



STATE OF ALABAMA
DEPARTMENT OF CONSERVATION AND NATURAL RESOURCES
WILDLIFE AND FRESHWATER FISHERIES DIVISION



64 North Union Street, Ste. 567
 P. O. Box 301456
 Montgomery, AL 36130-1456
 Phone: (334) 242-3465 Fax: (334) 242-3032
 www.outdooralabama.com

Wildlife Rehabilitators Application and Permit

Individual's Name: _____ Organization Name: _____

E-mail: _____ Phone: _____

Address: _____ City _____ Zip _____

This document serves as a permit for _____, to hold species described below in captivity for rehabilitation purposes only. Rehabilitators are required to comply with all current Alabama Wildlife regulations. Questions concerning Alabama regulations should be directed to Marianne Hudson at: marianne.hudson@dcnr.alabama.gov. Applicants are required to sign this permit and forward it to: M. Hudson, 128 Trillium Court, Wetumpka, AL, 36092. Facilities of each rehabilitator will be inspected before permit is issued and must meet the National Wildlife Rehabilitation Association (NWRA) caging and confinement standards. New permits are issued twice annually and are subject to cancellation at any time.

RELEASE:

I, _____ of _____
(Print name of rehabilitator) (Address)

do hereby remise, release, forever discharge, indemnify and hold harmless, and for my heirs, executors, administrators, and assigns do hereby remise, release, forever discharge, indemnify and hold harmless, the State of Alabama, the Department of Conservation and Natural Resources, the employees of the Department of Conservation and Natural Resources, and its successors and assigns, of and from any and all claims, liabilities, demands, rights, and causes of action of whatsoever kind and nature arising from or by reason of any and all known and unknown, foreseen and unforeseen bodily and personal injuries, damage to property, and the consequences thereof, resulting from the rehabilitation or release of wildlife on my property located in the following Alabama county or counties:

_____.

AGREEMENT:

I hereby take full responsibility for wildlife held by me in temporary captivity. I will report any diseased animal within 24 hours or the next business day after verification of the disease. I agree to: (1) not sell any game bird or animal; (2) not give any wildlife to any person or organization that does not have a current permit from the Alabama Department of Conservation and Natural Resources to rehabilitate or keep wildlife in captivity. Birds can be transferred between USFWS permitted migratory bird rehabilitators; (3) not release any furbearing animal more than 10 miles from its capture site or across any county lines or river systems; (4) release each rehabilitated animal at the earliest possible date in suitable habitat or euthanize animals that are not able to be rehabilitated; (5) allow the Alabama Department of Conservation and Natural Resources to provide my phone number and county location to individuals over the phone and through the Outdoor Alabama website; and (6) not hold or rehabilitate any species of wildlife for which I am not permitted.

SPECIES ACCEPTED FOR REHABILITATION: _____

Rehabilitators directly handling any rabies vector species (RVS) of wildlife must have the pre-exposure or post-exposure rabies vaccinations. Titer should be boosted if the endpoint value is <0.5 or the reciprocal of the titer is <1.5. Vaccinations are at no cost to the State of Alabama. RVS rehabilitators are solely responsible for financial obligations associated with obtaining the vaccinations.

AVAILABLE TO PICK UP ANIMALS? _____ Yes _____ No

Date of last tetanus _____ Date of rabies pre-exposure series _____
(required and must be within last 10 years) (required for raccoons, canids, bats and skunks)

Have you ever been arrested for violation of a wildlife law or animal cruelty? _____ Yes _____ No

My signature below indicates I have read and agree to comply with all tenets of the Alabama Wildlife Rehabilitation Permitting Policies, including caging and confinement requirements outlined by the NWRA, located at www.outdooralabama.com.

Signature of Applicant: _____ Date: _____

This permit valid from date signed until December 31, 20_____.

APPROVAL of District Wildlife Supervisor: _____

The Department of Conservation and Natural Resources does not discriminate on the basis of race, color, religion, age, gender, pregnancy, national origin, genetic information, veteran status, or disability in its hiring or employment practices nor in admission to, access to, or operations of its programs, services, or activities.

