



MARK WILLIAMS  
COMMISSIONER

EDDIE HENDERSON  
COLONEL

**MEMORANDUM**

TO: Georgia Wildlife Rehabilitators

FROM: Special Permit Unit

SUBJECT: Wildlife Rehabilitation Renewals

Enclosed please find a Wildlife Rehabilitation License renewal application. Please fill out the renewal form enclosed **completely and legibly and mail to the Special Permit Unit.** This information is essential in maintaining a list of active rehabilitators and provides a means of contacting you when your services are needed. Be sure to indicate in the space provided on the renewal form the telephone number(s) you wish to have given for animal referrals. These numbers will be provided to the public, so please only provide numbers where an individual may reach you. Please do not provide numbers for which you are unable or do not wish to receive calls.

To ensure that there is no lapse in your permit, this renewal and report must be returned to the Special Permit office **no later than March 1, by mail.** Our receipt of this renewal and report will serve as your authorization to continue wildlife rehabilitation work after your permit expires. Your new permit will be issued as soon as possible, however, you should allow two to four weeks for your new license to be issued. **Return of this renewal and report shall be application for renewal of your permit, thus you will not receive any other renewal paperwork. Please submit a report even if you did not receive any animals for rehabilitation this year. Failure to meet the deadline may result in future rehabilitation permit denials.**

Please attempt to assess if an animal can be rehabilitated prior to spending valuable time, effort, and money. Some rehabilitators have shown a tendency toward saving the life of an animal no matter the extent of its injuries. This practice is contrary to the goal of rehabilitation, which is **to return sick, injured, and orphaned animals to the wild.** If you are presented with an animal whose injuries would preclude release – such as a bird whose wing must be amputated, a paralyzed squirrel, a fawn whose leg cannot be saved, or any animal blind in one or both eyes, – then humane euthanasia is the immediate and prescribed course of treatment. Other than endangered species, which you are not likely to encounter, wildlife populations in Georgia are stable, and unfortunately it is part of the natural order that not every individual will survive. Obviously, not all rehabilitation efforts will succeed, but sometimes it is more merciful that not all be attempted.

You should make every effort to avoid the imprintation of any animal. Imprintation is the condition that results when an animal comes to identify more with humans than with members of its own species. This can best be avoided by having **as little contact as possible** with animals being held for rehabilitation, while encouraging the animal to rely on itself whenever possible. You should make every effort with any animal to avoid having the animal associate humans with food. NWRA Minimum Standards do not allow rehabilitation animals to run loose in your home. An inherent fear of humans is essential for the successful release into the wild and continued survival of any rehab animal. Holding or petting an animal will do far more harm than good.

Please keep in mind that the public may attempt to give you animals for which you are not permitted. ***If at all possible, you should never take animals for rehabilitation that are not covered by your permit.*** If you take in an animal for which you are not permitted, you must transfer the animal to an appropriately licensed rehabilitator within 72 hours. If you have trouble finding one, call the Special Permit Unit for help. ***You may not take any regulated migratory bird for rehabilitation without a USFWS permit, and must have specific authorization on your state permit to accept birds, including raptors.*** It is imperative that you stay within the guidelines established by your permit.

You are reminded that your rehabilitation permit does not allow you to hold animals long-term. As soon as rehabilitation animals are able to survive on their own, they must be released into a suitable habitat (away from people, not a neighborhood). Sometimes, despite your best efforts, an animal may not recover sufficiently for release. In that case, you should coordinate with the Special Permit Unit to locate a suitable, licensed exhibition facility for permanent placement of the animal. Unless you are transferring an animal to another authorized rehabilitator, you do not have authority to transfer any animal to another person without ***prior*** express permission of the Special Permit Unit.

Finally, the first question you should ask a caller with “orphaned” wildlife is “How long have you had the animal?” If they have not held the animal for more than three days, and do not know ***for an absolute fact*** that the mother is dead, then they need to return the animal to the location where it was encountered as soon as possible. Well-meaning persons who think the mother has “abandoned” her young remove too many animals from the wild. We need your help in educating the public that this is not always the case. The best rehabilitator in the world cannot replace the upbringing in the wild provided by an animal’s mother.

We cannot issue a wildlife rehabilitation permit to a facility. Any freestanding facility such as a nature center or a wildlife rehabilitation center that wishes to rehabilitate wildlife must have a licensed wildlife rehabilitator on staff. The wildlife rehabilitation permit is an individual permit and can only be issued to individuals.

If you have any questions or problems regarding the completion of the forms or deadlines, please do not hesitate to call. Please feel free to contact the Special Permit Unit at (770) 761-3044 if you have any questions.

Department of Natural Resources  
Law Enforcement Division  
Special Permit Unit  
2070 U.S. Highway 278, S.E.  
Social Circle, Georgia 30025  
(770) 761-3044

**RENEWAL  
WILDLIFE REHABILITATION  
PERMIT**

(Use attachments if more space is needed for any item)

1. Applicant name: \_\_\_\_\_ DVM: \_\_\_\_\_

Address: \_\_\_\_\_

City: \_\_\_\_\_ State: \_\_\_\_\_ Zip: \_\_\_\_\_ County: \_\_\_\_\_

Email: \_\_\_\_\_

Home # \_\_\_\_\_ Cell # \_\_\_\_\_

\*Social Security Number (required) \_\_\_\_\_ \*Date of Birth (required) \_\_\_\_\_

\* Drivers License # \_\_\_\_\_ (Required)      **Customer Number:** \_\_\_\_\_

2. Specify classes or groups of wildlife you are qualified to care for (check appropriate box (s):

- Birds\***    **Raptors\***    **Deer**    **Small Mammals**    **Reptiles**  
 **\*USFWS Permit**                       **RVS**

\* **If migratory birds are to be rehabilitated, a USFWS permit is required. Please provide a copy with your application**

3. Address or **location** where wildlife **will be rehabilitated** (held): If Different from above:

\_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_ County \_\_\_\_\_

4. Describe facilities, equipment, and layout in detail:

\_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_

5. Write fully your experience, training, skills, etc. which meet requirements of DNR Regulation 391-4-9-.3:

\_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_

6. Name, address and telephone number of consulting veterinarian(s):

\_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_

7. Do you wish to be published on the Rehabilitation List on our website? Yes  or No

(If you do not wish to be on the list please leave blank):

**Daytime Phone #** \_\_\_\_\_ **Evening #** \_\_\_\_\_

O.C.G.A. § 16-10-20: "A person who knowingly and willingly makes a false, fictitious, or fraudulent statement...in any matter within the jurisdiction of any department or agency of state government...shall, upon conviction thereof, be punished by a fine of not more than \$1000 or by imprisonment for not less than one or more than five years, or both."

\_\_\_\_\_  
Date

\_\_\_\_\_  
Signature (in ink)



