Script

Call for Public Comment

Information in Agenda Packet:

- | | |
|--------------------------------|-------|
| • Letter from Senate | 1-2 |
| • Permit Information from DGIF | 3-30 |
| • Comment Received | 31-33 |
| • Relevant Sections of Law | 34-35 |

Presentations:

- Brief Overview of Permitting and Training of Wildlife Rehabilitators – *DGIF*
- Brief Overview of Drug Control Act – *Caroline Juran*
- Brief Overview of Laws related to Veterinarians, Wildlife Rehabilitation, and Prescription Drugs - *Leslie Knachel*

Discussion Questions:

- How do other states regulate wildlife rehabilitators, and do any states allow them to possess a stock of drugs for treating wildlife?
- For what medical conditions do wildlife rehabilitators require a stock of prescription drugs, and what specific drugs are needed?
- Who is diagnosing the animal and determining if and what drug should be administered?
- Do all wildlife rehabilitators have the same needs for the same prescription drugs?
- How would the drugs be obtained?
- Where would the stock of drugs and recordkeeping be maintained, i.e., in a licensed facility, private residence, etc., and how would the drugs be secured?
- If maintained in a private residence, what challenges exist in performing unannounced inspections and investigations?

Adjournment



Commonwealth of Virginia

GENERAL ASSEMBLY
RICHMOND

February 26, 2015

Ms. Caroline Juran, Executive Director
Virginia Board of Pharmacy
Department of Health Professions
Richmond, VA

Dear Ms. Juran,

On behalf of the Senate Committee on Education and Health which has jurisdiction over matters related to the Department of Health Professions, and the Senate Committee on Agriculture, Conservation and Natural Resources, which has jurisdiction over the Department of Game and Inland Fisheries, we would like to request the Board of Pharmacy to convene a working group to review current laws and regulations related the possession and use of certain Schedule VI Controlled Substances required by individuals and organizations engaged in the practice of wildlife rehabilitation, as authorized and regulated by the Department of Game and Inland Fisheries.

Because wildlife is a public trust resource, individual wild animals are not privately owned. Therefore, when they are sick or injured, unlike pets or livestock, traditional veterinary care is not generally available; a traditional doctor/patient relationship may not be practical. To accommodate the public's interest in providing care for sick and injured wildlife, the Department of Game and Inland Fisheries authorizes certain individuals and organizations who meet regulatory requirements to provide emergency and rehabilitative care, under the supervision of a licensed veterinarian.

Because of the special circumstances surrounding the needs of injured and orphaned wildlife, certain laws and regulations related to more typical veterinary practice simply may not accommodate the special circumstances associated with wildlife rehabilitation. As you may know, in the 2014 session of the General Assembly, legislation was passed exempting wildlife rehabilitators who are hold permits from the Department of Game and Inland Fisheries from the requirement to be licensed by the Board of Veterinary Medicine in order to provide care to native wildlife.

As currently written, the Virginia Drug Control Act does not authorize wildlife rehabilitators to possess controlled substances, which is problematic for their care of sick and injured animals. While we clearly recognize the need restrict and regulate prescription

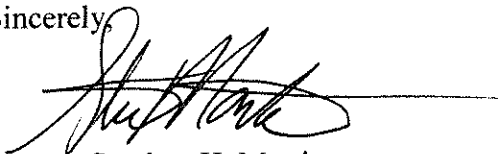
medications and other controlled substances, there needs to be a practical balance between these competing public interests.

On behalf of the aforementioned Committees of the Senate, we are requesting the Board of Pharmacy to convene a workgroup for the purpose of examining the current language of the Code to recommend options for licensed veterinarians who supervise and work with wildlife rehabilitators to dispense and supervise the use of certain Schedule VI drugs and other controlled items, outside the traditional doctor/patient relationship. We further request that you include in the workgroup the Board of Veterinary Medicine, the Department of Game and Inland Fisheries, the Virginia Veterinary Medical Association, and the Wildlife Center of Virginia.

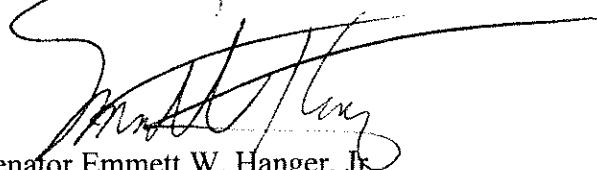
We would like to request that a report to our respective committees be generated by November 1, 2105, and that this report contain options and recommendations to resolve the issues outlined herein. During the course of the deliberations of this workgroup, we would request that input from the regulated community, at large, as well as the public be solicited.

Thank you for your consideration. We look forward to hearing from you.

Sincerely,



Senator Stephen H. Martin
Chair, Senate Committee on Education and Health



Senator Emmett W. Hanger, Jr.
Chair, Senate Committee on Agriculture,
Conservation and Natural Resources

Cc: Department of Health Professions, Board of Veterinary Medicine, Department of Game and Inland Fisheries, Virginia Veterinary Medical Association, Wildlife Center of Virginia

VIRGINIA DEPARTMENT OF GAME & INLAND FISHERIES

Post Office Box 11104
Richmond, Virginia 23230-1104
(804) 367-1000

WILDLIFE REHABILITATION PERMIT CONDITIONS

*All persons caring for sick, injured, orphaned, or displaced wild animals are required to have a permit from the Virginia Department of Game and Inland Fisheries**

** Licensed veterinarians providing medical care to sick, injured, or debilitated wildlife are not required to have a permit from the Virginia Department of Game and Inland Fisheries. Non-permitted licensed veterinarians may hold wildlife until patients are medically stable. Once stable, wildlife patients must be transferred to a permitted wildlife rehabilitator. Licensed veterinarians rehabilitating healthy or recovered wildlife for release back to their natural habitat are required to have a permit.*

The goal of the permittee is to return injured or orphaned native animals to their natural habitat, as quickly as possible, providing them with a reasonable chance to function and behave normally within their population and ecosystem.

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PERMIT PROCESS

When the Permitting Section of the Virginia Department of Game and Inland Fisheries (VDGIF) receives a call from an individual wanting to become a rehabilitator, they are sent a copy of these conditions and requested to contact the Permits Section if and when they want to continue with the process. When the individual is ready to become a rehabilitator, the Permits Section will record the name, address, county, and phone numbers for the person seeking the permit, and the type of permit the caller is seeking. If the individual wishes to be a Category IV care provider, they are mailed an application. For other categories, the Permit Section initiates a 30-day process. Starting at the date of the call as day 0, VDGIF law enforcement officers will try to inspect the individual's facilities between day 6 and day 20. If the individual is not prepared for an inspection within 5 working days of the time they are contacted by an officer to set up an appointment, they will be automatically denied and must contact the Permitting Section when they are ready to initiate the process again. If the individual is preliminarily approved by the officer during the site inspection, then the applicant will be given a Wildlife Rehabilitator Application and Permit Conditions by the officer and be instructed to mail their signed application with the required fee to the Permit Section. They will be reminded to apply for and enclose a copy of any federal permits held to be considered for rehabilitation of migratory birds or waterfowl. When the completed Wildlife Rehabilitator Application is received, the Permitting Section will routinely issue the permit within two weeks or send a letter indicating denial to the applicant. If an incomplete application is received, all materials and the application fee will be returned with a form letter of explanation.

REHABILITATOR CATEGORIES

Wildlife Rehabilitation Permits are issued in four (4) categories and are defined as follows:

Category I (Apprentice) permit is for an individual with entry level skills who has less than two years of rehabilitation experience. Applicants must provide evidence of completion of at least six (6) hours of approved continuing education prior to submitting an application to become a Category I permittee, and must be sponsored by an active Category II or Category III permittee. A Category I permittee must satisfy annual educational requirements. His/Her work is under the direct supervision of the sponsoring Category II, or Category III permittee, and is generally limited to uninjured, orphaned wildlife. This permit requires a facilities inspection by a representative of the Virginia Department of Game and Inland Fisheries as well as proof of immunization if necessary. For Category I's to be allowed to rehabilitate migratory birds and waterfowl, their sponsors must contact the USFWS in writing requesting that the Category I be covered by their federal permit to rehabilitate migratory birds and waterfowl.

Category IIA (Individual), or Category IIB (Organization), permit is for those with advanced skills who have more than two years of rehabilitation, or equivalent, wildlife care experience. Applicants must provide evidence of completion of at least six hours of Continuing Education prior to submitting an application to become a Category II permittee and must satisfy educational requirements annually. They must work in cooperation with a licensed veterinarian and may provide care for all wildlife (except bald and golden eagles, threatened or endangered species [refer to pages 16 – 19 for list of threatened and endangered species of native wildlife in Virginia], black bears, elk, mute swans, feral swine, and adult white-tailed deer), providing that their animal holding facilities meet standard requirements and have passed inspection by the Department and that they have received the appropriate immunizations if necessary.

Category IIA (Individual) is an individual meeting all of the Category II criteria.

Category IIB (Organization) is an incorporated and insured organization meeting the Category II criteria.

Category III (Professional) permit is generally for a professionally operated facility with on-site veterinary equipment and staff, including a full-time licensed veterinarian. They may provide care for all types of wildlife providing that holding facilities meet standard requirements. Only Category III facilities may provide care for threatened or endangered species, bald and golden eagles.

Category IV (Care Provider) may provide direct care for, and may come into contact with, wildlife at the facility of a Category I, II, or III permittee, when direct supervision is not available at that facility. (Example: A Category II goes on vacation and needs someone to provide care to the animals at their facility. The Category IV would be qualified to render this assistance.) The Care Provider may not care for animals in their own home. Therefore, there is no need for a facility inspection, nor do they need a sponsor. The permittee would need to provide evidence of completion of at least six (6) hours of approved continuing education prior to submitting an application to become a Category IV permittee and must satisfy the pre-permitting and annual educational requirements. They must also be pre-immunized if they are to be working with high risk rabies species. Individuals providing care to raptors, predatory animals, or animals requiring unusual expertise, would need to have advanced skills and provide proof that they have met the certification requirements necessary for the level of care they are providing. Individuals at whose permitted facility the Category IV is assisting, must contact the USFWS in writing requesting that the Category IV be covered by their federal permit to rehabilitate migratory birds and waterfowl.

Transporters do not need an individual permit. A Category II or III permittee may designate individuals to act under their permits as "Transporters." As noted in the permit conditions, the authority of "Transporters" is limited to retrieval and delivery of animals directly to a Category I, a Category II A or B, or a Category III permittee, or to approved release points when rehabilitation is complete.

Staff (paid employees or volunteers) do not need an individual permit if they are working under the direct supervision of a licensed veterinarian or a Category II or III rehabilitator, at the Category II or III's facility. However, if these individuals are providing care on their own, and/or coming into contact with the wildlife, VDGIF strongly recommends that these individuals become permitted as a Category IV Care Provider. All staff and volunteers working at a facility that handles high-risk rabies vector species shall have at minimum a Category IV permit. If they care for wildlife on their own property or at their residence (regardless of the source of the wildlife or the duration of the care provided) they must be permitted as at least a Category I rehabilitator.