**ALABAMA DIVISION OF WILDLIFE AND FRESHWATER FISHERIES
WILDLIFE REHABILITATION PERMITTING POLICIES**

I. Permit Requirements

- A. A permit, authorized by the Alabama Department of Conservation and Natural Resources, Division of Wildlife and Freshwater Fisheries (WFF), is required before a person may rehabilitate wild animals. “Wild animals” are defined as all wild mammals (except wild pigs), reptiles, amphibians, and non-migratory birds such as turkey, quail, and grouse. Under the authority of a permit, a person may capture, receive, possess, care for, transport or transfer a wild animal within Alabama for the purposes of rehabilitation, release into the wild or euthanasia. No wild animals may be accepted from other states.
- B. Requirements for permit to rehabilitate wild animals. An applicant shall:
 - 1. Be an adult 19 years of age or older and legal resident of the United States.
 - 2. Specify the wild animals applicant desires to rehabilitate and possess appropriate facilities and equipment for caging and confinement as outlined in *Minimum Standards for Wildlife Rehabilitation (4th Edition)* published by the National Wildlife Rehabilitator’s Association (NWRA).
 - 3. A description of onsite outdoor enclosures, including dimensions and photos, must be submitted with application. Alternatively, photos may be submitted via e-mail to: marianne.hudson@dcnr.alabama.gov .
 - 4. Provide documentation of receiving a tetanus vaccination within the last 10 years.
 - 5. Read, understand and sign all documents associated with rehabilitation activities including:
 - a. Verification of receipt of policies.
 - b. Waiver and release of responsibility.
 - c. Alabama Wildlife Rehabilitator application.
 - d. Annual reports of wildlife intake and disposition.
- C. Permittee must allow for the Department to distribute their name and phone number to the public via publication online, in print, and via direct communication.
- D. Permittee must have sufficient knowledge of the type(s) of wild animal sought to be rehabilitated and familiarity with care and feeding requirements thereof.
- E. An applicant shall supply WFF with a copy of their permit issued by the USFWS to rehabilitate migratory birds. A permit issued by WFF to rehabilitate migratory birds will be issued and will be valid through the term of the USFWS permit. No section of these policies shall be taken to counter the policies set forth by the USFWS. Permittees must also comply with all applicable federal regulations and requirements for migratory bird rehabilitation.
- F. Wildlife rehabilitation permits are not issued to individuals who are holding wild animals in captivity illegally.

II. Permit Conditions

- A. WFF may elect to deny a permit despite general requirements being met if there is no demonstrated need for rehabilitators in the permittee’s area or for other reasons at the discretion of the Department.

- B. A Wildlife Rehabilitation permit from the Department does not exempt the permittee from complying with other state, federal, county, and city laws and regulations.
- C. Wild animals remain property of the state and do not become personal property of the permittee.
- D. Wildlife rehabilitation is a volunteer activity and WFF does not pay for nor is it responsible for any costs or damages incurred by a licensed rehabilitator.
- E. Wildlife rehabilitators may not charge for their services but may raise funds and accept donations.
- F. A Wildlife Rehabilitation permit authorizes a permittee to temporarily possess injured, diseased, oiled, or abandoned wild animals for the purposes of euthanasia or rehabilitation and successful release to the wild. Wild animals are to be held for the minimum amount of time required for disposition and not to exceed 180 days.
- G. Permittee may not capture, relocate, or pick up and transport healthy wild animals. Wild animals that are merely considered a nuisance by the public, or found unattended and not in need of rescue may not be possessed. This permit does not allow the permittee to interfere in cases of found wild animals that are not injured, diseased, or clearly in need of care. Threats from domestic pets or natural predators do not constitute a valid reason for assuming custody of a wild animal.
- H. Activities authorized by a wildlife rehabilitation permit shall be made only by the named permittee. Volunteers may assist the permittee at the permittee's authorized location. A permittee using volunteers shall keep on file an updated list of volunteers and their contact information.
- I. Permittee may not house wild animals offsite under the care of volunteers or others, and may not house animals at a location other than that listed on the approved application without express written permission from WFF.
- J. Permittee may transfer wild animals to other wildlife rehabilitators legally permitted to hold that species within the state of Alabama only.
- K. Wild animals may not be propagated.
- L. Wild animals may not sold, bartered, or exchanged for any consideration.
- M. Wild animals may not be collared, tagged, banded, or permanently marked before release other than federal bird bands applied to birds by a permitted bander.
- N. The numbers of wild animals allowed to be held under this permit shall be limited to and dependent upon the available approved caging and guidelines for such set forth by the NWRA *Minimum Standards for Wildlife Rehabilitation (4th Edition)*.
- O. Permittees or their volunteers may not represent themselves as agents of the Department and shall not enter privately owned property for the purposes of taking possession of wild animals unless authorized by the owner or custodian of the property.
- P. Permits expire on December 31st of their year of issuance. Permittees must submit annual reports by the following January 15th.

