



California Code of Regulations (CCR) Title 14 Section 679 Regulatory Rulemaking Process

1. WHY ARE PERMITS ISSUED TO A SINGLE PERSON VERSUS THE FACILITY -- AND WHOSE NAME SHOULD BE ON THE PERMIT IF THE FOUNDER IS NO LONGER IN PLACE?

CDFW's permitting system is only able to issue permits to individual people, not organizations or groups of people. The permittee should be the primary person who will be responsible for ensuring that wildlife rehabilitation activities are being performed in an appropriate manner. The permittee can also identify a "designated person" who will share this responsibility. Because permittees must be individuals, it is important to have a succession plan to identify who will take over and become the permittee for when the original permittee retires.

2. WILL WILDLIFE REHABILITATORS HAVE THE ABILITY TO HELP CDFW DEVELOP THE 679 WILDLIFE REHABILITATION EXAM – AND WILL STUDY MATERIALS BE MADE AVAILABLE?

If an existing facility hires a new individual who will become the permit holder, that individual will need to take and pass the examination. The examination webpage is in development. Materials to review for the examination will be provided in the 679 manual. There will be a review period for proposed exam format, questions, and reference materials as part of the 679-rule making process.

3. IS AN INDIVIDUAL REQUIRED TO HAVE 1,000 HOURS OF EXPERIENCE (QUALIFICATIONS) BEFORE - OR - AFTER APPLYING FOR A NATIVE WILDLIFE REHABILITATION PERMIT?

The current 679 regulation requires 400 hours of relevant experience to apply for a wildlife rehabilitation permit. These are the number of hours needed before applying for a new wildlife rehabilitation permit. The draft 679 regulation applies to NEW applicants *only* – and requires 1,000 hours of relevant experience before applying for a NEW permit.

4. DURING THE PROPOSED PERMIT APPLICATION PROCESS, WHY DOES CDFW WANT AN ESTIMATION OF HOW MANY ANIMALS A PERMITTEE CAN HANDLE AT ONE TIME (CAPACITY) -- AND WHAT IF THE PERMITTEE EXCEEDS THIS ESTIMATION?

Estimating capacity is not for limiting growth, it is to determine the maximum number of rehabilitation animals a permittee determines they are likely able to handle at one time. This information helps the Department determine regional and/or statewide capacity to place or transfer certain rehabilitation animals, as well as how best to support the prospective permittee. A permittee may increase their number of enclosures and capacity to intake rehabilitation animals, as their facility operations grow.

5. HOW WOULD AN INDIVIDUAL WITHOUT A NATIVE WILDLIFE REHABILITATION PERMIT ALREADY HAVE NON-RELEASABLE ANIMALS IN THEIR POSSESSION?

The Restricted Species Permit (CCR 671) allows for non-releasable wildlife to be possessed. This permit is separate from the Wildlife Rehabilitation Permit, therefore an individual could be in possession of non-releasable wildlife prior to applying for a Wildlife Rehabilitation Permit.

6. WHY ARE THERE SO MANY VETERINARIAN OF RECORD "REQUIREMENTS" – AND HAVE THEY BEEN REVIEWED BY ANY VETERINARIANS?

A "Veterinarian of Record" is already required pursuant the current CDFW Wildlife Rehabilitation Memorandum of Understanding (MOU).

- One core area of need addressed through this rulemaking process is to help clarify what an agreement between a permitted wildlife rehabilitator and a licensed veterinarian entails – and – what veterinarian services may be available for a prospective or current wildlife rehabilitator seeking a veterinarian of record under their permit.
- The Veterinarian of Record requirements have been developed with input from State Wildlife Veterinarians and other subject matter experts.

7. WHO NEEDS A SPECIALTY REHABILITATION AUTHORIZATION?

Specialty rehabilitation permits are only for facilities that would provide full rehabilitation care for these animals. Facilities that are stabilizing wildlife to move to another facility would not be required to have a specialty permit.



8. HOW WOULD AN INDIVIDUAL KNOW WHO THEIR STAFF AND/OR VOLUNTEERS WILL BE BEFORE ACTUALLY BEING ISSUED A PERMIT? WHY DOES CDFW NEED TO KNOW THE NAMES OF AUTHORIZED PERSONS WHO ARE CLEANING CAGES?

In some instances, a new applicant is a former wildlife rehabilitation facility staff, volunteer, or sub-permittee operating a satellite facility. That applicant may already have staff or volunteers that they intend to list as authorized persons on their application.

- To avoid confusion, an “authorized person” is being defined as an individual, under the general supervision of a permittee, sub-permittee, or designee, who provides *direct* handling, restraint, and/or treatment of a rehabilitation animal. This may include trained staff or volunteers allowed to temporarily confine rehabilitation animals - for the purpose of stabilization or pre-release conditioning - at a location other than the primary or satellite facility.
- Individuals who come into direct contact with rehabilitation animals often have increased risk to human health and safety, such as exposure to communicable diseases.
- Individuals not in direct contact with rehabilitation animals (e.g., facility cleaning, administrative support, general husbandry) are not considered an “authorized person”.

9. WHAT HAPPENS IF A PERMITTEE RETIRES OR OTHERWISE CANNOT CONTINUE TO TEMPORARILY POSSESS REHABILITATION ANIMALS UNDER THEIR PERMIT? WHO CAN TAKE OVER THEIR PERMIT?

The following transitional period is contingent on a Permittee having a current Succession Plan on file with CDFW.

- There will be a 90-day transition period when the Designee will be allowed to operate under the prior permit - pending documentation submitted to the Department.
- The Designee may assume the permit under their name for the duration of the existing permit with no additional fees. A sub-permittee in good standing may be retained with this permittee without reapplying for a sub-permit.
- A renewal application under the “new” Permittee’s name must be submitted once the permit expires.

10. WHEN DO QUALIFIED HANDLERS NEED TO BE ON SITE -- AND UNDER WHAT CIRCUMSTANCES?

At least one Qualified handler should be on site for any direct handling, restraint, medical treatment, and transportation of animals listed under specialty rehabilitation authorization.