CONDITIONS APPLICABLE TO CATEGORY I, II, III, and IV REHABILITATORS

General Conditions

1. The goal of the permittee is to return to the wild injured or orphaned native wildlife that are able to function normally in their natural habitat.
2. All wildlife possessed under the authority of this permit shall remain the property of the State of Virginia and under the primary jurisdiction of the Virginia Department of Game and Inland Fisheries (VDGIF).
3. All persons caring for orphaned or displaced wildlife are required to have a permit from the VDGIF.
 - a. Licensed veterinarians providing medical care to sick, injured, or debilitated wildlife are not required to have a permit from the Virginia Department of Game and Inland Fisheries. Once stable, wildlife patients must be transferred to a permitted wildlife rehabilitator. Non-permitted licensed veterinarians may hold wildlife until patients are medically stable. Licensed veterinarians rehabilitating healthy or recovered wildlife for release back to their natural habitat are required to have a permit.
4. The permittee shall abide by the rehabilitator code of ethics (see Code of Ethics).
5. This permit is not valid for possession of migratory birds unless accompanied by a Federal Special Purpose Rehabilitation Permit issued by the U. S. Fish and Wildlife Service. [Contact the U. S. Fish and Wildlife Office, Assistant Regional Director, Division of Law, at P. O. Box 779, Hadley, MA 01035-0779 or call (413) 253-8643.]
6. The Virginia Department of Game and Inland Fisheries is not responsible for liable for any injuries or damage caused by wildlife held under the authority of this permit. Applicants should possess sufficient liability insurance to cover any situations that may occur due.
7. Wildlife that are believed to be infected with a zoonotic disease must be treated appropriately based upon advice from a veterinarian. Animals may only be released if the zoonotic disease is cured and if the chances of reoccurrence are minimal.
8. Wildlife that was captured, rescued, or collected outside of Virginia cannot be rehabilitated in Virginia. Any wildlife rehabilitator who obtains native wildlife collected, captured, or rescued from a state other than Virginia must notify VDGIF Permits Section (804-367-9588) within 48 hours of taking possession.

Wildlife Care Conditions

9. All permittees shall keep individual records for each wildlife patient in their care, and each individual record should include, at minimum, date of admission, location of collection, reason for admission, final disposition (i.e., died, euthanized, released, transferred), method of euthanasia (if applicable), date of disposition, and location of release (if applicable). Location of collection is especially important for amphibians and reptiles as they must be released at the site of collection. All medications administered, procedures, and/or treatments should be recorded. A reporting form (see page 20) shall be submitted to the VDGIF for all wildlife entering the facility for rehabilitation by February 1, or upon request. Failure to remit this report may result in revocation, suspension, or non-renewal of an individual's permit.
10. Wildlife shall be maintained in safe, clean, uncrowded, appropriately sized enclosures that are able to be disinfected and are suitable for the species held in captivity. The permittee shall ensure that wildlife is kept in compatible groups (i.e., prey and predator species separated by visual and/or olfactory barriers) and shall be located in areas with minimal human disturbance, minimal impact on human safety, minimal potential for interaction with free-ranging wildlife and humans not affiliated with the rehabilitation operation.
11. All wildlife shall be fed an appropriate diet and shall have free access to water. The wildlife diet preparation area shall be separate from the human food preparation area, and perishable foods shall be appropriately stored in areas free of pest infestation.
12. All wildlife that is being rehabilitated must be kept in separate rooms or buildings from domestic animals.
13. The permittee shall make every effort to avoid taming or imprinting wildlife receiving care if the animal is a candidate for release back into the wild.

14. Only licensed veterinarians shall prescribe Controlled Substances to injured, debilitated, sick, or orphaned wildlife. Wildlife rehabilitators that are not either a licensed veterinarian or registered with the Virginia Board of Pharmacy may not possess any Controlled Substances unless they are prescribed by a licensed veterinarian for a specific animal. The distribution, possession, and prescription of Controlled Substances is regulated by the Virginia Board of Pharmacy. In order to comply with The Drug Control Act (Section 54.1-3400 of the Code of Virginia), no permitted wildlife rehabilitator that is not also a licensed veterinarian can prescribe or distribute any Schedule II – VI substances, and may only possess Schedule II- VI substances that have been prescribed by a licensed veterinarian for a specific animal unless the permitted rehabilitator is also a Board of Pharmacy registrant. Information on drug schedules can be found in Sections 54.1-3448 (Schedule II), 54.1-3450 (Schedule III), 54.1-3452 (Schedule IV), 54.1-3454 (Schedule V), and 54.1-3455 (Schedule VI) of the Code of Virginia. Schedule VI Controlled Substances include any drug required by federal law to bear on its label the symbol "Rx only" or which bears the legend "Caution: Federal Law Prohibits Dispensing Without Prescription" or "Caution: Federal Law Restricts This Drug To Use By Or On The Order Of A Veterinarian".
15. **Any bite to a human or domestic animal from any species of wild mammal must be reported to the LOCAL Health Department**, regardless of whether or not the human or domestic animal was rabies vaccinated. **This includes bites from opossums.** Depending upon the local Health Department's recommendation, the offending animal may be humanely euthanized, and its head sent to the Health Department for rabies testing. Permittees must abide by all requests made by Health Department personnel, animal control personnel, or Virginia Department of Game and Inland Fisheries personnel. Mammals that have bitten a human cannot be released until the local Health Department determines that rabies testing is not necessary.
16. The welfare of wildlife populations is more important than the welfare of any individual animal. Nothing done in the interest of an individual animal should unnaturally jeopardize healthy wildlife.
17. Duly authorized employees of local, state, and federal agencies in the performance of their official duties may inspect the permittee's premises at any time to determine whether or not the permittee is complying with these conditions.

Restricted Species Conditions

18. **No bears, adult white-tailed deer (a fawn becomes an adult on December 31 of the year of birth), elk, nutria, mute swans, or feral swine** (as defined by 4VAC15-20-160) may be housed, rehabilitated, or reared by any person or at any facility in Virginia unless specifically authorized by VDGIF. Any wildlife rehabilitator who acquires a bear, an adult white-tailed deer, elk, nutria, mute swan, or feral swine, by any means, must notify VDGIF Permits Section (804-367-9588) within 12-hours of acquiring the animal. Call 1-800-237-5712 after hours or on weekends and holidays.
19. **Bald or golden eagles and threatened and endangered species**, with the exception of threatened and endangered reptiles and amphibians, shall be referred within 24 hours to a Category III facility where full-time veterinary care and appropriate facilities are available unless specifically authorized by the Department. The Permits Section of VDGIF shall be notified within 24 hours if a threatened or endangered species is presented to a facility for rehabilitation. Category I permittees may not possess threatened or endangered species or bald and golden eagles at any time. A list of permitted facilities is maintained by the Department.
20. Due to disease concerns and particular requirements for successful cervid rehabilitation, these conditions apply to **white-tailed deer** only.
 - a. Deer that are brought from outside of Virginia shall not be rehabilitated and shall not be commingled with other deer on premises. **Notify VDGIF immediately if a deer is brought in from outside the state.**
 - b. The permittee shall immediately notify the Department if any member of the Cervidae family demonstrates some combination of clinical neurological signs consistent with Chronic Wasting Disease (e.g., abnormal behavior, increased salivation, tremors, stumbling, lack of coordination, difficulty swallowing, excessive thirst, excessive urination). The permittee shall euthanize and submit such an animal to the Department for disease testing.
 - c. Deer cannot be exhibited in a facility that accepts fawns for rehabilitation, even if the rehabilitator also has an exhibitor's permit, nor can fawns be transferred from a rehabilitator to any other facility for exhibit.
 - d. Deer fawns must be released no later than December 31 of the year of birth. If a fawn cannot be released by this date, permission must be granted from the Permits Section in order to continue rehabilitation. No adult deer (a fawn becomes an adult on December 31 of the year of birth) may be rehabilitated for any reason.

21. Due to the high risk nature surrounding the rehabilitation of high-risk rabies vector species, these conditions apply to **raccoons, skunks, foxes, bats, and woodchucks** only.
- a. Rehabilitation of high-risk rabies vector species is entirely a **voluntary decision** made by the individual wildlife rehabilitator.
 - b. **Only individuals that have up-to-date rabies vaccines or titers will be permitted to handle high-risk rabies vector species.** Proof of immunization must be provided with the application each year and will remain on file. Proof of immunization consists of documentation of the initial series of rabies vaccines and a follow-up titer every two years thereafter. Proof of immunization for each staff member or volunteer that works with high-risk rabies vector species must be kept on the rehabilitator's premises at all times.
 - c. **All high-risk rabies vector species shall be considered potentially infected with rabies.** If any human or domestic animal, including the rescuer, transporter, or handler, has been bitten or exposed to saliva, the fluid that is found surrounding the brain and spinal cord, or brain and spinal cord material of a high risk species in his eyes, nose, mouth, or an open wound must contact the local Health Department and report the incident. The local Health Department will likely require euthanasia and testing of the animal for rabies. While neither the health department nor city/county animal control offices issues permits to wildlife rehabilitators, permittees must abide by all requests made by authorized public health department personnel, animal control, or VDGIF personnel. Any raccoon, skunk, fox, bat, or woodchuck that has bitten a human cannot be released until the local Health Department investigates the situation to determine if testing is necessary.
 - d. All staff and volunteers working at a facility that handles high-risk rabies vector species shall have, at minimum, a **Category IV permit**.
 - e. Rehabilitated high-risk rabies vector animals must be **released in the county in which they were rehabilitated**; transportation across county lines is prohibited unless specifically authorized by the Director of the Department of Game and Inland Fisheries or his designee.
 - f. No rehabilitation of any high risk rabies vector species, except for bats, is authorized in Buchanan, Dickenson, Lee, Russell, Scott, Tazewell, Washington, and Wise counties due to the Oral Rabies Vaccination (ORV) program conducted by USDA-APHIS in these counties.
22. Due to the risk of transfer of raccoon roundworm, these conditions apply to **raccoons only**.
- a. Cages, towels, and food and water bowls that are used for raccoons shall not be utilized for other species.
 - b. Wooden cages or cages with dirt floors shall not be used to house raccoons.
 - c. "Raccoon-only" towels should be cleaned in a washing machine not used to wash human clothes
 - d. Masks and gloves should be worn when cleaning raccoons cages and when washing raccoon laundry.

Final Disposition Conditions

23. Rehabilitated native wildlife that recover and are not permanently impaired shall be returned to the wild. Transport carriers that are of appropriate size, and preferably are able to be disinfected, shall be utilized to transport rehabilitated animals to the release site. Consent must be obtained prior to release of rehabilitated individuals from either a landowner for wildlife released on private property, or a government administrator for wildlife released on city or county land. Consent must be obtained from the VDGIF permits section staff prior to the release of any wildlife, unless release occurs as described below.
- a. Deer fawns must be released in the county in which they were rehabilitated or in an adjacent county, except when specifically allowed by the Director of the Department of Game and Inland Fisheries or his designee.
 - b. Rehabilitated high-risk rabies vector species must be released in the county in which they were rehabilitated; they cannot be transported across county lines, except when specifically allowed by the Director of the Department of Game and Inland Fisheries or his designee.
 - c. All reptiles and amphibians should be released at the point of collection if the location is considered safe, suitable habitat (i.e., do not re-release into the middle of a road, in a parking lot, etc). If the point of collection is determined to be unsuitable, then the animal should be released at the nearest site of appropriate habitat. If the point of collection is not known, then the animal should not be released and should either be euthanized or placed

in permanent captivity. If rehabilitated reptiles and amphibians are not able to be released by October 1, they should be overwintered in captivity according to the needs of the species. They can be released the following May 1.

- d. All other native species shall be returned to the area in which they were found or released within a 20-mile radius around the location at which they were rehabilitated.
- e. Non-native species shall not be released into the wild but shall be either euthanized or placed in a suitable captive environment. Non-native animals are defined as those species and subspecies of animals not naturally occurring in Virginia.

24. Non-releasable native wildlife shall be euthanized in a humane manner recognized by the American Veterinary Medical Association, the American Association of Zoo Veterinarians, or the National Wildlife Rehabilitator's Association, unless, under certain conditions, a rehabilitator is authorized to possess and exhibit the animal permanently. Unacceptable/inhumane methods of euthanasia include, but are not limited to, drowning, freezing, and carbon monoxide toxicity via inhalation of car exhaust. To exhibit a non-releasable animal for educational purposes, a permit to exhibit wildlife is still required from the VDGIF.

