MINIMUM STANDARDS FOR WILDLIFE REHABILITATION IN OHIO
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PUBLICATION 5475

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The ODNR Division of Wildlife’s mission is to conserve and improve fish and wildlife resources and their habitats for sustainable use and appreciation by all.

The Division of Wildlife is funded by annual hunting, trapping, and fishing license sales. It is the authority on Ohio’s fish and wildlife resources, and uses no state or federal taxpayer dollars to fulfill its mission. Additional funds come in the form of federal aid reimbursement from an excise tax on hunting and fishing equipment.

Money generated allows the Division of Wildlife to promote conservation efforts of game and non-game animals. Examples of these efforts include endangered and threatened species restoration, fish hatcheries, hunter and angler education, and law enforcement.
The Ohio Division of Wildlife is dedicated to conserving and improving the fish and wildlife resources and their habitats, and promoting their use and appreciation by the public so that these resources continue to enhance the quality of life for all Ohioans. Rehabilitation of injured or orphaned native wildlife is a popular and important activity in Ohio, involving hundreds of public and private organizations and individuals. The Division works in partnership with the Ohio Wildlife Rehabilitators Association to (1) foster a relationship among rehabilitators to improve the quality of care given to native wildlife, (2) promote communication and education, and (3) ensure a rapid response team is available in the event of a catastrophe such as an oil spill.

(This document was compiled from the National Wildlife Rehabilita-
tors & International Wildlife Rehabilitators Council’s (NWRA/IWRC) “Minimum Standards for Wildlife Rehabilitation” © 1994 and the Ohio Wildlife Rehabilitators Association’s “Guidelines for Wildlife Rehabilitation in Ohio” with permission for use by both organizations.)

MINIMUM STANDARDS FOR WILDLIFE REHABILITATION IN OHIO

WILDLIFE REHABILITATION FACILITY

(SOURCE NWRA & IWRC)

STANDARD REQUIREMENTS OF ALL FACILITIES

First Aid and Safety. All wildlife rehabilitation facilities shall have fire extinguishers, smoke detectors, eye wash capability, first aid kits, and material safety data sheets (MSDS) for all chemicals stored on the premises. They shall also have protective clothing and safety/capture equipment appropriate to the species under their care.

Sanitation. Foods, utensils, dishes, food preparation areas, and food storage areas for wildlife shall always be kept separate from foods, utensils, dishes, food preparation areas and food storage areas used by humans and domestic animals. Cleaning of wildlife cages and housing shall be done in designated areas specially set aside for such cleaning. It shall not be done in sinks or tubs otherwise used by humans. A suitable sanitary method shall be provided to eliminate rapidly excess water from indoor facilities. If drains are used, they shall be properly constructed and kept in good repair to avoid foul odors and installed so as to prevent any backup of sewage.

Temperature Control. Injured or immobile animals shall be housed in indoor facilities. Rooms and buildings used for indoor housing of injured or immobile animals shall provide supplemental warmth or cooling as needed to protect animals from extremes of temperature, to provide for their health, and to prevent their discomfort. The ambient temperature shall not be allowed to fall below or rise above temperatures compatible with the health and comfort of the animal.

Natural or artificial shelter appropriate to local climate conditions for species concerned shall be provided for all animals kept outdoors to afford them protection and to prevent discomfort to such animals. Individual animals shall be acclimated before they are exposed to the extremes of individual climates.

Light and Ventilation. Indoor facilities shall be adequately ventilated by natural or mechanical means to provide for the health and to prevent discomfort of the animals at all times. Such facilities shall be provided with fresh air either by means of windows, doors, vents, fans, or air conditioning and shall be ventilated so as to minimize drafts, odors, and moisture condensation.

Indoor facilities shall have ample lighting, by natural or artificial means, or both, of good quality, distribution, and duration as appropriate for the species involved. Such lighting shall be uniformly distributed and of sufficient intensity to permit routine inspection and cleaning.

Lighting of outdoor enclosures shall be designed to protect the animals from excessive illumination. When sunlight is likely to cause overheating or discomfort of the animals, sufficient shade by natural or artificial means shall be provided to allow all animals kept outdoors to protect themselves from direct sunlight.

Water and Electric. Reliable and adequate electric power and potable water shall be available on the premises.

Daily Cleaning and Disinfection. Each wildlife rehabilitation facility shall provide a daily cleaning and disinfecting schedule.

CATEGORY I FACILITIES (source OWRA)

A Category I facility shall have weighing scales and adequate artificial warming units or incubators as necessary for wild animals in their care.
CATEGORY II FACILITIES

1. A Category II facility shall have incubators, weighing scales and all medical equipment and other items necessary to provide for emergency stabilization of animals prior to veterinary assessment.

2. A Category II facility shall have the gloves, goggles, squeeze cages, protective clothing and capture equipment necessary to handle the injured or Category I exception wildlife under its care.

3. A Category II facility shall have written procedures regarding providing emergency after-hours services for injured wildlife.

4. A veterinarian assisting Category II facilities shall have an on-site pharmacy with appropriate security for schedule II, III, and IV drugs, laboratory equipment, and intensive nursing care, radiology, and surgical facilities. Wildlife temporarily housed at a veterinary facility shall be kept separate from domestic animals to minimize the risk of disease transmission to all animals, and to minimize stress to the wild animals.