III. Facilities and Operating Standards

- A. "Facility" or "facilities" is defined as the location the rehabilitation takes place.
- B. The WFF will use the NWRA *Minimum Standards for Wildlife Rehabilitation; 4th Edition* as guidance to determine operating standards for wildlife rehabilitators. This publication is available for download or purchase online at: www.nwrwildlife.org
- C. Rehabilitators shall provide caging and confinement for wild animals in their care as published in *Minimum Standards for Wildlife Rehabilitation; 4th Edition*.
- D. Without exception, enclosures shall:
 - a. Be sufficiently separate from domestic animals and human living space.
 - b. Be inaccessible to the general public.
 - c. Be appropriate for the age, species and disability of each animal.
 - d. Be structurally sound and in good repair to protect the animals from injury, contain the animals securely, and prevent other animals from entering.
 - e. Allow sufficient space to allow each animal to make normal postural adjustments with adequate freedom of movement.
 - f. When outdoors, provide protection from the weather and access to sunlight.
- E. Adequate potable water and electrical power shall be available on the premises.
- F. Indoor facilities are not a substitute for outdoor facilities but rather a temporary holding area until animals are prepared for outdoor living.
- G. Indoor facilities shall be adequately temperature controlled with sufficient lighting and ventilation.
- H. Disposal of food, waste, bedding, dead animals, trash and debris must be in accordance with all applicable laws and regulations. All areas should be managed to minimize vermin infestation, odors and disease hazards.

IV. Animal Health and Care

- A. Food provided for the wild animals shall be appropriate to the species, age and ailment of the wild animal. Natural foods should be used whenever possible.
- B. Wild animals must be observed by an adult caretaker at least once every day.
- C. Handling of wild animals should be kept to a minimum, but when necessary shall be done in a way to prevent stress to the wild animal or harm to the handler.
- D. The WFF will use the *Minimum Standards for Wildlife Rehabilitation; 4th edition* as guidance to determine feeding and cleaning guidelines for rehabilitators.
- E. Rehabilitator is responsible for expenses incurred by veterinary visits.
- F. Wild animals should be housed with their own species and every effort should be made to minimize human contact to avoid imprinting and taming.
- G. Wild animals may not be used in educational presentations, except as allowed under the appropriate permit issued by WFF, USFWS, or the US Department of Agriculture. Wild animals cannot be handled by the public. USDA and WFF Exhibitor Permits are required for some educational exhibitions and to permanently hold animals in captivity for exhibition purposes. The purpose of the rehabilitation permit is to: 1) euthanize; or

2) rehabilitate and release wildlife back to the wild. Captivity permits for Special Purpose/Education with the intent of education or exhibition will be considered on a case-by-case basis and the WFF will retain all rights to the animal. USDA licenses are also required for permanent captives used in educational presentations. Contact the USDA Animal Care Office for federal exhibition licenses at:

USDA/APHIS/AC
920 Main Campus Drive Suite 200
Raleigh, NC 27606-5210
Phone: (919) 855-7100
Fax: (919) 855-7123

- H. Wild animals should not be permanently held in captivity under the wildlife rehabilitation permit issued by WFF. Wild animals must be released back to the wild as soon as the animal has recovered from its injury. Wild animals that cannot be released due to injury or imprinting must be euthanized.
- I. Wild animals may be transferred to other rehabilitation facilities at the discretion of the Department to facilitate optimum treatment and care.