- a. In order to possess permanently impaired migratory birds, a Special Purpose Possession Permit must be obtained from the U. S. Fish and Wildlife Service and VDGIF must be notified of the intent and reason for holding this wildlife and must be in concurrence with the stated purpose. VDGIF must also be notified if the status or disposition of the wildlife changes. As only a limited number of permanently impaired birds may be maintained under the federal permit, other wildlife should be placed in a mutually acceptable facility. All permanently impaired wildlife shall be kept in enclosures that meet, or exceed, the minimum pen specifications. Migratory birds may not be taken to nonpermitted individuals unless prior permission is obtained from the VDGIF. The possession of these permanently impaired birds by non-exhibitors and not for educational purposes must be directly tied to the rehabilitation of other wildlife. If the permanently impaired migratory birds are federally threatened or endangered or a golden eagle, and the rehabilitator has a proven need to possess the bird(s) for noneducational purposes, they will need a Virginia Endangered Species Permit, a Federal Special Purpose Possession Permit, and if applicable, a Federal Eagle Exhibition Permit.
- b. For species other than migratory birds, non-releasable wildlife may only live at facilities operating with an exhibitor's permit issued by the VDGIF. In addition to a VDGIF exhibitor's permit, a U.S. Department of Agriculture (USDA) Animal Welfare Act License is required to exhibit mammals. The Virginia USDA may be reached by writing the United States Department of Agriculture, Eastern Region, APHIS, AC, 920 Main Campus Drive, Suite 200, Raleigh, NC 27606 or by calling (919) 716-5532.
- c. Animals assessed by a qualified veterinarian, wildlife biologist, or VDGIF permits section staff to have a less than acceptable quality of life may not be exhibited and shall be euthanized. Characteristics that suggest a poor quality of life include, but are not limited to, grossly underweight or obese body condition, significant lameness, chronic head tilt or balance issues, chronic poor appetite, blindness (in certain species), visible discomfort or stress upon exhibition, or repetitive activity, such as pacing.
- d. Animals with visible deformities, including, but not limited to, obviously missing limb, eye, or ears, disfiguring scars, or severe lameness or head tilt, shall be euthanized or may only be exhibited with permission from the Permits Section of VDGIF. In order to obtain permission, a letter from a licensed, qualified veterinarian describing why the animal in question is deemed non-releasable and attesting to the fact that the non-releasable animal has an acceptable quality of life must be reviewed by the Permits Section.
- e. Wildlife that dies while in the custody of the permittee shall be buried or incinerated, or upon prior approval from the Director of VDGIF or his designee, be offered to a mutually acceptable museum, university, Native Americans with appropriate permits for possession, or other institution(s) for use in authorized activities.

Administrative Conditions

25. All permittees must attend at least six (6) hours of approved continuing education related to wildlife rehabilitation **annually**. Category I and IV permittees must attend at least six (6) hours of approved continuing education prior to submitting their rehabilitation application. Evidence of attendance at a continuing education seminar or program (certificate of completion, etc.) shall be submitted to the VDGIF along with the reporting form that is to be submitted to the VDGIF by February 1.
26. Permittees shall give any and all changes of name, address, and/or phone number to the VDGIF within no more than seven (7) days of those changes.
27. Permittees, or their volunteers, shall not charge any fee associated with the activity herein authorized, nor shall permittees, or their volunteers, require fees for the pick-up or delivery of sick, injured, or orphaned wildlife.
28. Permittees, or their volunteers, shall not represent themselves as agents of the VDGIF, nor shall they trespass upon the property of another for the purpose of taking possession of wildlife without permission of the property owner.
27. Cancellation and Suspension: Any permit may be canceled, or suspended, at any time when it is found that the permittee is not in compliance with the conditions of this permit. Regulation 4 VAC 15-290-130 states that a permit holder shall comply with all terms and conditions of any permit issued by the VDGIF pursuant to title 29.1 of the Code of Virginia and the regulations of the board pertaining to hunting, fishing, trapping, attempting to take, possessing, offering for sale, transporting or causing to be transported, importing or exporting, propagating, exhibiting, and rehabilitating of any wild bird, wild animal or fish. The penalty for violation of this section is a Class 3 misdemeanor unless another penalty is specified.

Renewal Conditions

28. Regulation 4 VAC 15-30-7 states that provided that the issuance of a permit renewal has been delayed past the expiration date of the permittee's previous permit at no fault of the applicant, the permittee may continue the specific activities authorized by the expired permit until the Department has acted on such person's application for renewal. To qualify for this allowance, applicants must submit a completed renewal application to the Department at least 30 days prior to the expiration date of the permit. The Department may deny renewal of a permit to any applicant who fails to meet the issuance criteria set forth by the Department. Renewal applications will be mailed approximately two months in advance of the permit's expiration date.

Federal, State, and Local Laws

29. This permit does not absolve the permittee of any responsibilities or conditions of any other federal, state, or local laws and regulations, including those that apply to threatened or endangered species.

ADDITIONAL CONDITIONS APPLICABLE TO CATEGORY I PERMITTEES

- a. May provide basic care (i.e., food, shelter, warmth, water) for uninjured, orphaned wildlife (except raptors, predatory animals, or animals requiring unusual expertise or facilities).
- b. May not administer Controlled Substances to wildlife unless under the direct supervision of a licensed veterinarian or permitted Category II or III wildlife rehabilitator.
- c. May receive, transport (see #24 under general conditions), and house (for not more than 24 hours) injured wildlife or orphaned species not authorized under the Category I permit (except bald and golden eagles, threatened or endangered species, black bears, adult white-tailed deer, elk, mute swans, nutria, and feral swine), providing they have received authorization and necessary instruction, in advance, from sponsoring Category II or Category III permittee, cooperating veterinarian, agent of the VDGIF, or other individual designated by the VDGIF.
- d. A Category I permittee shall not solicit contact with the public regarding direct acceptance of wildlife from the community except upon referral by their sponsoring Category II or Category III permittee, or designees of the VDGIF. Category I permittees who receive animals must contact a Category II permittee within 12 hours of directly receiving animals.
- e. Must maintain and provide, as required, a full record of each animal received which should include, at minimum, date of submission, reason for submission, final disposition (i.e., died in cage, euthanized, released), date of disposition, and location of release (if applicable). A copy of all records must be provided to the sponsoring rehabilitator.

ADDITIONAL CONDITIONS APPLICABLE TO CATEGORY II PERMITTEES

- f. May provide basic care (i.e., food, shelter, warmth, water) for sick, injured, debilitated, and/or orphaned wildlife.
- g. May receive, transport, and house (for not more than 24 hours) injured wildlife or orphaned species not authorized under the Category II permit (except bald and golden eagles, threatened or endangered species, black bears, adult white-tailed deer, elk, mute swans, nutria, or feral swine), providing they have received authorization and necessary instruction, in advance, from cooperating veterinarian, agent of the VDGIF, or other individual designated by the VDGIF.
- h. May receive, transport, and hold sick, injured, orphaned, or debilitated wildlife (threatened or endangered species and bald and golden eagles will be transported to a Category III facility, or other approved facility designated by U. S. Fish and Wildlife Service, within 24 hours.) The care of the animals must be carried out under the general supervision of the cooperating veterinarian or a Category III facility.
- i. May administer Controlled Substances to wildlife that have been prescribed to a specific animal by a licensed veterinarian, provided that the veterinarian has properly trained them to do so.
- j. The permittee may designate individuals to act under their permits as "Transporters." The authority of "Transporters" is limited to retrieval and delivery of animals directly to Category I, Category II, or Category III permittees, to a veterinarian, or to approved release points when rehabilitation is complete. The permittee is responsible for maintaining a dated log on each transporter, indicating their name, destination, and type of animal(s) transported.
- k. The Category IIA permittees may sponsor up to five (5) Category I permittees. The Category IIB permittees may sponsor up to twenty (20) Category I permittees. The Category IIB permittee must be available to sponsor Category I permittees.
- l. The Category II permittees must be accessible to the VDGIF and the public for consultation and assistance, including having a working telephone number available to the VDGIF and other appropriate individuals, at all times.
- m. The Category II permittees may, upon written notice to the VDGIF, terminate the sponsorship of a Category I permittee. At the VDGIF's discretion, these permittees may be reassigned to another Category II permittee, or have their permits revoked.
- n. The Category II permittees must maintain records on all animals treated by Category I permittees or associated Category II permittees if different from the Category II permittee's own records. Records must include, at minimum, date of submission, reason for submission, final disposition (i.e., died in cage, euthanized, released), date of disposition, and location of release (if applicable).

ADDITIONAL CONDITIONS APPLICABLE TO CATEGORY III PERMITTEES

- o. Permanent staff of the facility, engaged in caring for sick, injured, orphaned, or debilitated wild animals, are required to be listed on the facility permit.
- p. May receive, transport (see #24 under general conditions), hold, and provide care for sick, injured, orphaned, debilitated wildlife, including threatened or endangered species and bald and golden eagles (with the approved federal permits).
- q. Any Category III rehabilitator must immediately report to VDGIF all threatened or endangered species (refer to pages 16 – 19 for list of threatened and endangered species of native wildlife in Virginia) and all bald and golden eagles that are brought to their facility. Upon being contacted, VDGIF will decide if the animal must be transported to another facility that can offer specialized care or if the animal may be retained by the current facility. If retained, rehabilitation and release of the animal must be coordinated with VDGIF's Regional Biologists.
- r. The permittee may designate individuals to act under their permits as "Transporters." The authority of "Transporters" is limited to retrieval and delivery of animals directly to Category I, another Category II, or a Category III permittee, or to approved release points when rehabilitation is complete. The permittee is responsible for maintaining a dated log on each transporter, indicating their name, destination, and type of animal(s) transported.
- s. The Category III permittees may sponsor up to twenty (20) Category I permittees.
- t. The Category III permittees may, upon written notice to the VDGIF, terminate the sponsorship of a Category I permittee. At the discretion of VDGIF, these permittees may be reassigned to another Category II permittee, or have their permits revoked.
- u. The Category III permittees must be accessible to the VDGIF and the public for consultation and assistance, including having a working telephone number available to the VDGIF and other appropriate individuals, at all times.

- v. The Category III permittees must maintain records on all animals treated by Category I permittees, or Category II permittees, if different from the permittee's own records. Record must include, at minimum, date of submission, reason for submission, final disposition (i.e., died in cage, euthanized, released), date of disposition, and location of release (if applicable).

ADDITIONAL CONDITIONS APPLICABLE TO CATEGORY IV PERMITTEES

- w. May not care for animals in their own home, and will therefore not need a facility inspection.
- x. May not administer Controlled Substances to wildlife unless under the direct supervision of a licensed veterinarian or permitted Category II or III wildlife rehabilitator.

CODE OF ETHICS

1. Wildlife rehabilitation is defined as the treatment and temporary care of injured, diseased, and displaced indigenous wildlife, and the subsequent release of viable animals into appropriate habitat.
2. A rehabilitator's attitude should be responsible, conscientious, and dedicated. A rehabilitator should continuously work toward improving the quality of care given to wild animals undergoing rehabilitation.
3. A rehabilitator must abide by local, state, and federal laws concerning wildlife, wildlife rehabilitation, and associated activities.
4. A rehabilitator should establish safe work habits and conditions, abiding by current health and safety practices at all times.
5. A rehabilitator should acknowledge his/her limitations, and enlist the assistance of a veterinarian or other trained professionals when appropriate.
6. A rehabilitator should respect other rehabilitators, and persons in related fields, sharing skills and knowledge in the spirit of cooperation for the welfare of the animals.
7. A rehabilitator should place optimum animal care above personal gain.
8. A rehabilitator should strive to provide professional and humane care in all phases of wildlife rehabilitation, respecting the wildness, and maintaining the dignity of each animal in life and in death. Releasable animals should be maintained in a wild condition, and released as soon as appropriate. Non-releasable animals which are inappropriate for education, foster-parenting, or captive breeding (only when Department approved), should be considered for humane euthanasia.
9. A rehabilitator should encourage community support and public education. The common goal should be to promote a responsible concern for living beings, and the welfare of the environment.
10. A rehabilitator should work on the basis of sound ecological principles, incorporating appropriate conservation ethics, and an attitude of stewardship.
11. A rehabilitator should conduct all business and activities in a professional manner, with honesty, integrity, compassion, and commitment, realizing that an individual's conduct reflects on the entire field of wildlife rehabilitation.