5. A Category II facility shall have a liability policy in force.

BASIC REQUIREMENTS FOR HOUSING OF WILD ANIMALS (source NWRA & IWRC)

The enclosures suggested, with the exception of conditioning cages, are for short-term housing (i.e., usually less than six months) of rehabilitating animals. No animal may be retained for more than 180 days without specific authorization from the wildlife officer (source ODW). 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. Each outdoor enclosure should possess an area which provides necessary protection from the elements.

Any bird old enough to perch requires the same size cage as the adult of the species. Enclosures should be made secure against local predators. They should duplicate natural conditions wherever practical. 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 (source NWRA & IWRC)

Materials for avian caging vary within the field. Aviaries should have a double-door entry system. Solid walls for aviaries can be constructed of wood, fiberglass, or an equivalent. Chicken wire is not permitted if the birds can come into direct contact with them. If vertical wood lath, fiberglass screening, or netting prevent direct contact, then wire can add extra security. Flooring for aviaries is often pea gravel over sand which should be changed biannually 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 includes towels or raised netting over newspaper, newspaper alone, or wood shavings (cut up tree trimmings, but not sawdust), depending on the species being housed. Perches can be wood doweling or plastic piping (or the equivalent) covered by 1/4-inch-pile Astroturf, hemp, or indoor/outdoor carpeting. Platforms can be covered with 2-inch Astroturf or indoor/outdoor carpeting. Natural limbs, bow, block and ring perches are appropriate for certain species of birds.

MAMMAL CAGING (source NWRA & IWRC)

The following are suggested building materials for outdoor caging. Walls are generally made of chain-link fencing, welded wire, or wood. Chicken wire is not permitted (source ODW). When wooden cages are used, they should be water-sealed. Welded wire sizes are as follows: 1/20 inch by 2-inch (2” x 2”) for small rodents and opossums (100gm or less); 2-inch by 1-inch (2” x 1”) for squirrels; and 1-inch by 1 and 2-inch (1” x 1-1/2”) 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. Larger walk-in mammal cages should have concrete flooring and be sloped for proper drainage. If natural flooring is utilized, wire fencing must be placed under the cage and be covered with a drainage gravel (i.e., pea gravel). Tree trimmings 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; examples would be a wooden box, fiberglass or plastic animal carrier.
## CONDITIONING CAGING:

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>SPECIES</th>
<th>CAGE SIZE ((W \times L \times H))</th>
<th>ADDITIONAL AMENITIES REQUIRED</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>AVIAN, NON-RAPTORS: loons, grebes, cormorants, geese, swans, diving ducks (Mute swans may not be rehabilitated and must be euthanized)</td>
<td>large enough to contain 6’ pool and loafing area</td>
<td>swimming area, 6’ pool, tank or pond, deeper than 2’</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>AVIAN, NON-RAPTORS: dabbling ducks</td>
<td>large enough to contain kiddie pool and loafing area</td>
<td>4’ kiddie pool</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>AVIAN, NON-RAPTORS: songbirds, doves, small woodpeckers, kingfishers, swifts, swallows, rails, coots, pheasants, quail, small bitterns or herons</td>
<td>4’ x 8’ x 6’</td>
<td>4’ kiddie pool (only for bitterns &amp; herons) and perching structure</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>AVIAN, NON-RAPTORS: large woodpeckers, nighthawks, goatsuckers, gulls, terns, plovers, cuckoos, cranes, large bitterns or herons</td>
<td>8’ x 16’ x 8’</td>
<td>4’ kiddie pool (only for cranes, bitterns &amp; herons) and perching structure</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>AVIAN, RAPTORS: small to medium hawks &amp; owls, Cooper’s hawks, sharp-shinned hawks, broad winged hawks, merlins, kestrels, screech-owls, saw-whet owls, long-eared owls, short-eared owls, barn owls</td>
<td>8’ x 16’ x 8’</td>
<td>perching structure</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>AVIAN, RAPTORS: large owls, barred owls, great horned owls</td>
<td>10’ x 30’ x 8’</td>
<td>perching structure</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>AVIAN, RAPTORS: large hawks and vultures, red-tailed hawks, red-shouldered hawks, rough-legged hawks, northern harrier, goshawk, black vultures, turkey vultures</td>
<td>10’ x 30’ x 10’</td>
<td>perching structure</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>AVIAN, RAPTORS: large falcons, and other extra-large raptors, peregrine falcons, gyrfalcon, eagles, osprey, snowy owls</td>
<td>16’ x 90’ x 16’</td>
<td>perching structure</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>MAMMALS, OUTSIDE PRE-RELEASE: tree or ground squirrels</td>
<td>4’ x 6’ x 4’ ground squirrels 4’ x 8’ x 8’ tree squirrels</td>
<td>single animal cage sizes. 1 square foot needs to be added for each additional animal.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>MAMMALS, OUTSIDE PRE-RELEASE: opossums, skunks</td>
<td>4’ x 8’ x 6’</td>
<td>single animal cage sizes. 1 square foot needs to be added for each additional animal.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>MAMMALS, OUTSIDE PRE-RELEASE: fox, raccoon, badger</td>
<td>8’ x 8’ x 6’</td>
<td>single animal cage size. 2 square feet needs to be added for each additional animal.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>MAMMALS, OUTSIDE PRE-RELEASE: beaver, river otter</td>
<td>6’ x 12’ x 6’</td>
<td>single animal cage sizes. 2 square feet needs to be added for each additional animal. Also include swimming area, 6’ pool, tank or pond, deeper than 2’</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
WILDLIFE REHABILITATION PERMITS
(SOURCE ODW & OWRA)

PERMIT HOLDERS, SUB-PERMITTEES, AND VOLUNTEERS
Wildlife rehabilitation and the development of wildlife rehabilitation facilities usually requires cooperative relationships among wildlife rehabilitators working in a geographic area, including sharing of expertise, division and specialization of work, and sharing of limited resources such as housing, equipment, money, veterinary services and administrative services. Wildlife rehabilitators in a geographic area who coordinate their efforts are less likely to compete for limited resources, more likely to fund-raise effectively, more likely to provide a broader range of services for that geographic area, and are likely to have more options available to provide better care for wildlife.