V. Inspection of Facilities

The WFF may:

- A. Without prior notice, enter and inspect the facilities where operation under this permit occurs; this includes both indoor and outdoor areas: including within one's home, curtilage and vehicles.
- B. Inspect the records associated with activities regulated under this permit. Failure to maintain accurate records will be cause for cancellation of wildlife rehabilitation permits.
- C. Mandate reasonable facility changes or upgrades when deemed appropriate and when keeping with NWRA standards. Failure to make mandated changes within a specified time will be cause to cancel the wildlife rehabilitation permit.
- D. If inspection reveals a violation of regulations governing wild animal rehabilitation, wild animals are subject to be removed, relocated, released, or euthanized at the discretion of the Department.

VI. Diseases and Liability Release

- A. Wildlife Rehabilitators are required to sign a release of liability.
- B. Pre-exposure or post-exposure rabies vaccinations, or titer boosted if the endpoint value is <0.5 or the reciprocal of the titer is <1.5 is required to rehabilitate rabies vector species (RVS, i.e. raccoon, skunks, canids, and bats). **Only one facility will be permitted to rehabilitate RVS species in each of the 5 WFF districts.** Vaccinations will be done at the individual's expense. WFF is not responsible for any fees associated with rehabilitator vaccinations. Documentation of vaccination schedule must be submitted with permit application and proof of titer must be submitted every three years.
- C. Any wild animal suspected of rabies exposure is required to be euthanized, bagged and refrigerated for transfer to a state lab for testing. In the case of suspected rabies exposure, wild animals should not be euthanized by gunshot to the head or by any other

means that damages the brain. The suspected rabies vector should be transported to the state lab for testing within 24 hours or the next business day by the permitted rehabilitator. Any fees associated with rabies testing are the responsibility of the rehabilitator.

- D. Any wild animal with suspected or confirmed disease must be reported via email to: marianne.hudson@dcnr.alabama.gov, within 24 hours or the next business day.
- E. It should be noted that home owner's insurance may not cover wildlife rehabilitation activities and rehabilitators are encouraged to buy supplemental insurance for such activities.

VII. Release of Animals

- A. Allowing for suitable weather conditions, wild animals must be released within 7 days of when the following conditions are achieved:
 - 1. An orphaned animal has matured to the point that it has a reasonable chance of survival in the wild.
 - 2. An injured or sick animal has sufficiently recovered.
- B. Wild animals that are raised as orphans may only be cared for until they are of the generally accepted age for weaning and independence. Rehabilitators must be familiar with the development of species under their care and may not continue to hold captive those animals that have developed to the point of acceptable release age.
- C. Under this permit, any wild animal requiring more than 180 days of rehabilitative care will be euthanized unless direct and specific permission is granted in writing by the WFF.
- D. Wild animals are to be released in suitable habitat in their County of origin within 10 miles of their capture site.
- E. Wild animals may not be released in a location where the animal is likely to become a nuisance or depredation threat. If unable to determine an appropriate release location, contact WFF for assistance.
- F. Wild animals may not be released into enclosed or fenced areas that prevent it from leaving at will.
- G. Wild animals may not be fed, interacted with, or otherwise encouraged to stay in an area after release.
- H. Rehabilitators with permits to accept rabies vector species must release rehabilitated individuals within 10 miles of their capture site in the County of origin and not across rivers or other bodies of water.
- I. Landowner permission must be obtained for onsite release. Wild animals may not be released on public land.

VIII. Disposition of Non-releasable Animals

- A. Any wild animal that is deemed likely non-releasable upon intake shall be immediately euthanized or upon written approval from WFF, may be transferred to properly permitted individuals and facilities. The wild animal should be euthanized in accordance with techniques outlined in *Minimum Standards for Wildlife Rehabilitation; 4th Edition*.
- B. At any point in the rehabilitation process, a wild animal may be euthanized in accordance with the techniques outlined in *Minimum Standards for Wildlife*

Rehabilitation; 4th Edition.

- C. Captivity permits to hold wild animals as personal pets will not be issued.
- D. Captivity permits for Special Purpose/Education with the intent of education or exhibition will be considered on a case-by-case basis and the WFF will retain all rights to the animal. USDA licenses are also required for permanent captives used in educational presentations.