A wildlife rehabilitator should strive to achieve high standards of animal care through knowledge, and an understanding of the field. Continuing efforts must be made to keep informed of current rehabilitation information, methods, and regulations.



BASIC REQUIREMENT FOR HOUSING WILD ANIMALS

INSPECTION - Wildlife held in captivity shall be subjected to inspection by any Virginia Conservation Police Officer or duly authorized VDGIF personnel. Inspecting officers shall determine whether said wildlife are adequately fed, sheltered, cleaned, cared for, provided with sufficient space, veterinary care, and securely, properly, and safely penned. In the event that the animal is not adequately cared for, the officer shall report the situation in writing to the person holding such wildlife. Failure of the permittee to correct the situation within 24-hours after such written notice will result in automatic suspension of all permits to hold such wildlife.

HOLDING CAPTIVE WILDLIFE - All persons keeping wildlife shall be responsible for practicing good animal husbandry, handling, management, confinement, feeding, watering, protection, shelter, transportation, and, when necessary, euthanasia, appropriate for the age, species, condition, size, and type of the animal, and the provision of veterinary care, when needed, to prevent suffering or impairment of health. All persons keeping wildlife shall ensure that human health and safety is never in jeopardy due to confinement of wildlife and shall also strive to avoid creation of a public nuisance by minimizing smells, noise, etc..

ALL CAPTIVE WILDLIFE SHALL BE PROVIDED WITH:

Adequate food to include access to, and provision of, food which is of sufficient quantity and nutritional value to maintain each animal in good health; is accessible to each animal; is prepared so as to permit ease of consumption for the age, species, condition, size, and type of each animal, is provided in a clean and sanitary manner, is placed so as to minimize contamination by excrement and pests; and is provided at suitable intervals for the species held, but at least once daily, except as prescribed by a veterinarian or as dictated by naturally occurring states of hibernation or fasting normal for the species.

Adequate water to include provision of and access to clean, fresh, potable water of a drinkable temperature which is provided in a suitable manner, in sufficient volume, and at suitable intervals but at least once every twelve hours, to maintain normal hydration except as prescribed by a veterinarian or as dictated by naturally occurring state of hibernation or fasting normal for the species; and is provided in clean, durable receptacles which are accessible to each animal and are placed so as to minimize contamination of the water by excrement and pests or an alternative source of hydration consistent with generally accepted husbandry practices.

Properly cleaned enclosures to include the removal of carcasses, debris, food waste, and excrement in sufficient frequency to minimize the captive wildlife contact with the above-mentioned contaminants; the primary enclosure is sanitized with sufficient frequency to minimize odors and the hazards of disease; and the primary enclosure is cleaned so as to prevent the animals confined therein from being directly, or indirectly, sprayed with the stream of water, or exposed to hazardous chemicals or disinfectants.

Proper lighting means sufficient illumination to permit routine inspections, maintenance, cleaning and maintenance of the shelter, and observation of captive wildlife; to provide regular diurnal light cycles of either natural or artificial light, uniformly diffused throughout the wildlife holding facilities, and to promote the well-being of the wildlife.

Adequate care meaning the responsible practice of good animal husbandry, handling, management, confinement, feeding, watering, protection, shelter, transportation, and, when necessary, euthanasia, appropriate for the age, species, condition, size, and type of the animal, and the provision of veterinary care when needed to prevent suffering, impairment of health or disease transmission.

CAGE DISINFECTION - Daily removal of feces and urine from mammal cages is necessary to prevent odor, parasite infestation, and insect over-population, avian species in large flight aviaries may be cleaned on a less frequent basis, providing there is a regular schedule for cleaning. Some mammals (i.e., cottontails) have a need to ingest feces. Special arrangements can be made for species who have this need. There are various disinfecting agents used after daily cleaning to properly sanitize the cage.

CAGING RECOMMENDATIONS

The enclosures suggested, with the exception of conditioning cages, are for short-term (i.e., less than six months) housing of rehabilitation animals. The philosophy which dictates cage size presupposes normal recovery times for the patient. None of the confinement or recovery cages are recommended for extended or permanent care.

Any bird old enough to perch requires the same size cage as the adult of the species. Enclosures should be made secure against common local predators.

Cage design should provide for ease of cleaning, ventilation, light, and temperature control. A separate source of water for drinking and bathing for each enclosure should be provided.

AVIAN CAGING - Materials for caging vary within the field. Solid walls for aviaries can be constructed of wood, fiberglass, or their equivalent. Hardware cloth, chicken wire, and chain-link fencing are not recommended if the birds can come into direct contact with them. If vertical wood lath, fiberglass screening, or netting prevent direct contact, then wire on outside can add extra security. Flooring for aviaries is often pea gravel over sand which should be changed bi-annually, or as needed. Natural flooring is acceptable in very large enclosures but it must be turned and disinfected from time to time. Flooring for small cages may include towels or raised netting over newspaper, newspaper alone, or wood (but not cedar) shavings, depending on the species being housed. Perches can be wood doweling or plastic piping (or the equivalent) covered by ¼" astroturf, hemp, or indoor/outdoor carpeting. Platforms can be covered with ½" astroturf or indoor/outdoor carpeting. Natural limbs, bow, block, and ring perches are appropriate for certain species of birds. For small confinement, as in a carrier, removable and changeable perches, giving a different resting surface each day, are recommended to avoid confinement sores.

RESTRICTED ACTIVITY - designated for initial housing of birds suffering from special problems such as traumatic injuries, post-surgical care, severely debilitating conditions such as shock, toxicity, neurological impairment, or other conditions that require close supervision and management. Confinement cages include airline pet carriers, incubators, padded cages, open boxes that allow for thermo-regulation with heat lamps, etc. These cages should be used when activity must be restricted.

LIMITED ACTIVITY - designated to encompass all necessary elements of housing during the initial healing period, including "cage rest" situations.

UNLIMITED ACTIVITY - designated to provide an opportunity for recuperated birds to improve their strength, develop stamina and coordination, restore muscle tone, and acclimate to ambient weather conditions by swimming, flying, etc. in larger outdoor enclosures.

CONSIDERATIONS IN DEFINING AVIAN CAGE SIZES - Although considerable thought and experience determined the cage sizes listed in this program, it is impossible to consider all possibilities in terms of material, design, or size. Caging will be reviewed, on-site, by experienced Virginia Conservation Police Officer(s) who will be concerned with its workability.

Since exterior plywood is available in economical and easy to use 4'x 8' sheets, some caging standards have been calculated, using numbers that are based on material size. Maximum volume is achieved with cubic cages. Cage sizes specify minimums, but it is best to give the birds the maximum amount of space. Consequently, cages should be built using the size designed for the largest species to be housed, since they will be reused with different species at different times. While the raptor cage information states a minimum rectangular size, it has been found that a semi-circular L-shaped enclosure will often be better to evaluate angling abilities.

Equivalent substitution is encouraged. Certainly, in most cases, the usual 7" x 10" x 17" cardboard portable pet carrier is an excellent substitute for the 12" x 12" x 12" cage size listed for initial care of small birds. Intelligent substitution of height and ground area requirements is encouraged. While pheasants and egrets are the same size, one requires height and the other needs ground space. Cages are only specified in cubic footage. It would be very difficult to specify ground room for individual species. Additionally, birds cannot be assigned cage sizes by species, due to variations within species. For example, the Canada goose has at least seven races that are identifiable by size. They range from the giant, which has a six-foot wingspread and breeds in Missouri, to the small mallard size that breeds near the Arctic Circle and winters in California. For this reason, non-raptorial species are housed according to their general size (in this instance, the height of the bird).

CODES FOR SPECIAL CAGING REQUIREMENTS FOR SONFBIRDS & MISC AVIAN SPECIES

Birds such as woodpeckers and nuthatches require angled and/or vertical logs for climbing. Provide suitable materials for clinging birds such as chimney swifts.

Birds with this designation require old logs, etc. as drumming materials.

- F Special substrate needed. These species are susceptible to foot problems. Depending on the species, padded flooring, towels, sheeting, carpets, kitty litter, crumpled newspaper covered with toweling, sand, or suspended net flooring may be used.
- B Special vertical surfaces needed for swifts. Temporary confinement and recovery housing must be lined on all sides with snag-free fabric or other material with enough texture for the birds to cling vertically. Two or more walls of the conditioning housing must be constructed of or covered with rough-textured material such as cork, rough-textured siding, or fiberglass window screening.
- Ch A waist-high "artificial chimney" should be located in the center of the outdoor housing as a feeding station or roost; suggestions for construction may be found in Kyle, P. and G. Kyle, 1995.
- H Hides: provide natural vegetative material or man-devised areas for cover.
- P Requires two or more perches of varied diameter.
- Pi Piling or shelves required for perching; these may be covered with AstroTurf™ or other suitable material to provide good footing and prevent bumblefoot lesions.
- Q Quiet and extreme privacy required.
- S Bathing area required; "kiddies pool" size.
- So Swimming area required; large pool (deeper than 2'), tank, pond. Provide a resting platform in any swimming area. For above ground pools, a ramp covered with astroturf or equivalent should be provided.
- W Large pan with soil, leaves, grass and/or wood chips containing live worms, grubs, mealworms, and/or insects to allow the birds to forage on their own. May not be required for all species in the orders listed – check natural history requirements.
- Z Although larger conditioning cage sizes are preferred for hummingbirds, great care must be taken to seal off small openings or cracks that can act as traps.

MINIMUM HOUSING GUIDELINES FOR SONGBIRDS & MISC. AVIAN SPECIES †

Although considerable thought and experience determined the cage sizes listed in this program, it is impossible to consider all possibilities in terms of material, design, or size. Caging will be reviewed, on-site, by experienced Conservation Police Officers or authorized VDGIF personnel who will assess its workability. Caging guidelines are listed WxLxH (Width x Length x Height).

Order	Length of Bird	Restricted Activity W x L x H	Limited Activity W x L x H	Unlimited Activity W x L x H	Max #	Codes
Columbiformes (Pigeons, Doves)	> 9 in	12 in x 12 in x 12 in	12 in x 12 in x 12 in	16 ft x 8 ft x 8 ft	8 pigeons 12 doves	P, Pi, Q
Cuculiforme (Cuckoos)	< 12 in > 12 in	18 in x 18 in x 18 in 24 in x 24 in x 24 in	24 in x 24 in x 24 in 36 in x 36 in x 36 in	8 ft x 8 ft x 8 ft 16 ft x 16 ft x 16 ft	4 - 6	P, Q
Caprimulgiformes (Nighthawks, Goatsuckers)	~ 9 in	12 in x 12 in x 12 in	12 in x 24 in x 12 in	8 ft x 16 ft x 8 ft	6	C, P
Coraciiformes (Kingfishers)	< 9 in	12 in x 12 in x 12 in	18 in x 18 in x 18 in	8 ft x 16 ft x 8 ft	4	C, F, Pi, Q, S
Apodiformes						
Apodidae (Swifts)	< 9 in	12 in x 12 in x 12 in	12 in x 12 in x 12 in	8 ft x 16 ft x 8 ft	15 - 20	B, Ch
Trochilidae (Hummingbirds)	< 5 in	7 in x 11 in x 5 in	12 in x 17 in x 7 in	2 ft x 4 ft x 6 ft	4	P, Z
Piciformes (Woodpeckers)	< 9 in > 9 in	12 in x 12 in x 12 in 18 in x 18 in x 18 in	18 in x 18 in x 18 in 24 in x 24 in x 24 in	4 ft x 8 ft x 8 ft 8 ft x 16 ft x 8 ft	2-4	C, D, H, W
Passeriformes (Perching & Songbirds)						
Swallows & Small Corvidae (Jays, Magpies, and small Crows)	< 5 in 5 - 10 in < 17 in	7 in x 11 in x 5 in 12 in x 12 in x 12 in 14 in x 18 in x 18 in	12 in x 17 in x 7 in 18 in x 18 in x 18 in 24 in x 18 in x 24 in	2 ft x 4 ft x 4 ft 4 ft x 8 ft x 8 ft 8 ft x 16 ft x 8 ft	4 4 - 6 6	H, P, Z H, P, Z, W P
Corvidae (Large Crows & Ravens)	> 17 in	16 in x 22 in x 22 in	24 in x 24 in x 24 in	10 ft x 30 ft x 12 ft	6	P
Galliformes (Quail, Pheasants)						
	< 20 in > 20 in	2 ft x 2 ft x 2 ft 3 ft x 3 ft x 3 ft	3 ft x 3 ft x 3 ft 4 ft x 4 ft x 8 ft	4 ft x 4 ft x 8 ft 8 ft x 12 ft x 8 ft	4	H

† Miller, E.A., editor. 2012. Minimum Standards for Wildlife Rehabilitation, 4th edition. National Wildlife Rehabilitators Associations, St. Cloud, MN. 116 pages.