Accordingly, wildlife rehabilitators should not apply for permits to provide services which are already effectively provided by other wildlife rehabilitation facilities within a geographic area but should instead work with those wildlife rehabilitation facilities or they should apply for permits to provide wildlife rehabilitation services which are not otherwise already provided for in that geographic area.

Naming wildlife rehabilitators as volunteers or as sub-permittees by a permit holder is recognized as an effective means of building cooperative relationships among wildlife rehabilitators to better serve a geographic area, and as an effective means to supervise the activities of wildlife rehabilitators working in a geographic area. Permit holders are responsible for the supervision of their volunteers and ensuring sub-permittees have all proper equipment and caging to rehabilitate animals at a location other than the permit holder’s facility. A copy of the current rehabilitation permit must be provided annually to each sub-permittee. Only persons listed on the permit are recognized as legitimate “sub-permittees.” If the permit holder wishes to add or delete sub-permittees, it is the permit holders responsibility to request the change in writing from the Division for processing.

A wildlife rehabilitator who possesses wildlife for a permit holder at a site other than the permit holder’s wildlife rehabilitation facility for over 48 hours must be named as a sub-permit holder. Wildlife must be received at the permit holder’s facility prior to being moved to a sub-permittee’s facility. A sub-permittee shall not accept wildlife from the public for direct admission into their own facility.

A volunteer or wildlife rehabilitator who works at the permit holder’s wildlife rehabilitation facility or who only rescues and transports wildlife for delivery to that wildlife rehabilitation facility does not need to be listed as a sub-permittee.

A permit holder who wishes to list wildlife rehabilitators working within his or her geographic area as sub-permittees should do the following:

1. Develop a written policy outlining the qualifications, training, selection and monitoring of sub-permittees.
2. Designate the animals that a sub-permittee is authorized to possess.
3. Be familiar with the facilities of the sub-permittee and assure that the sub-permittee’s facilities are in compliance with the Division of Wildlife rules and conditions of the permit holder’s permit.
4. Designate the duties that a sub-permittee is authorized to do.
5. Provide a written listing to the Division of Wildlife of the names, addresses and telephone numbers of all sub-permittees, and notify the Division of any changes to such listing.
6. Provide a copy of the current year’s rehabilitation permit to each sub-permittee. The permit is two-sided with the sub-permittees names listed on the back.
CONTINUING EDUCATION  
(source ODW)
While there is no continuing education requirement required to renew a rehabilitation permit, you are strongly encouraged to enhance your rehabilitation skills by participating in formal training, workshops, conferences, and by reading professional journals/newsletters/articles.

TELEPHONE NUMBER  
(source ODW)
The Division believes each permit holder has an obligation, as a wildlife steward, to both provide care for orphaned or injured wildlife and to inform and educate the person who is seeking the rehabilitators assistance. Wildlife rehabilitators must provide a telephone number on their permit application which can be made available to other wildlife rehabilitators, Division personnel, local law enforcement, and animal care facilities seeking assistance with an orphaned or injured wild animal. The number does not have to be the direct line of the permit holder. However, it must be a telephone number of a person experienced in responding to rehabilitation questions and who will provide appropriate personal assistance to the caller.

ADDITIONAL PERMITS  
(source ODW)
There are several activities which require supplemental authorization for rehabilitation. These include avian species, endangered avian and/or mammal species.

Persons wishing to rehabilitate avian species must obtain the necessary U.S. Fish & Wildlife Service permit(s) and provide a copy to the Division for their state permit file.

For state and/or federally endangered avian and/or mammal species a supplemental letter permit is required in addition to the rehabilitation permit and must be requested in writing from the Chief of the Division. Each request will be evaluated on a case-by-case bases. Following a review of the permit holders qualifications, on-site caging, proximity to other authorized rehabilitators, and dialogue with the District Wildlife Management Supervisor the request will be considered. Applicants will be notified in writing of the outcome of their request. Authorized permit holders will be issued a supplemental letter permit from the Chief. Any violation or variation from the stated restrictions and conditions of these letter permits may result in termination of the permit.

While bobcats, bald eagles, osprey, peregrine falcons, trumpeter swans, and barn owls are no longer endangered species, the Division wants to be involved in decisions concerning the rehabilitation of these species. For this reason, only persons with permits to handle state endangered and/or federally listed species should accept these species for rehabilitation.

COMMERCIAL PROPAGATION LICENSE  
(source ODW)
Persons conducting wildlife rehabilitation shall not sell, barter, or trade native wildlife species. Wildlife that are being rehabilitated for release back in to the wild shall not be housed at the same location where a licensed commercial propagator is operating.
FINANCIAL RESPONSIBILITY (source OWRA)

Wildlife rehabilitation shall be done only on a not-for-profit basis, but any wildlife rehabilitation facility may accept donations from persons presenting wildlife to it. **Accepting wildlife for rehabilitation should not be conditional upon the receipt of a donation.** A wildlife rehabilitation facility may also consider soliciting funds from its community through education programs, memberships, corporate solicitations, fund-raising events and grants, and such fund-raising is in fact recommended as a means to increase public awareness of and a sense of commitment to both such wildlife rehabilitation facility and wildlife.