IX. Euthanasia

- A. Immediate euthanasia is required for a wild animal demonstrating the following conditions:
 - 1. Unable to recover from injuries or illness within 180 days of intake without express written permission to the contrary from WFF.
 - 2. Terminal illness.
 - 3. Imprinted on humans upon intake.
 - 4. Tamed or imprinted during the rehabilitation process.
 - 5. Blind in both eyes.
 - 6. Has more than one broken leg or other severe skeletal damage.
 - 7. Unable to assume normal body postures for an extended period of time.
 - 8. Unable to successfully perform natural behaviors in the wild.
 - 9. Experiencing unjustifiable stress while in captivity or because of rehabilitation procedures.
- B. Healthy wild animals may be euthanized at any time during the rehabilitation process unless that species is endangered, threatened, or a species listed in Nongame Species Regulation 220-2-.92.
- C. Licensed veterinarians may euthanize wild animals without a rehabilitation permit but may not possess, perform procedures on, or retain wild animals for rehabilitation unless they have been issued said permit or are treating wild animals already held on another's rehabilitation permit. If euthanizing migratory birds, veterinarians must abide by all associated federal regulations pertaining to such.
- D. Wild animals deemed non-releasable by the Department or wild animals that the Department considers to be experiencing excessive stress or suffering must be euthanized.
- E. Wild animals being held by wildlife rehabilitators in violation of any of the conditions of this permit may be confiscated and euthanized by the Department regardless of their health or condition.

X. Special Considerations

- A. An Alabama Wildlife Rehabilitator may not rehabilitate and release venomous reptiles (exceptions may be granted for threatened or endangered venomous reptiles) or wild pigs. Wild pigs must be euthanized. Contact marianne.hudson@dcnr.alabama.gov to discuss disposition of venomous reptiles.
- B. The WFF must be notified immediately upon intake of any injured, ill or orphaned Bald Eagle, Golden Eagle, Black Bear, Mountain Lion, American Alligator, Manatee or Cetacean. The WFF will take custody of and make arrangements for disposition of these species. Call: 334-303-3980 upon intake of these species.

- C. Rehabilitators must notify the Department within 12 hours of receipt of a Gopher Tortoise, Spotted Skunk, or Short-tailed Weasel. This notification should be completed via email sent to Marianne Hudson at:

marianne.hudson@dcnr.alabama.gov

Email notification must include the following information:

- Date and time of receipt of animal
- Date of animal's original capture
- Location of original capture including county, GPS coordinates, exact physical address or cross streets
- Reason for rehabilitation

The Department of Conservation will manage the disposition of these animals including their release site and release date. Release sites and dates will be coordinated by the Department based on the rehabilitation requirements for each specific animal. Do not release, transfer possession or dispose of deceased Gopher Tortoises or Spotted Skunks without coordinating specifics with Nongame Wildlife Program personnel of the Department of Conservation. If you receive an individual in need of immediate euthanasia, include that information in your initial notification email and await Department advice regarding disposal of carcass.

- D. Rehabilitators must contact WFF via email within 12 hours upon receipt of any other species listed as threatened or endangered.
- E. Wildlife Rehabilitators may not rehabilitate wild animals that originated in any other state and may not transport wild animals across state lines for any reason.
- F. Permittees are encouraged to report unlawful possession of wild animals to their corresponding District Office Enforcement Section in cases where the public is unwilling to relinquish wildlife.

Revocation

- A. The WFF may revoke a rehabilitation permit at its discretion for material breach including, but not limited to:
1. Violation of the procedures, terms and standards set forth as conditions of this permit.
 2. Violation of any State or Federal wildlife law or regulation.
- B. The Department may confiscate animals and handle animal disposition at their discretion.
- C. If a permit is revoked for material breach it will not be reissued for a minimum period of two years from the date of revocation.
- D. The Department may deny a permit renewal if the permittee has violated any of the provisions of the permit, regulations of the department, or federal or state wildlife laws.