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CODES FOR SPECIAL CAGING REQUIREMENTS FOR WATERBIRDS

- AG Note that these birds can be extremely aggressive, even with conspecifics. Use caution and observe the birds' interactions when introduced, before housing together.
- AP These birds require pre-release conditioning (unlimited activity) aviaries that contain pools to swim in and standing/perching surfaces
- AW These birds require pre-release conditioning (unlimited activity) aviaries that contain shallow wading pools and a variety of perches, especially up high.
- FP These birds have very sensitive feet. Provide as much wading area (in addition to a "swimming" pool) as possible in Limited and Unlimited Activity housing to help prevent husbandry injuries. The wading areas should have mud or sand substrates on the bottom for foraging, avoiding cement or other hard rough surfaces that might damage feet.
- N Should be housed on tightly stretched, suspended netting as a substrate whenever bird is not in water.
- ON When an individual of these species is housed inside and is emaciated (pronounced keel) or not standing, it should be housed on net bottom caging to protect feet and keel until standing normally and of normal weight. Otherwise, when standing normally and keel is not extremely pronounced, housing substrate is solid and covered with towel or matting.
- PP These species, during pre-release conditioning, require only pool space. Prior to release, individuals must be able to stay in pool full time, without a haul-out area for a minimum of 48 hours without compromise to their waterproofing.
- PT During recovery, bird should be allowed pool time as long and as often as medical condition allows (minimum 3ft diameter). This may include cold or warm water pools as appropriate for individuals. NOTE: These species require graduated pools, with the depth proportionate to their size (e.g., shallower for small terns and skimmers): these species may drown in a kiddie pool.
- SO Surface overflow of a pool required to maintain water quality (this can be achieved by constantly running a hose or by overflowing pool, filtering, and recirculating water.
- ST As soon as they are standing these stiff-tail-feathered birds should have a stump or stump-like perch to avoid feather breakage and soiling.
- Gre Social or gregarious; can usually be housed with other individuals or same species and often with like birds of other species; may be territorial to varying degrees in breeding/nesting season
- Terr These birds are often social, but may be territorial in breeding/nesting season. Territory size needs may vary from a few feet to the entire cage, so check natural history and anticipate housing fewer individuals together during breeding/nesting season.
- Col These birds are colonial and tend to do better when housed together with other individuals of the same species; may need to house fewer together during breeding/nesting season.
- Sol These birds are solitary and generally do best when housed alone; when group-housed, they require individual hides and may defend these territories within the cage.
- H Hides: provide natural vegetative material or man-devised areas for cover.

Key to Table

*This measurement represents the length of the bird from tip of beak to tip of tail with neck fully extended

** These include: black, gadwall, mallard, pintail, wigeon, wood, shoveler, teal

^These include: scoter, eiders, harlequin, oldsquaw

^^These include: redhead, ring-necked, scaups, goldeneyes, bufflehead, ruddy

MINIMUM HOUSING GUIDELINES FOR WATERBIRDS †

Although considerable thought and experience determined the cage sizes listed in this program, it is impossible to consider all possibilities in terms of material, design, or size. Caging will be reviewed, on-site, by experienced Virginia Conservation Police Officer(s) or authorized VDGIF personnel who will assess its workability. Caging guidelines are listed WxLxH (Width x Length x Height).

Order	Bird Size	Restricted Activity W x L x H	Limited Activity W x L x H	Unlimited Activity W x L x H	Codes
Gaviiformes (Loons)		15 in x 30 in x 30 in	3 ft x 3 ft x 3 ft	Pool: 8ft diam x 2 ft deep	N, PT, PP, SO, Col/Sol
Podicioediformes					
Small grebes (Eared, Horned & Pied-billed)		12 in x 12 in x 12 in	18 in x 18 in x 18 in	Pool: 6 ft diam 2 ft deep	N, H, PT, PP, SO, Col/Sol
Large grebes (Western, Clark's & red-necked)		18 in x 18 in x 18 in	2 ft x 2 ft x 2 ft	Pool: 6 ft diam 2 ft deep	N, PT, PP, SO, Col/Sol
Albatrosses		3 ft x 3 ft x 3 ft	4 ft x 6 ft x 4 ft	Pool: 10 ft diam 18 in deep	N, PT, PP, SO, AG, Col/Terr
Pelecaniformes					
Pelicans (Brown)		3 ft x 3 ft x 3 ft	4 ft x 8 ft x 4 ft	Pool: Aviary: 10 ft diam 2 ft deep 15 ft x 30 ft x 12 ft	PT, AP, SO, Col/Terr
Pelican (White)		4 ft x 4 ft x 4 ft	4 ft x 8 ft x 4 ft	Pool: Aviary: 10 ft diam 2 ft deep 15 ft x 30 ft x 12 ft	PT, AP, SO, Col/Terr
Gannets, Boobies		3 ft x 3 ft x 3 ft	4 ft x 8 ft x 4 ft	Pool: Aviary: 8 ft diam 2 ft deep 8 ft x 16 ft x 8 ft	PT, AP, SO, ST, Col/Terr
Cormorants, Anhingas, Tropicbirds		24 in x 30 in x 30 in	4 ft x 6 ft x 8 ft	Pool: Aviary: 8 ft diam 2 ft deep 8 ft x 20 ft x 10 ft	PT, AP, SO, ST, Col/Terr
Frigatebirds		3 ft x 6 ft x 3 ft	4 ft x 6 ft x 8 ft	Aviary: 12 ft x 30 ft x 12 ft	ST, Sol
Ciconiiformes					
Bitterns, Herons & Egrets*	< 20 in	18 in x 18 in x 24 in	2 ft x 2 ft x 4 ft	Pool: Aviary: 2-3 ft diam 6-10 in deep 4 ft x 12 ft x 8 ft	AW, AG
Bitterns, Herons, Egrets, Storks, Ibis & Spoonbills*	> 20 in	3 ft x 3 ft x 3 ft	4 ft x 8 ft x 6 ft	Pool: Aviary: 5-6 ft diam 6-10 in deep 10 ft x 25 ft x 10 ft	AW

† Miller, E.A., editor. 2012. Minimum Standards for Wildlife Rehabilitation, 4th edition. National Wildlife Rehabilitators Associations, St. Cloud, MN. 116 pages.

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Order	Bird Size	Restricted Activity W x L x H	Limited Activity W x L x H	Unlimited Activity W x L x H	Codes
Anseriformes					
Swans		4 ft x 4 ft x 4 ft	4 ft x 8 ft x 4 ft	Pool: Aviary: 8 ft diam 2 ft deep 12 ft x 20 ft x 8 ft	PT, PP Gre but Terr
Geese		3 ft x 3 ft x 3 ft	4 ft x 6 ft x 4 ft	Pool: Aviary: 6 ft diam 2 ft deep 10 ft x 18 ft x 8 ft	PT, PP Gre but Terr
**Marsh Ducks & Whistler Ducks (dabblers)		18 in x 18 in x 12 in	2 ft x 2 ft x 2 ft	Pool: Aviary: 45 in diam 8 in deep 6 ft x 10 ft x 8 ft	ON, PT, AP Gre but Terr
Bay Ducks, Sea Ducks^^ & Mergansers (divers)		18 in x 18 in x 12 in	2 ft x 2 ft x 2 ft	Pool: 6 ft diam 2 ft deep	N, PT, PP, SO, Gre but Terr
Gruiformes					
Cranes		3 ft x 3 ft x 4 ft	4 ft x 8 ft x 8 ft	Pool: Aviary: 4 ft diam 4-10 in deep 10 ft x 25 ft x 10 ft	AW Gre but Terr
Rails*	< 10 in	12 in x 12 in x 12 in	18 in x 18 in x 18 in	Pool: Aviary: 3 ft diam 3-5 in deep 4 ft x 6 ft x 6 ft	H, AW, FP Sol
Rails, Gallinules & Coots*	> 10 in	18 in x 18 in x 18 in	2 ft x 2 ft x 2 ft	Pool: Aviary: 45 in diam 8 in deep 6 ft x 8 ft x 8 ft	H, AW, FP Rails = Sol Gal & Coot = Gre
Charadriiformes					
Phalaropes		12 in x 12 in x 12 in	18 in x 18 in x 18 in	Pool: Aviary: 45 in diam 6-8 in deep Aviary - small land area	FP, PT, PP, SO Gre but Terr
Sandpipers, Plovers & Shorebirds	< 10 in	12 in x 12 in x 12 in	18 in x 18 in x 18 in	Pool: Aviary: 3 ft diam 1-3 in deep 4 ft x 6 ft x 6 ft	AW, FP Gre but Terr
Sandpipers, Shorebirds & Avocets	> 10 in	12 in x 18 in x 18 in	18 in x 18 in x 18 in	Pool: Aviary: 3 ft diam 3-5 in deep 4 ft x 8 ft x 8 ft	AW, FP Gre but Terr
Gulls*	< 14 in	12 in x 15 in x 18 in	18 in x 18 in x 18 in	Pool: Aviary: 45 in diam 10 in deep 6 ft x 12 ft x 8 ft	PT, AP, SO Gre but Terr
Gulls*	> 14 in	18 in x 18 in x 18 in	3 ft x 3 ft x 3 ft	Pool: Aviary: 45 in diam 12 in deep 8 ft x 16 ft x 8 ft	ON, PT, AP, SO Gre but Terr
Skimmers, Terns, Oystercatchers, Jaegers & Skaus		18 in x 18 in x 18 in	3 ft x 3 ft x 3 ft	Pool: Aviary: 45 in diam 2-4 in deep 8 ft x 16 ft x 8 ft	ON, AP, SO, FP PT***
Auks*	< 12 in > 12 in	12 in x 12 in x 12 in 12 in x 18 in x 18 in	18 in x 18 in x 18 in 2 ft x 2 ft x 2 ft	Pool: Pool: 6 ft diam 2 ft deep	N, PT, PP, SO, Col

MINIMUM HOUSING GUIDELINES FOR RAPTORS †

Although considerable thought and experience determined the cage sizes listed in this program, it is impossible to consider all possibilities in terms of material, design, or size. Caging will be reviewed, on-site, by experienced Virginia Conservation Police Officer(s) or authorized VDGIF personnel who will assess its workability. Caging guidelines are listed WxLxH (Width x Length x Height).