Wildlife Rehabilitation facilities which have applied for and received tax-exempt charitable status from the IRS are subject to numerous regulations and reporting requirements concerning their governance and use of funds. Accordingly, the IRS allows corporations, foundations and individuals to make tax-deductible contributions to tax-exempt charity. A wildlife rehabilitation facility which is not such a tax-exempt charity shall not lead the public to believe that the facility is a tax-exempt charity, and shall inform persons and/or organizations which make donations to it that such donations are not tax-deductible charitable contribution.

All wildlife rehabilitation facilities shall comply with all laws governing charitable solicitations required by the Ohio Attorney General, the Internal Revenue Service, and local charitable solicitations laws, and should comply with charitable solicitation standards prescribed by the Better Business Bureau to the extent they may apply to such facility. IRS Form 990 annual reports should be kept on site in accordance with Internal Revenue Service regulations for tax-exempt organizations required to file them.

Whether or not a wildlife rehabilitation facility is a tax-exempt charity, if it solicits people as members or volunteers it shall make available for its members and volunteers written organizational structure that defines how policy is developed, what establishes membership, the governing body, and the hierarchy for decision-making. This may be represented by policy manuals, a code of regulations, constitution, by-laws, etc.

RECORDING REQUIREMENTS (source NWRA & IWRC)

Records are a vital part of any rehabilitation program, and are particularly important when trying to learn from previous work in an effort to improve the care given to wildlife. Record-gathering information has been placed into two categories: required information and recommended information. Records should be kept on all wild animals. Formats will vary from organization to organization. Records can be consolidated for healthy litters or clutches of animals raised for release. Daily forms for animals by pen, enclosure, or cage are required to verify that food, medications, and care is being provided. Statistics should conform to specifications listed below.

### REQUIRED INFORMATION
- Species
- Date admitted
- Name/address/phone number of finder
- Presenting injury/problem
- Final disposition
- Federal band number, where applicable

### RECOMMENDED INFORMATION
- Physical examination data
- Initial weight
- Release weight
- Data regarding surgery, clinical pathology, necropsy, histopathology *(where applicable)*
- Treatment information

YEAR END REPORT (source ODW)

In an effort to reduce paperwork for wildlife rehabilitators, revisions were made to the “Year End Report” portion of the permit process. For avian species, submit a copy of your federal annual report. Please utilize the following format for reporting mammals, reptiles, and amphibians. This form should streamline your reporting requirements by allowing you to summarize information by species.
SUMMARY

- All applicants for a Category I Wildlife Rehabilitation Permit must be eighteen years of age at the time of application.

- All applicants for a Category I Wildlife Rehabilitation Permit must provide documentation that they have completed a Division of Wildlife approved rehabilitation course conducted by the Ohio Wildlife Rehabilitators Association (OWRA) or another approved entity.

- Applicants that have at least three years of rehabilitation experience as a Category I rehabilitator or equivalent may apply for a Category II Rehabilitation permit. The Chief or his designee shall approve new Category II applicants as needed to fulfill the rehabilitation needs of a county or geographical region.

- All applicants for a Category I or Category II Wildlife Rehabilitation Permit must provide signed verification of veterinary assistance (DNR 8960 provided).

- All Category I and Category II Wildlife Rehabilitators shall comply with the conditions set forth in the permit and provide proper facilities for the animals in their care. All cage and holding facilities shall meet the minimum standards as outlined in this Publication 5475, Minimum Standards for Wildlife Rehabilitation in Ohio.

- All Category I and Category II Wildlife Rehabilitators shall keep a record of all animals by species which are held for rehabilitation. Records shall include the location the animal was found, the date the wild animal was received, the issue causing a need for rehabilitation, and the date and location where the wild animal was released, or its final disposition if not released. All records must be maintained for a period of two years and shall be open for inspection by any Division of Wildlife personnel. All rehabilitation facilities will be inspected by the Division of Wildlife a minimum of once every two years.

- Persons holding a Category I Wildlife Rehabilitation Permit may rehabilitate injured and orphaned wild animals, except deer, bobcats, raccoons, weasels, skunks, mink, opossums, badgers, beaver, raptors, canids, bats, mute swans and state or federal endangered species.

- Persons holding a Category II Wildlife Rehabilitation Permit may rehabilitate all species of wild animals except deer, coyote, bobcats, mute swans, or state or federal endangered species unless otherwise approved by the chief of the Division of Wildlife.

- Wild animals that are not candidates for release to the wild, but may be a good representative of the species, may be transferred to licensed education facilities upon approval from the Division of Wildlife. Additional approvals may be required by the USFWS for migratory birds and Federally listed species.

- Category I and Category II Wildlife Rehabilitation Permits are not valid for the possession of Dangerous Wild Animals as defined in Chapter 935.01 of the Revised Code except for injured or orphaned timber rattlesnakes, Eastern massasaugas and bobcats held for rehabilitation purposes only.

- Wild animals that are being improperly cared for may be removed by any Wildlife Officer. Written notice to the holder of a Wildlife Rehabilitation Permit may be given that his or her permit is being revoked until the conditions of the facility or the care and handling deficiencies are corrected.
RELEASE STANDARDS  (source ODW/OWRA)
Wildlife must be released within 180 days unless otherwise authorized by the Wildlife Officer and where it is legal to release wildlife. It is preferable that all animals be returned to the site where found for release. In counties where permitted, rehabilitated raccoons must be released back into the same township where they were picked up. If this is impossible, the raccoon must be euthanized.