INTAKE & DISPOSITION FORM

Attached you will find an INTAKE/DISPOSITION FORM that is required documentation of your wildlife rehabilitation activities. You may reproduce the form to provide as many copies as you need. Forms must be submitted to WFF by January 15 each year regardless of whether or not you choose to renew your Wildlife Rehabilitation Permit. Completed forms will not be returned to you and it is recommended that you make a copy of finalized documents if you wish to retain them for your files. Originals must be sent by mail to:

AL DCNR

Attn: Marianne Hudson

128 Trillium Court

Wetumpka AL 36092

Please note that there will be no reminders sent regarding due date and completed forms should reflect all rehab animals in your possession for any period of time.

INSTRUCTIONS FOR COMPLETING INTAKE & DISPOSITION FORM

- Each copy of the form must have your name and phone number
- Complete a line for each animal accepted into your possession
- Date recorded is the date animal came into your possession
- Species name need only be common name (deer, rabbit, etc.)
- Presenting Issue examples: orphaned, hit by car, cat attack, unknown, etc.
- County of Origin specifies the county where the animal was originally found
- Record each release date for each individual animal
- GPS coordinates or street address is **REQUIRED** information for location of raccoon, bat, fox, skunk, and canid releases (all rabies vectors)
- Forms are due by January 15 of each year.

Although the intention of this form is to represent the animals actually in your care, you may use the form to record the inquiries that you receive regarding animals that do not end up in your charge. This information is not required from you, but you may choose to use these forms to record information about rehab calls from the public even if it does not result in animal intake. For example: you may get a call about an “orphaned deer” and instruct the caller to place the animal back where it was found, or you may refer a caller to a rehabber closer to them. The result is no animal intake, but you may record this information on this form if you choose.



Alabama Division of Wildlife and Freshwater Fisheries

Rehabilitation Permit Intake and Disposition Report

January 1 thru December 31, 20_____

Name of Organization _____ Individual's Name _____

Phone Number: _____

Intake Date MM/DD/YY	Species Accepted	Presenting Issue	County of Origin	Disposition (✓)					County of Release	Date of Release	GPS Coordinates or Street Address of Release Site
				D. O. A.	Died	Euthanized	Released	Being held			

Return by January 15 to: AL DCNR Attn: Marianne Hudson, 128 Trillium Court, Wetumpka, AL, 36092
 Please attach document to a Wildlife Rehabilitation Permit and Application for renewal purposes

Alabama Wildlife and Freshwater Fisheries District Offices

District I Wildlife Supervisor
21453 Harris Station Road
Tanner, AL 35671
Phone: 256-353-2634

Counties: Blount, Colbert, Cullman,
Fayette, Franklin, Lamar, Lauderdale,
Lawrence, Limestone, Madison,
Marion, Morgan, Walker, Winston

District II Wildlife Supervisor
4101 Hwy 21 North
Jacksonville, AL 36265
Phone: 256-435-5422

Counties: Calhoun, Chambers, Cherokee,
Clay, Cleburne, Coosa, Dekalb, Etowah,
Jackson, Marshall, Randolph, St. Clair,
Talladega, Tallapoosa

District III Wildlife Supervisor
8211 McFarland Blvd
PO Box 305
Northport, AL 35476
Phone: 256-339-5716

Counties: Autauga, Bibb,
Chilton, Dallas, Greene, Hale,
Jefferson, Lowndes, Perry,
Pickens, Shelby, Sumter,
Tuscaloosa

District V Wildlife Supervisor
30571 Five Rivers Blvd
Spanish Fort, AL 36527
Phone: 251-626-5474

Counties: Baldwin, Butler,
Choctaw, Clarke, Conecuh,
Escambia, Marengo, Mobile,
Monroe, Washington, Wilcox



District IV Wildlife Supervisor
3520 Plaza Drive
Enterprise, AL 36330 Phone:
334-347-1298

Counties: Barbour, Bullock,
Coffee, Covington, Crenshaw,
Dale, Elmore, Geneva, Henry,
Houston, Lee, Macon, Lee,
Montgomery, Pike, Russell

WILDLIFE REHABILITATION:
AL DCNR
Attn: Marianne Hudson
128 Trillium Court
Wetumpka, AL 36092
334-303-3980