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	3 ft x 6 ft x 8 ft	8 ft x 16 ft x 8 ft
MAKE, APFA, EUKE, GRHA, HBKI, MERL, MIKI, **NOHO, NHOW, ROHA, SNKI, SSHA, SSHA	16 in x 23 in x 19 in	6 ft x 6 ft x 8 ft	8 ft x 16 ft x 8 ft
BNOW, BWHA, COHA, HWHA, LEOW, RSHA, SEOW, WTKI	20 in x 27 in x 22 in	6 ft x 8 ft x 8 ft	10 ft x 30 ft x 12 ft
BDOW, CBHA, CRCA, GHOW, HRLH, HRSH, NOGO, NOHA, RLHA, RTHA, SPOW, STKI, SWHA, WTHA, ZTHA	20 in x 27 in x 24 in	6 ft x 8 ft x 8 ft	10 ft x 50 ft x 12 ft
BAEA, BLVU, FEHA, GGOW, GOEA, GYFA, OSPR, PEFA, PRFA, **SEEA, SNOW, TUVU, **WTEA	3 ft x 3 ft x 3 ft	8 ft x 10 ft x 8 ft	20 ft x 100ft x 16 ft

† Miller, E.A., editor. 2012. Minimum Standards for Wildlife Rehabilitation, 4th edition. National Wildlife Rehabilitators Associations, St. Cloud, MN. 116 pages.

Key to Table

*Species are listed using four letter AOU code (American Ornithologists Union)

** Indicates that the codes used for these species are not official AOU codes

American Ornithologists Union codes

Accipiters

COHA – Cooper's Hawk
NOGO – Northern Goshawk
SSHA – Sharp-shinned Hawk

Buteos

BWHA – Broad-winged Hawk
FEHA – Ferruginous Hawk
HRLH – Harlan's Hawk
HRSH – Harris' Hawk
HWHA – Hawaiian Hawk
RSHA – Red-shouldered Hawk
RTHA – Red-tailed Hawk
RLHA – Rough-legged Hawk
SWHA – Swainson's Hawk
WTHA – White-tailed Hawk
ZTHA – Zone-tailed Hawk

Eagles

BAEA – Bald Eagle
GOEA – Golden Eagle
*WTEA – White-tailed Eagle
** SSEA – Steller's Sea Eagle

Small Falcons

AMKE – American Kestrel
EUKE – Eurasian Kestrel

**NOHO – Northern Hobby
MERL – Merlin

Medium Falcons

APFA – Aplomado Falcon
PEFA – Peregrine Falcon
PRFA – Prairie Falcon

Large Falcons

CRCA – Crested Caracara
GYFA – Gyrfalcon

Harriers

NOHA – Northern Harrier

Kites

HBKI – Hook-billed Kite
MIKI – Mississippi
SNKI – Snail Kite
STKI – Swallow-tailed Kites
WTKI – White-tailed/black-shouldered Kite

Osprey

OSPR – Osprey

Vultures

BLVU – Black Vulture
TUVU – Turkey Vulture

Small Owls

BOOW – Boreal Owl
BUOW – Burrowing Owl
EASO – Eastern Screech Owl
ELOW – Elf Owl
FEPO – Ferruginous Pygmy Owl
FLOW – Flammulated Owl
NOPO – Northern Pygmy Owl
PRSO – Puerto Rican Screech Owl
WESO – Western Screech Owl
WHSO – Whiskered Owl

Medium Owls

BNOW – Barn Owl
LEOW – Long-eared Owl
NHOW – Northern Hawk Owl
SEOW – Short-eared Owl

Large Owls

BDOW – Barn Owl
GGOW – Great Gray Owl
GHOW – Great Horned Owl
SNOW – Snowy Owl
SPOW – Spotted Owl

MINIMUM HOUSING GUIDELINES FOR SELECTED MAMMALS †

Comments on Mammal Housing - Although considerable thought and experience determined the cage sizes listed in this program, it is impossible to consider all possibilities in terms of material, design, or size. Caging will be reviewed, on-site, by experienced Conservation Police Officers or authorized VDGIF personnel who will assess its workability.

The following are suggested building materials for outdoor cages. Walls are generally made of chain-link fencing, welded wire, or wood. When wooden cages are used, they should be water-sealed. Welded wire sizes are as follows: ½" x ½" for small rodents and opossums (100g or less); ½" x 1" for squirrels; and 1" x 1-½" for raccoons and larger mammals. Roofing materials are the same with a covered area that provides protection from the elements. Fiberglass is sometimes used on top of the wire to provide protection. The flooring depends on the species being housed. Concrete flooring should be sloped for proper drainage. If natural flooring is utilized, wire fencing should be placed under the cage and be covered with a draining gravel. Wood shavings can be used if they are changed regularly. All doors should be equipped with a double door system for the protection of the handler and the animal. A den should be provided for the animal. Raccoons should have a dedicated enclosure to avoid spreading disease to other species; examples can include a wooden box, fiberglass, or plastic animal carrier.

Specific Species Requirements

- Rodents: Logs for gnawing to curb tooth growth; bark must be edible. Some species may utilize dirt for burying food, dust baths, etc. A source of calcium (i.e. a cuttlebone or antler) could also be provided.
- Raccoons: Hammocks made of fabric, hanging tires, etc. attached to wall or roof; tree limbs and logs to promote climbing; provide a wading pool or water container applicable to the animal's size to allow bathing and food handling.
- Bobcats Large branches and logs (some hollow) should be provided for climbing; high platforms for resting above the cage floor.
- Muskrats, Otters, Beavers Must have water containers that are large enough to swim in and are at least two feet; examples include bathtubs, metal troughs, metal or concrete pools (plastic kiddie pools are not deep enough and will be destroyed by the animal). Heavy fiberglass stock tanks with a drain in the bottom work well. Container of soil at least one foot deep should be provided for digging. A den for hiding should be provided.
- Hooved Mammals If chain link is used for the walls, drapes must be hung over the inside of the chain link to avoid injury to the animal and to keep it from climbing out (i.e., blankets tied securely or tarps).

The following guidelines are meant to give guidance on minimum housing requirements for the rehabilitation of various species of eastern mammals. All cage sizes are indicated in feet and are in order of Width x Height x Length.

= Number of animals

Note: Occasional large litter (8-10 animals) may require larger housing.

W = wire bottom

A = must have easy access; if not, use larger cage size for safety

** = 12"x12"x12" tote can substitute for 10 gal aquarium for Tree Squirrels

† Miller, E.A., editor. 2012. Minimum Standards for Wildlife Rehabilitation, 4th edition. National Wildlife Rehabilitators Associations, St. Cloud, MN. 116 pages.

HOUSING GUIDELINES FOR INFANT AND JUVENILE MAMMALS †

Order/Family	Infant Care W x L x H	Nursing/Pre-weaned W x L x H	Juvenile Outside W x L x H	Codes
Marsupialia				
Opossums	10 Gallon	3 ft x 3 ft x 3 ft	10 ft x 12 ft x 8 ft	
Insectivora				
Shrews & Moles	10 Gallon	20 Gallon		
Chiroptera (Bats)				
Little Browns & Pipistrelles	6 in x 8 in x 6 in	12 in x 18 in x 12 in	8 ft x 16 ft x 8 ft	
Evenings, Reds, Myotis, Big Brown			8 ft x 16 ft x 8 ft	
Free-tails, Hoarys, Pallids & Yellows			10 ft x 20 ft x 8 ft	
Carnivora				
Raccoons	10-20 Gallon	3 ft x 3 ft x 3 ft	10 ft x 12 ft x 6 ft	
Fishers	10 Gallon	3 ft x 3 ft x 3 ft	6 ft x 8 ft x 6 ft	
Weasels & Minks	10 Gallon	10 Gallon	6 ft x 8 ft x 8 ft	
River Otters	20 Gallon	6 ft x 12 ft x 6 ft	6 ft x 12 ft x 6 ft	
Skunks	20 Gallon	2 ft x 4 ft x 3 ft	10 ft x 12 ft x 6 ft	
Coyotes	30 Gallon	3 ft x 3 ft x 3 ft	10 ft x 10 ft x 8 ft	
Foxes	30 Gallon	3 ft x 3 ft x 3 ft	4 ft x 4 ft x 8 ft	
Bobcats	10 Gallon	3 ft x 3 ft x 3 ft	10 ft x 10 ft x 8 ft	
Rodentia				
Muskrats, Woodchucks, etc.	20 Gallon	4 ft x 4 ft x 3 ft	8 ft x 8 ft x 8 ft	W
Chipmunks, etc.	10 Gallon	10-20 Gallon 20 Gallon (or 2ftx3ftx2ft)	3 ft x 6 ft x 6 ft	A
Squirrels	10-20 Gallon	10-20 Gallon	8 ft x 8 ft x 8ft	
Voles	10 Gallon	10-20 Gallon	3 ft x 6 ft x 6 ft	A
Rats (All)	10 Gallon	20 Gallon	3 ft x 6 ft x 6 ft	
Mice (All)	10 Gallon	15-20 Gallon	3 ft x 3 ft x 3 ft	
Beavers	20 Gallon	3 ft x 3 ft x 3 ft	8 ft x 12 ft x 6 ft	
Porcupines	15 Gallon	3 ft x 3 ft x 3 ft	6 ft x 8 ft x 6 ft	
Lagomorpha				
Jackrabbits 2-6 wks	20 Gallon	18 in x 18 in x 12 in	20 ft x 20 ft x 6 ft	
Jackrabbits 6-12 wks	20 Gallon	10 ft x 10 ft x 4 ft	20 ft x 20 ft x 6 ft	
Cottontail Rabbits	10 Gallon	10 Gallon	6 ft x 6 ft x 4 ft	
Artiodactyla				
Deer	4 ft x 4 ft x 2 ft	10 ft x 15 ft x 6 ft	30 ft x 50 ft x 8 ft	

† Miller, E.A., editor. 2012. Minimum Standards for Wildlife Rehabilitation, 4th edition. National Wildlife Rehabilitators Associations, St. Cloud, MN. 116 pages.

HOUSING GUIDELINES FOR ADULT MAMMALS †

Order/Family	Adult Outside W x L x H	Restricted Injured Adult W x L x H	Codes
Marsupialia			
Opossums	10 ft x 12 ft x 8 ft	2 ft x 2 ft x 2 ft	
Insectivoria			
Shrews & Moles		10 Gallon	
Chiroptera (Bats)			
Little Browns & Pipistrelles	8 ft x 16 ft x 8 ft	12 in x 18 in x 12 in	
Evenings, Reds, Myotis, Big Brown	8 ft x 16 ft x 8 ft	12 in x 18 in x 12 in	
Free-tails, Hoarys, Pallids & Yellows	10 ft x 20 ft x 8 ft	12 in x 18 in x 12 in	
Carnivora			
Raccoons	10 ft x 12 ft x 8 ft	2 ft x 3 ft x 3 ft	
Fishers	6 ft x 8 ft x 8 ft	4 ft x 3 ft x 3 ft	
Weasels & Minks	6 ft x 8 ft x 6 ft	3 ft x 3 ft x 3 ft	
River Otters	6 ft x 12 ft x 6 ft	4 ft x 3 ft x 3 ft	
Skunks	8 ft x 10 ft x 6 ft	3 ft x 3 ft x 3 ft	
Coyotes	10 ft x 10 ft x 8 ft	3 ft x 3 ft x 3 ft	
Foxes	6 ft x 6 ft x 8 ft	3 ft x 3 ft x 3 ft	
Bobcats	10 ft x 10 ft x 8 ft	3 ft x 3 ft x 3 ft	
Rodentia			
Muskrats, Woodchucks, etc.	8 ft x 8 ft x 8 ft	3 ft x 3 ft x 2 ft	W
Chipmunks, etc.	6 ft x 8 ft x 6 ft	1 ft x 1 ft x 1 ft	
Squirrels	8 ft x 8 ft x 8 ft	2 ft x 3 ft x 2 ft	
Voles	8 ft x 8 ft x 8 ft	1 ft x 1 ft x 1 ft	A
Rats (All)	3 ft x 4 ft x 3 ft	10 Gallon	
Mice (All)	2 ft x 2 ft x 2 ft	10 Gallon	
Beavers	8 ft x 12 ft x 6 ft	4 ft x 3 ft x 3 ft	
Porcupines	6 ft x 8 ft x 8 ft	3 ft x 3 ft x 3 ft	
Lagomorpha			
Jackrabbits	20 ft x 20 ft x 6 ft	18 in x 36 in x 12 in	
Cottontail Rabbits	6 ft x 6 ft x 6 ft	12 in x 18 in x 12 in	

† Miller, E.A., editor. 2012. Minimum Standards for Wildlife Rehabilitation, 4th edition. National Wildlife Rehabilitators Associations, St. Cloud, MN. 116 pages.