NON-RELEASABLE  (source ODW)
Rehabilitators shall not sustiane the life of any wild animal that cannot after medical management feed itself, or one that has an impairment that prevents it from standing, perching upright, or moving about without inflicting additional injury to itself. Further, any bird that has sustained injuries requiring amputation of a wing at the elbow (humero-ulnar joint) or above, a leg or foot, and/or are blind in both eyes must be euthanized. Non-releasable wildlife, with no visible signs of injury, deformity, or amputation may be transferred to a licensed education facility. Contact the OWRA or visit their website at www.owra.org for more information on animal placement. If the animal is unable to be permanently placed with a licensed education facility within a reasonable period of time it must be euthanized.

ENDANGERED SPECIES  (source ODW)
If you receive an orphaned or endangered species or are called concerning an orphaned or injured endangered species, IMMEDIATELY (within 24 hours) contact the Wildlife Officer assigned to your county and the District Wildlife Management Supervisor. Inform them of any details you know about the animal (such as, extent of injury, when, and where it was found). Remember to leave your contact information, the date, and time of your call.

We appreciate your assistance in the conservation of endangered species. There are several rehabilitators around the state who have permits to handle endangered species and the Wildlife Officer or District Wildlife Management Supervisor can help coordinate the transport of endangered species.

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Wildlife District</th>
<th>Wildlife Supervisor</th>
<th>Telephone Number</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>District 1</td>
<td>Gary Comer (acting sup.)</td>
<td>(614) 644-3925</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>District 2</td>
<td>Bob Ford</td>
<td>(419) 424-5000</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>District 3</td>
<td>Scott Peters</td>
<td>(330) 644-2293</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>District 4</td>
<td>Jim Hill</td>
<td>(740) 589-9930</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>District 5</td>
<td>Brett Beatty</td>
<td>(937) 372-9261</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

STATE ENDANGERED SPECIES

STATE ENDANGERED TERRESTRIAL SPECIES PROTECTED UNDER OHIO REVISED CODE 1531.25

BIRDS: American bittern, Northern harrier, King rail, Sandhill crane, Piping plover (*E), Common tern, Black tern, Loggerhead shrike, Kirtland’s warbler (*E), Lark sparrow, Snowy egret, Cattle egret, and Upland sandpiper

MAMMALS: +Black bear, Indiana myotis (*E), and Allegheny woodrat*

REPTILES: Copperbelly water snake (*T), Plains gartersnake, Timber rattlesnake, Eastern massasauga (*SC), and Smooth greensnake

AMPHIBIANS: Eastern hellbender (*SC), Cave salamander, Blue-spotted salamander, Green salamander, and Eastern spadefoot

* Indicates an Additional Federal Status Designation
+ Black bear (*Ursus americanus*) shall not be rehabilitated and must be euthanized
NUISANCE ANIMALS (source ODW)
Wildlife, such as raccoons, which have been live-trapped by a “Nuisance Trapping Permit Holder” or by
the property owner due to a nuisance situation cannot be accepted for rehabilitation. There may be times
when dealing with the public, a rehabilitator must determine if the animal is “abandoned” or “orphaned.”
Simplifying the scenario (e.g., no rehabilitation of raccoons from chimneys/attics/porches/garages) is the
most straightforward approach and will take the subjectivity out of the decision. When dealing with the
public, ask for details of the situation to assist in objectively assessing if an animal has been abandoned
because of a purposeful action by the homeowner or are actually “orphaned” because of a natural event.
If the situation suggests the young were abandoned then the person can try to reunite (e.g., release the
young on site) or have them euthanized. Animals abandoned because of a purposeful action by the home-
owner may not be rehabilitated. Young from adults trapped or captured as nuisance animals shall not be
accepted for rehabilitation. Under Ohio Administrative Code 1501:31-15-03, ALL raccoons, skunks, coyotes,
fox and opossums trapped or captured under authority of the Nuisance Wild Animal Regulation must be
euthanized by the Nuisance Trapping Permit Holder or property owner NOT given to or accepted by a
rehabilitator. If a nuisance trapper attempts to give you any animal for rehabilitation, please contact the
Wildlife Officer assigned to your county or District Wildlife Management Supervisor as soon as possible.

INVASIVE NON-NATIVE FREE-RANGING TERRESTRIAL VERTEBRATE (source ODW)
In August 2008 the Division of Wildlife implement Policy #41 entitled, “Invasive Non-native Free-ranging
Terrestrial Vertebrate.” This policy outlines the agency's position concerning the potential negative impacts
of non-native species and the need for their control.

It is the policy of the Division of Wildlife to humanely dispatch invasive non-native free-ranging terrestri-
al vertebrates found on Division owned or managed lands. The Division will strongly encourage other
land-managing agencies to also eliminate these species from their lands. The “American Veterinary Med-
ical Association’s 2013 Edition Guidelines For Euthanasia” will continue to be the standard followed by the
Division of Wildlife to humanely euthanize terrestrial vertebrates. In addition the Division discourages the
rehabilitation of any invasive non-native terrestrial species and specifically prohibits the rehabilitation of
mute swans, red-eared or yellow bellied sliders, and European wall lizards. These species must
be euthanized.

Due to physical and environmental barriers, wildlife are often restricted in their ability to migrate and pop-
ulate new areas. However, many species are being transported by people for commercial or personal
use while others are introduced inadvertently as hitchhikers on vehicles or ships. The majority of these
species do not become established in the wild. However, they occupy areas where their natural predators
do not exist and may have a substantial advantage over native species. If they become established these
nonnative invasive free-ranging terrestrial species can and do out compete and displace native wildlife.
Two examples include 1) the mute swan which competes with the trumpeter swan in wetland areas and is
a vector for several strains of avian influenza and 2) the European wall lizard which has established a re-
producing population along the Ohio River near downtown Cincinnati and is spreading westward displacing
native skinks.

The release and/or escape of unwanted reptiles and amphibians is difficult to control or prevent. Howev-
er, if non-native species are found in the wild and can be eliminated before they become established we
can minimize their effect. The red-eared slider is a non-native turtle common in the pet trade and more
frequently found in isolated wetlands in the Oak Openings. If individual turtles are removed and humanly
euthanized they will not establish and displace more sensitive species such as the native spotted turtle. In
2000 the Division adopted rules and regulations prohibiting release of captive reptiles and amphibians to
prevent disease transmission to wild populations. This is primarily a deterrent to people who might have
otherwise released unwanted animals into the wild. The rule facilitates our ability to prosecute if a person is
caught releasing an animal or if the animal is later found and their owner identified by the implanted passive
integrated transponder (PIT) number.
DIVISION OF WILDLIFE’S POSITION ON KNOWN & EMERGING DISEASES IN WILDLIFE

The Division of Wildlife utilizes a five-pronged approach to address known and emerging wildlife disease issues. This approach focuses on 1) preventing diseases before Ohio’s wildlife are affected; 2) detecting diseases in wildlife that emerge; 3) diagnosing and identifying diseases; 4) monitoring outbreaks of diseases in wildlife; and 5) managing these diseases in wildlife. The DOW also puts significant effort into informing and educating Ohioans about the Division’s role and authority in addressing disease issues and in disseminating factual information about diseases that impact or potentially affects Ohio’s wildlife populations.

Under Ohio Revised Code 1531.04(A) the Division is directed to plan and implement programs and policies based on the best available information, including biological information derived from professionally accepted practices for the benefit of the wildlife resource. Maintaining healthy wildlife populations is the most basic function of the Division. Species which are abundant like the white-tailed deer, mallards, or Canada geese could be locally reduced in numbers or vigor from a known or an emerging disease. The threat of a known or an emerging disease in wildlife could be devastating to endangered species with limited populations.

WHITE-NOSE SYNDROME

In March 2011, the first case of White-nose syndrome (WNS) was confirmed in an abandoned mine on the Wayne National Forest in Lawrence County, Ohio. The disease was first confirmed in the United States during the winter of 2006-07 when the New York Department of Environmental Conservation found dead and dying bats in caves in New York State. Since 2006, it has been estimated that WNS has killed over 6 million bats. The disease has spread quickly and is now confirmed in 25 other states and 5 Canadian Provinces.

WNS is caused by a cold-loving fungus, *Pseudogymnoascus destructans* (PD). Although PD in different life stages can be found year-round on infected bats (sometimes only visible through a microscope), the disease is most obvious during cold winters while the bats are hibernating. Characteristic signs of WNS include the white fungus on the muzzles and other parts of affected bats, as well as bats flying during the day during cold winter weather. Ohio has experienced the rapid spread of the disease since the winter of 2011-2012 and has now confirmed in 18 counties to include 5 counties added in 2012 (Geauga, Summit, Cuyahoga, Portage, and Preble), 10 counties added in 2013 (Medina, Jefferson, Union, Wayne, Ashland, Athens, Clinton, Madison, Warren, and Sandusky), and confirmations last winter (2013-2014) in Hocking and Franklin counties.

If you receive any live, sick, or injured bat from **November 15th to April 1st** the individual should be **immediately humanely euthanized** through cervical dislocation, preserved in a double zip-lock bag, labeled (with location found, date, and contact information for person submitting bat), and then refrigerated. **Within 24 hours** of receiving specimens, contact the Division’s Bat Biologist (Jennifer Norris, 614.265.6349 or email jennifer.norris@dnr.state.oh.us). **From April 1st to November 15th** if you receive bats with apparent signs of WNS, **humanely euthanize** the bats and contact Jennifer Norris.

Bats within the *Myotis* family are difficult to differentiate, therefore before euthanizing, be certain to identify the specimen to species. If the species is an Indiana bat (*Myotis sodalis*), a federally endangered species, northern-long eared bat (*Myotis septentrionalis*) a federal candidate species, or if you are uncertain of the species identification the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Columbus Field Office Endangered Species Coordinator (Angela Boyer, 614.416.8993 ext 21) must be contacted before the individual is euthanized.

In addition to euthanizing bats with signs of WNS or during the winter, **any** time a bat is handled or taken into a rehabilitation facility the U.S. Fish and Wildlife **decontamination** protocols must be followed. Visit [http://www.fws.gov/WhiteNoseSyndrome/](http://www.fws.gov/WhiteNoseSyndrome/) for updated materials and for supplemental documents that explain the decontamination procedures. Visit [http://bit.ly/WhiteNoseSyndrome](http://bit.ly/WhiteNoseSyndrome) for updates and information on WNS in Ohio.

The scope of bat mortality associated with the white-nose syndrome epizootic is unprecedented in recent history. The fast rate of WNS spread across the country, the high rate of mortality, and the previously unknown causal fungal pathogen (PD), have made this a challenging wildlife disease event.
RABIES-VECTOR SPECIES

Rabies-vector species include raccoon, fox, bats, and skunks.