MINIMUM HOUSING GUIDELINES FOR REPTILES †

Comments on Reptile Housing - Although considerable thought and experience determined the cage sizes listed in this program, it is impossible to consider all possibilities in terms of material, design, or size. Caging will be reviewed, on-site, by experienced Conservation Police Officers or authorized VDGIF personnel who will assess its workability.

All reptile housing shall:

- Provide a thermal gradient appropriate to the species;
- Have full-spectrum light with a suitable photoperiod (note that sunlight through glass is not full-spectrum);
- Provide appropriate humidity levels;
- Provide drinking/bathing water;
- Provide ventilation and drainage;
- Provide location for animals to hide in both cooler and warmer areas of the enclosure;
- Provide a light gradient;
- Provide substrate appropriate to the species;
- Be a single enclosure per animal (reptiles are mostly solitary and company may impede recovery);
- Be escape proof; and
- Allow for natural behaviors such as swimming, basking, burrowing and climbing.

Temperature Requirements

The following are temperature requirements for some species, but be sure to research species-specific needs for those not listed.

Turtles

Box Turtles – gradient of 70°C to 85°F (88F for basking area)

Warm aquatic turtles (sliders, cooters, painted turtles, etc.) – water temperature 76°F, basking platform 88°F

Cool aquatic turtles (eastern mud, spotted, common snapper, etc.) – water temperature 73°F, basking platform 88°F

Snakes

Rat – 70-75°F at the cool end to 85°F, basking area 88°F

Lizards

Eastern fence lizard – 71° – 86°F gradient with 90°F basking platform.

Humidity - Humidity is extremely important to reptile species. Rehabilitators should be sure to use a humidity gauge and research humidity requirements for each species.

Substrate – Selection of an appropriate substrate is essential to reptile health. Substrate needs vary and should be researched for individual species. Substrates that are suitable for reptiles (depending upon species needs) include aspen, astroturf, coco fiber, cypress mulch, gravel, leaf litter, mulch (pine and cedar free), sand, soil (sterile, free of fertilizers or other chemicals), sphagnum moss (not peat), towels.

Substrates that are not recommended include calci-sand, carefresh, cedar, clay, corncob, kitty litter, newspaper, paper toweling, peat, pine or redwood, rabbit pellets.

† Miller, E.A., editor. 2012. Minimum Standards for Wildlife Rehabilitation, 4th edition. National Wildlife Rehabilitators Associations, St. Cloud, MN. 116 pages.

HOUSING GUIDELINES FOR REPTILES †

Reptile Type	Length	Width	Height
Snakes			
Burrowing	3/4 animal length, not < 24"	1/3 animal length, not < 12"	3/4 animal length, not < 12", add 6" to 12" for substrate
Terrestrial	3/4 animal length, not < 24"	1/3 animal length, not < 12"	3/4 animal length, not < 12"
Semi-aquatic	1.5 animal length, not < 24"	animal length, not < 12"	3/4 animal length, not < 12"
Arboreal	3/4 animal length, not < 24"	1/3 animal length, not < 12"	animal length, not < 12"
Lizards			
Burrowing	3 x animal length, not < 24"	2x animal length, not < 12"	animal length, add 6" to 12" for substrate
Terrestrial	3 x animal length, not < 24"	2x animal length, not < 12"	animal length (enough to prevent escape)
Semi-aquatic	3 x animal length, not < 24"	2x animal length, not < 12"	animal length (enough to prevent escape), plus 12" to 24" for water
Arboreal	3 x animal length, not < 24"	2x animal length, not < 12"	2-3x animal length
Turtles			
Terrestrial	5x animal length, not < 24"	3x animal length, not < 12"	high enough to prevent escape, usually 2x carapace length
Aquatic and semi- aquatic	5x animal length, not < 24"	3x animal length, not < 12"	high enough to prevent escape, plus water to a depth 2x animal width

† Miller, E.A., editor. 2012. Minimum Standards for Wildlife Rehabilitation, 4th edition. National Wildlife Rehabilitators Associations, St. Cloud, MN. 116 pages.

NATIVE THREATENED AND ENDANGERED WILDLIFE SPECIES OF VIRGINIA

<u>Common Name</u>	<u>Scientific Name</u>	<u>Status</u>
<u>AMPHIBIANS</u>		
<u>Frogs</u>		
Barking treefrog	<i>Hyla gratiosa</i>	ST
<u>Salamanders</u>		
Eastern tiger salamander	<i>Abystoma tigrinum</i>	SE
Mabee's salamander	<i>Ambystoma mabeei</i>	ST
Shenandoah salamander	<i>Plethodon Shenandoah</i>	FE/SE
<u>REPTILES</u>		
<u>Lizards</u>		
Eastern glass lizard	<i>Ophisaurus ventralis</i>	SE
<u>Snakes</u>		
Canebrake rattlesnake (Coastal Plain population of timber rattlesnake)	<i>Crotalus horridus</i>	SE
<u>Turtles</u>		
Bog (Muhlenberg) turtle	<i>Glyptemys (Clemmys) muhlenbergii</i>	FT/SE
Eastern chicken turtle	<i>Deirochelys reticularia reticularia</i>	SE
Green sea turtle	<i>Chelonia mydas</i>	FT/ST
Hawksbill sea turtle	<i>Eretmochleys imbricate</i>	FE/SE
Kemp's ridley sea turtle	<i>Lepidochleys kempii</i>	FE/SE
Leatherback sea turtle	<i>Dermochleys coriacea</i>	FE/SE
Loggerhead sea turtle	<i>Caretta caretta</i>	FT/ST
Wood turtle	<i>Glyptemys insculpta</i>	ST
<u>BIRDS</u>		
Bachman's sparrow	<i>Aimophila aestivalis</i>	ST
Bachman's warbler (wood)	<i>Vernivora bachmanii</i>	FE/SE
Bewick's wren	<i>Thryomanes bewickii</i>	SE
Black rail	<i>Laterallus jamaicensis</i>	SE
Gull-billed tern	<i>Sterna nilotica</i>	ST
Henslow's sparrow	<i>Ammodramus henslowii</i>	ST
Kirtland's warbler (wood)	<i>Dendroica kirtlandii</i>	FE/SE

<u>Common Name</u>	<u>Scientific Name</u>	<u>Status</u>
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BIRDS cont.

Loggerhead shrike	<i>Lanius ludovicianus</i>	ST
Peregrine falcon	<i>Falco peregrinus</i>	ST
Piping plover	<i>Charadrius melodus</i>	FT/ST
Red-cockaded woodpecker	<i>Picoides borealis</i>	FE/SE
Red knot	<i>Calidris cantus</i>	FP
Roseate tern	<i>Sterna dougallii dougallii</i>	FE/SE
Upland sandpiper	<i>Bartramia longicauda</i>	ST
Wilson's plover	<i>Charadrius wilsonia</i>	SE

MAMMALS

American water shrew	<i>Sorex palustris</i>	SE
Carolina northern flying squirrel	<i>Glaucomys sabrinus coloratus</i>	FE/SE
Delmarva Peninsula fox squirrel	<i>Sciurus niger cinereus</i>	FE/SE
Dismal Swamp southeastern shrew	<i>Sorex longirostris fisheri</i>	ST
Eastern puma (cougar)	<i>Puma (felis) concolor cougar</i>	FE/SE
Gray bat	<i>Myotis grisescens</i>	FE/SE
Gray wolf	<i>Canis lupus</i>	FE/SE
Indiana bat	<i>Myotis sodalists</i>	FP
Northern long-eared bat	<i>Myotis septentrionalis</i>	SE
Rafinesque's eastern big-eared bat	<i>Corynorhinus rafinesquii macrotis</i>	SE
Rock vole	<i>Microtus chrotorrhinus</i>	SE
Snowshoe hare	<i>Lepus americanus</i>	SE
Virginia big-eared bat	<i>Corynorhinus townsendii virginianus</i>	FE/SE
Virginia northern flying squirrel	<i>Glaucomys sabrinus fuscus</i>	FE/SE

FE=Federal Endangered; FT=Federal Threatened; FP=Federal proposed; FC=Federal Candidate; SOC=Federal Species of Concern (not a legal status); SE=State Endangered; ST=State Threatened; WAP=Virginia Wildlife Action Plan Tiered Species (not a legal status). Effective July 18 2014.

VIRGINIA DEPARTMENT OF GAME & INLAND FISHERIES
WILDLIFE REHABILITATOR PERMIT APPLICATION
(Under Authority of §29.1-412, § 29.1-417 of the Code of Virginia)

Non-refundable Application Fee: **\$10.00**

PERMIT: NEW RENEWAL (Check One) Previous VDGIF Permit No. _____

NAME OF APPLICANT: _____

MAILING ADDRESS: _____
(Street, Post Office Box, or Rural Route)

City _____ State _____ Zip _____ COUNTY: _____

EMAIL ADDRESS: _____

TELEPHONE NUMBERS: Home: (_____) _____ Work: (_____) _____

Name of Business, Organization or Affiliation: _____

Location & County of Facility, if Different From Address: _____

_____ COUNTY _____

Briefly Describe **Your** Facilities: _____

Permit Applied for: (Check One) Category I; Category II-A; Category II-B; Category III; Category IV

If Category I, please have your sponsor complete the signature box below:

SIGNED STATEMENT FROM SPONSOR	
I am willing to serve as the sponsor for the above named rehabilitator and will be available to provide professional assistance in the rehabilitation of wildlife.	
_____ Name of Sponsor (please <u>print</u> full name and then <u>sign</u>)	_____ Signature of Sponsor
_____ Address (Street, City, State, ZIP Code, and Phone Number)	_____ Phone Number

Summary of Experience and Courses Completed (**New applicants only**): _____

Continuing Education (**All renewals**) - (List the six hours of course work completed in the last permitting year as required.) (Use additional pages if necessary.) (Please attach a copy of the course certificate if one was provided.)

<u>name of course</u>	<u>date</u>	<u>#hrs</u>	<u>instructor</u>
-----------------------	-------------	-------------	-------------------

SIGNED STATEMENT FROM VETERINARIAN (DVM)	
I have a working relationship with the above named rehabilitator and will be available to provide professional assistance in the rehabilitation of wildlife.	
_____ Name of Veterinarian (please <u>print</u> full name and then <u>sign</u>)	_____ Signature of Veterinarian
_____ Address (Street, City, State, ZIP Code, and Phone Number)	_____ Phone Number

List Animals You Are Prepared To Rehabilitate (be as specific as possible) _____

NOTE: Only pre-immunized handlers will be permitted to handle high-risk rabies animals (raccoons, skunks, foxes, bats, woodchucks). Proof of current immunization must be provided with the application.

List Your Federal Permit Number _____

If you do not have a current federal permit number, and you wish to rehabilitate migratory birds, the applicant must obtain a Federal Special Purpose Rehabilitation Permit and **submit a copy** of this permit to VDGIF prior to being permitted to work with migratory birds and waterfowl. For Category I's and IV's to be allowed to rehabilitate migratory birds and waterfowl, their sponsor for I's, or the permittees for whom they are assisting for IV's, must contact the USFWS in writing requesting that the Category I or IV be covered by their federal permit to rehabilitate migratory birds and waterfowl.