Only licensed Category II wildlife rehabilitators may raise orphaned or provide care to injured rabies-vector species.

All Category II rehabilitators must provide the date of their most recent pre-exposure vaccination and/or antibody titer and acknowledge the risk of handling these species on the permit application.

Rabies-vector species must be held for a minimum of 65 days without sign of illness before being released.

All sick appearing non-juvenile rabies-vector species shall be euthanized.

Unless otherwise instructed by your local health department, all rabies-vector species which die or are euthanized shall be submitted within twenty-four hours to the local health department for rabies testing.

Raccoon originating from Ashtabula, Belmont, Carroll, Columbiana, Cuyahoga, Geauga, Harrison, Jefferson, Lake, Mahoning, Monroe, Portage, Summit, and Trumbull counties cannot be rehabilitated and must be euthanized. In the remaining 74 counties, raccoons must be euthanized or held for 65 days with no sign of disease before being released. If held for 65 days, the wildlife must be released in the same county and township in which they were originally obtained. In addition to raccoons, all other rabies-vector species, including but not limited to, bats and fox must be euthanized or held for 65 days with no sign of disease before being released. Once held for 65 days, the animals must be released in the same county and township in which they were originally obtained. If this is not possible, then they must be euthanized.

All rehabilitators handling rabies-vector species shall complete a training course (or equivalent certification) for handling rabies-vector species offered by the OWRA or other approved organization.

If bitten by a rabies-vector species or potentially exposed to rabies, you must immediately (within 24 hours) call the local health department to report the incident and submit the animal for testing, as well as seek medical attention.

All Category II rehabilitators shall discuss the risks associated with handling rabies-vector species with all volunteers and subpermittees who assist with wildlife rehabilitation at their facility.

CONTROL OF DISEASES TRANSMISSIBLE FROM ANIMAL TO ANIMAL

1. The efficiency of cleaning should be incorporated into the design of cages and pens. Seamless, non-porous materials should be employed for cage construction and food containers.

2. Animal enclosures should be kept sanitary by having an adequate and routine cleaning regimen in which responsibilities are clearly defined and assigned to personnel. Before a newly-acquired animal is introduced into a cage or enclosure that has previously been used by another animal, the cage must be thoroughly cleaned and disinfected and the bedding material changed.

3. Animals having contagious diseases must be kept isolated from all non-infected susceptible animals. Newly acquired animals should be housed separately upon arrival. They should not be added to a group pen until it has been established that they are in good health (i.e., ten to thirty days). **RVS that are being accepted from different locations/townships should be marked in such a manner to differentiate individuals when housed in the same enclosure.** Marking method is at the discretion of the rehabilitator but must remain visible/detectable through the rehabilitation period to facilitate the efficient return of the animals to the appropriate township for release. **Unmarked animals from different locations must not be housed together.** A routine examination for parasites should be performed on new arrivals, with reexamination at intervals during protracted rehabilitation.

4. Animal diets must be prepared and foodstuffs should be stored under sanitary conditions that are free from vermin and microbial contamination.
STANDARDS GOVERNING THE PREVENTION OF DISEASE TRANSMISSION WITHIN THE REHABILITATION FACILITY
(source ODW, NWRA/IWRC, & OWRA)

1. Clothing should be clean and changed as often as necessary. It is suggested that the facility provide lab coats or other tops to volunteers and launder them.

2. Shoes and boots should be kept clean.

3. Disposable gloves and surgical masks must be available for use during such procedures as necropsies or cleaning contaminated animal quarters.

4. Lavatory facilities should be accessible. This is especially true of handwashing sinks.

5. Eating, drinking and smoking should be restricted to designated areas free of animal waste materials.

6. The supervisory staff must, as a part of their training, be given basic information on zoonoses. Personal hygiene rules should be established and the supervisory staff should set an example.

7. All personnel should be advised to seek the consent of their physicians before working in the facility. They should acquire any necessary vaccinations (especially tetanus). If working with mammals, they should inquire about the possibility of pre-exposure rabies vaccinations. Female personnel who become pregnant should be advised to renew medical consent.

8. Necropsy procedures must adhere strictly to sanitary practices including the use of surgical masks and disposable gloves, appropriate outer garments, and the use of disinfectants.

9. There must be separate refrigeration facilities for food and for post-mortem specimens.

10. The veterinarian assisting a wildlife rehabilitation facility should direct the wildlife rehabilitation facility as to the proper disposal of carcasses.

11. A wildlife rehabilitation facility should use discretion when allowing children, persons with weakened immune systems, or women who are pregnant or considering becoming pregnant to handle any animals or work within the animal care areas of the wildlife rehabilitation facility. In no event should a Category II Facility allow such persons to have access to diseased wildlife.

12. Residences where children, persons with weakened immune systems, or women who are pregnant or considering becoming pregnant live should not be used as wildlife rehabilitation facilities.

13. Any permit holder who possesses rabies vector species for rehabilitation should have possession of and comply with Procedures and Guidelines for Wildlife Rehabilitators Who Are Authorized to Handle Rabies-Vector Species written by Laura J. Simon.

14. All wildlife rehabilitators should have current tetanus inoculations.

15. If you, or a sub-permittee, or volunteer is bitten by a rabies-vector species or otherwise potentially exposed to rabies; immediately (within 24 hours) call your local health department to report the incident and submit the animal for testing, as well as seek medical attention.

OTHER PUBLIC HEALTH RESPONSIBILITIES

1. All organic refuse must be collected into airtight bags or containers and stored in a safe location until removal from the premises. The supervisory staff is responsible to local public health officials on matters regarding waste and post-mortem material disposal.

2. Indoor facilities are required to have efficient ventilation and air movement.

3. Domestic animals should not be allowed on the premises. However, if they are, they should be fully vaccinated and must have no direct contact with wildlife.

4. A program for rodent & insect control is recommended for wildlife care facilities. However, care should be taken to avoid contaminating food or housing areas with pesticides.
STATE WILDLIFE OFFICERS BY COUNTY
Go to wildohio.gov for current state wildlife officer assignments in your county.

ADAMS Scott Cartwright (937) 372-5639 ext5205
ALLEN Craig Barr (419) 429-8379
ASHLAND Brennan Earlck (330) 245-3044
ASHTABULA Jason Warren (330) 245-3036
ATHENS Allen Patton (740) 589-9880
AUGLAIZE Mark Schemmel (937) 372-5639 ext5218
BELMONT Brian Baker (740) 589-9881
BROWN Eric Lamb (937) 372-5639 ext5220
BUTLER Aaron Ireland (937) 372-5639 ext5207
CARROLL Kyle Queer (330) 245-3048
CHAPPELL Jeffrey Tipton (614) 902-4209
CLARK Byron Rice (937) 372-5639 ext5212
CLERMONT Gus Kielbel (937) 372-5639 ext5209
CLINTON Matt Roberts (937) 372-5639 ext5206
COLUMBIA Jesse Janosik (330) 245-3039
COSHOCTON Jerrod Allison (740) 589-9982
CRAWFORD Jason Parr (419) 429-8380
CUYAHOGA Ryan Donnelly (330) 245-3033
DARKE Jeff Wenning (937) 372-5639 ext5208
DEFIANCE Matthew Smith (419) 429-8381
DELAWARE Maurice Irish (614) 902-4221
ERIE Kevin Good (419) 429-8382
FAIRFIELD Tony Zerkle (614) 902-4210
FAYETTE John Coffman (614) 902-4211
FRANKLIN Brad Kiger (614) 902-4212
FULTON Josh Zientek (419) 429-8383
GALLIA Roy Rucker (740) 589-9983
GEauga Scott Denamen (330) 245-3035
GREENE Matthew Hunt (937) 372-5639 ext5204
GUERNSEY Robby Williams (740) 589-9984
HAMILTON Ryan Schock (937) 372-5639 ext5217
HANCOCK Eric VonAlmen (419) 429-8384
HARDIN Ryan Kennedy (419) 429-8385
HARRISON Nick Turner (330) 245-3049
HENRY Troy Rieimund (419) 429-8386
HIGHLAND Jim Barnes (937) 372-5639 ext5214
HOCKING Chris Dodge (740) 589-9985
HOLMES Jeremy Carter (330) 245-3045
HURON Vacant (419) 429-8387
JACKSON Ted Witham (740) 589-9866
JEFFERSON Craig Porter (330) 245-3050
KNOX Michael Budd (614) 902-4213
LAKE Marino Pellegrini (330) 245-3034
LAWRENCE Darin Abbott (740) 589-9987
LICKING Patrick Muldovan (614) 902-4214
LOGAN Adam Smith (614) 902-4215
LORAIN Randy White (330) 245-3032
LUCAS Vacant (419) 429-8388
MADISON Matt Teders (614) 902-4216
MAHONING Tom Frank (330) 245-3038
MARION Chad Grote (614) 902-4217
MEDINA Eric Moore (330) 245-3043
MEIGS Chris Gilkey (740) 589-9988
MERCER Ryan Garrison (937) 372-5639 ext5210
MIAMI Jasmine Grossnickle (937) 372-5639 ext5215
MONROE Wes Feldner (740) 589-9989
MONTGOMERY Trent Weaver (937) 372-5639 ext5211
MORGAN Todd Stewart (740) 589-9990
MORROW Tyler Eldred (614) 902-4218
MUSKINGUM Jeffrey Berry (740) 589-9991
NOBLE Brad St. Clair (740) 589-9992
OTTAWA Reid Van Cleve (419) 429-8389
PAULDING Mike Ohrich (419) 429-8390
PERRY Eric Lane (740) 589-9993
PICKAWAY Josh Elster (614) 902-4219
PIKE Matt Van Cleve (740) 589-9994
PORTAGE Barry Hennig (330) 245-3040
PREBLE Brad Turner (937) 372-5639 ext5219
PUTNAM Jason Porinchok (419) 429-8391
RICHLAND Gregory Wasilewski (419) 429-8392
ROSS Bob Nelson (740) 589-9995
SANDUSKY Matthew Leibengood (419) 429-8393
SCIOIO Hollie Huthary (740) 589-9996
SENECA Austin Dickinson (419) 429-8394
SHELBY Tim Rourke (937) 372-5639 ext5213
STARK Mark Basinger (330) 245-3041
SUMMIT Daniel Shroyer (330) 245-3042
TRUMBULL Marty Cisine (330) 245-3037
TUSCARAWAS Wade Dunlap (330) 245-3047
UNION Josh Shields (614) 902-4220
VAN WERT Brad Bueing (419) 429-8395
VINTON Jared Abele (740) 589-9997
WARREN Jason Keller (937) 372-5639 ext5216
WASHINGTON Eric Bear (740) 589-9998
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WILLIAMS Thomas Kochert (419) 429-8396
WOOD Cody Klima (419) 429-8397
WYANDOT Vacant (419) 429-8398

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