If a Category II-A or II-B or a III, list the name and address of each Category I under your supervision (up to 5 for Category II-A, and up to 20 for Category II-B and Category III). (Use a separate sheet for additional information)

1. Name _____ Telephone (____) _____

Address _____ Zip _____

2. Name _____ Telephone (____) _____

Address _____ Zip _____

Please list on separate sheets of paper, by category, those individuals that are working as Category IV's, transporters, staff, or volunteers at your facility.

- I will file with the Virginia Department of Game and Inland Fisheries, a complete annual report of all animals/birds rehabilitated as required by this permit, and as specified on the reporting form, no later than February 1st annually. I understand the regulations governing wildlife rehabilitation and agree to the terms and conditions as provided and will abide by the Code of Ethics.
- I recognize that this permit is conditional based on my full compliance with all pertinent community, military base, city or county ordinances where my facility resides.

Have you ever been convicted of violating any federal or state wildlife laws or wildlife-related regulations?

Yes No If "yes," year and nature of offense _____

Signature of Applicant _____ **Date** _____

By my signature above, I hereby certify that all entries made on this application are true and complete, and I agree and understand that any falsification of information herein, regardless of time of discovery, may result in denial or revocation of my permit. TYPED SIGNATURE IS AUTHORIZED AND BINDING PER CODE OF VIRGINIA §1-13.32 AND §2.1-7.4

NOTE: ANY INCOMPLETE APPLICATIONS WILL BE IMMEDIATELY RETURNED TO THE APPLICANT.

Make non-refundable application fee check payable to: **TREASURER OF VIRGINIA** and **RETURN** to: Permits Section, VDGIF, Post Office Box 11104, Richmond, Virginia 23230-1104 804-367-9588

Permit Will Expire **January 31** regardless of when issued.

12/9/2013

DO NOT WRITE BELOW THIS LINE

AGENCY USE ONLY

Date:	____ / ____ / ____
Payment Type:	<input type="checkbox"/> VISA <input type="checkbox"/> MasterCard <input type="checkbox"/> Personal Check _____ <input type="checkbox"/> Business Check _____ <input type="checkbox"/> Money Order _____
Payment Amount:	\$ _____
Comments:	_____
Payment Rcvd By:	_____

29



Virginia Department of Game and Inland Fisheries Credit Card Authorization Form

Credit Card Type:



Name Shown on Credit Card: _____

Credit Card Number: _____

Expiration Date: _____ / _____
(mm) (yy)

I authorized the Virginia Department of Game and Inland Fisheries to charge my credit card for the products/services indicated on the enclosed form, in the amount of \$_____

Signature: _____

Date: _____

Juran, Caroline (DHP)

From: Ed Clark <EClark@wildlifecenter.org>
Sent: Tuesday, July 07, 2015 3:50 PM
To: Juran, Caroline (DHP)
Cc: Dave McRuer; Kelli Knight
Subject: Our meeting on the 21st
Attachments: Wisconsin drug use form.pdf; Pharmacology I 2010 Text Final 2.pdf

Hello Caroline,

It was certainly a pleasure to chat with you today to discuss the issues related to the possession and use of prescription medications for the emergency care of wildlife by permitted wildlife rehabilitators. As promised, I am sending some follow-up information which may be of interest to our group, prior to the upcoming discussions.

To reiterate one point from our earlier discussion, I would like us to consider approaching the issue of wildlife care from a *herd health* point of view. There are many states that have defined the Veterinarian-Patient-Client-Relationship (VPCR) in terms that identifies a "herd, flock, or group" of animals as a "patient", and at least one that says the relationship can exist between the veterinarian and the herd if the veterinarian has examined a *representative sample* of the group. Here are specific three examples, with relevant phrases highlighted:

Alabama

A relationship when the veterinarian has assumed responsibility for making medical judgments regarding the health of the animal or animals and the need for medical treatment and is created by actual examination by the veterinarian of the animal or a representative segment of a consignment or herd (emphasis added).

New Jersey

A "veterinarian-client-patient relationship" means: (A) The veterinarian has undertaken to make medical judgments regarding the health of an animal or animals, herd or flock being treated and the need for medical treatment; (B) The client has retained the services of the veterinarian; (C) The veterinarian has sufficient knowledge of the animal or animals, herd or flock to initiate at least a general or preliminary diagnosis of the medical condition of the animal or animals, herd or flock; (D) The veterinarian is available for follow-up treatment; and (E) The veterinarian maintains proper records on the animal or animals, herd or flock

Louisiana

A Veterinarian-Client-Patient-Relationship exists when: (A) the veterinarian has assumed the responsibility for making medical judgments regarding the health of the animal(s) and the need for medical treatment; and (B) the client (owner or duly authorized agent) has agreed to follow the instructions of the veterinarian; and (C) the veterinarian has sufficient knowledge of the animal(s) to initiate at least a general or preliminary diagnosis of the medical condition of the animal(s). This means that: (i) the veterinarian or associate veterinarian has recently seen and is personally acquainted with the keeping and care of the animal(s) by virtue of an examination of the animal(s) and/or the animal's records (emphasis added), and/or by medically appropriate and timely visits to the premises where the animal or animals are kept.

In these and other similar instances, the "patient" can be multiple animals, a "herd" or a "flock", and relationship exists if the veterinarian has sufficient knowledge upon which to make a preliminary diagnosis, based upon familiarity with the animals or a sample of the animals, familiarity with the facilities where they are kept, or by reviewing the records of the herd/flock (Louisiana). While, as we discussed, Virginia currently lacks any provision for "herd" or "flock" medicine, at least in the language of the Code, it is generally and traditionally acknowledged to exist as an appropriate practice. I would imagine that the VVMA would welcome a formal acknowledgement of herd health medicine as a protection for their members, and a recognition of the reality of large animal and poultry practice. Nowhere were we able to find any

qualification of what constitutes a herd based on proximity of the animals in the group, or references to the animals having to be together physically at a specific point in time.

I submit that, for the purposes of regulations, groups of wildlife (as defined by the Department of Game and Inland Fisheries) should fall under the definition of a herd or flock, for the purposes of establishing the veterinarian-client-patient-relationship within the context of the practice of wildlife rehabilitation, thereby allowing cooperating veterinarians to write a prescription for the use of controlled medications to treat specific medical conditions in a defined group or class of wild animals which share that specific medical condition. Since according to the Code of Virginia, the Department of Game and Inland Fisheries is the de facto "owner" of all native wildlife in the Commonwealth, and the Department's mandate includes all authority for the management of native wildlife, it is logical that DGIF should be able to identify what groups, species or classes of wildlife constitute a "herd", "flock", or other "group" for the purposes of health management. The Department already considers all white-tailed deer in Virginia to make up the state's "deer herd". In the field of veterinary medicine, including wildlife medicine, the focus on populations, rather than individual animals, is referred to as "herd health medicine". Protocols for the management of wildlife diseases like rabies, chronic wasting disease (CWD), Hemorrhagic Fever, avian influenza, and others are managed on very broad basis, not animal by animal. What constitutes the "herd" or the "flock" varies, based upon the medical condition being considered. I believe there is ample precedence for such an approach in this case.

I am attaching for your review the document used in Wisconsin that addresses the use of controlled substances by wildlife rehabilitators. Something similar would certainly work in Virginia.

I am also attaching a **primary reference document which is used in the wildlife rehabilitation community to guide rehabilitation practitioners and cooperating veterinarians in matters related to pharmacology**. You will find, among many other things, specific chapters related to antibiotic use, including the issue of drug resistance. This booklet is illustrative of the type and sophistication of the current literature in use in both basic training and continuing education courses for wildlife rehabilitators nationwide. We would envision some adaptation of the material contained herein for mandatory training programs here in Virginia.

When we spoke, I mentioned a hypothetical scenario under which a wildlife rehabilitator might get 50 baby rabbits during the month of May. While there is a good chance the majority of those animals might need rehydration, our recordkeeping systems indicates that only 13% of the rabbits would predictably have been victims of cat attacks. So while the supply of fluids that would be needed could be significant, we would be talking about an antibiotic supply for only 6 or 7 tiny animals...a few ounces of the liquid medication, since it is dosed in tenths of milliliters—exceedingly small quantities.

I hope these definitions and reference will help us find a common starting place for our discussions on the 21st. Again, I'm very confident we can find a solution—even if a creative one—that meets all of our needs.

Thanks for making time to chat this afternoon. I would welcome your feedback on any of this. Feel free to share any or all of this with other who will be attending.

Ed

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Wildlife Rehabilitation Protocol – Pharmaceutical Use

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.

Controlled Substances (use space below or a separate sheet to explain your facility's procedures):

Check boxes where appropriate

Legal Requirements

- We comply with DEA regulations and Wisconsin s. 961, Stats. on the use of controlled substances in animals.
- We comply with FDA regulations on the use of prescription drugs in animals, including extra-label use requirements.
- All drugs are labeled with the following information: name and contact information of prescribing veterinarian, established name of drug, direction for use and cautionary statements if necessary.

Facility Procedures

- Only drugs, including homeopathic medications, prescribed by a veterinarian or approved in our pharmaceutical/drug protocol are used.
- Current veterinary/rehabilitation literature and research is utilized to determine the proper medication and dosage for each patient on an individual basis.
- Antibiotic use is limited to prevent environmental introduction.
- Only trained staff/volunteers may administer medications.
- Current records are maintained in patient files including all medications administered.
- Staff signature is required on the animal's record of all administered medications.

Safety

- Disposable needles and syringes are used one time while they are sterile or they are disinfected in an autoclave.
- A Sharps container is used for all biological waste products (i.e. needles used for blood collection/euthanasia).
- Expiration dates are used to determine when to discard medications.
- Pharmaceuticals unused by expiration date are disposed of following local regulations. To avoid water contamination, medications are not dumped in sinks.

Rehabilitator Signature

Date

Consulting Veterinarian Signature

Date



§ 54.1-3800. Practice of veterinary medicine

Any person shall be regarded as practicing veterinary medicine within the meaning of this chapter who represents himself, directly or indirectly, publicly or privately, as a veterinary doctor or uses any title, words, abbreviation or letters in a manner or under circumstances which may reasonably induce the belief that the person using them is qualified to practice veterinary medicine.

Any person shall be deemed to be practicing veterinary medicine who performs the diagnosis, treatment, correction, change, relief or prevention of animal disease, deformity, defect, injury, or other physical or mental conditions; including the performance of surgery or dentistry, the prescription or administration of any drug, medicine, biologic, apparatus, application, anesthetic, or other therapeutic or diagnostic substance or technique, and the use of any manual or mechanical procedure for embryo transfer, for testing for pregnancy, or for correcting sterility or infertility, or to render advice or recommendation with regard to any of the above.

Nothing in this chapter shall prohibit persons permitted or authorized by the Department of Game and Inland Fisheries to do so from providing care for wildlife as defined in § 29.1-100, provided that the Department determines that such persons are in compliance with its regulations and permit conditions.

Code 1950, § 54-786; c. 574; 1978, c. 539; 1988, c. 765; 2014, c. 626.

§ 29.1-508.1. Use of drugs on vertebrate wildlife

A. Without written authorization from the Director or his designee, it is unlawful to administer any drug to any vertebrate wildlife, except in accordance with a permit issued under the provisions of this title or regulations adopted by the Board. This prohibition shall include, but not be limited to, drugs used for fertility control, disease prevention or treatment, immobilization, or growth stimulation. Nothing in this section shall prohibit the treatment of sick or injured wild animals by licensed veterinarians or permitted wildlife rehabilitators. This section shall not limit employees of agencies of the Commonwealth, the United States, or local animal control officers in the performance of their official duties related to public health, wildlife management, or wildlife removal. For the purposes of this section, the term "drug" means any chemical substance, other than food, that affects the structure or biological function of wildlife species.

B. The Department may take possession and dispose of any vertebrate wildlife if it believes that drugs have been administered to such wildlife in violation of this section.

C. Any person violating this section is guilty of a Class 2 misdemeanor.

2004, c. 171.