



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

1. WHY ARE 30+ PAGES OF REGULATIONS PROPOSED TO REPLACE 4 PAGES OF CURRENT REGULATIONS?

As part of this rulemaking process, the draft regulations incorporate the conditions listed in the department's current Wildlife Rehabilitation Memorandum of Understanding (9-10 pages). Additionally, department forms will no longer be "incorporated by reference" (e.g., DFW 470, Wildlife Rehabilitation Permit Application). The information required in such forms are instead described in the regulatory text for clarity and transparency.

2. WHAT WILL BE REQUIRED OF CURRENT PERMITTEES DURING THE 679 RULEMAKING TRANSITIONAL PERIOD?

Program staff will work closely with currently permitted wildlife rehabilitators to collect the following required information during the transitional period:

- List of current caging and enclosures (size/dimensions, number by type – e.g., 10 flight cages)
- List of current individuals operating "satellite facilities" - to add as sub-permittees (new e-permit system).
- List of current individuals serving as "homecare fosters" – to add as authorized persons (new e-permit system).
- List of non-releasable animals (e.g., animals acquired prior to January 1, 2012, restricted species permit animals).

3. WHAT IS THE DIFFERENCE BETWEEN AN AUTHORIZED PERSON VS. QUALIFIED HANDLER VS. SUB-PERMITTEE VS. GENERAL VOLUNTEER?

DESCRIPTOR	AGE	DEFINITION	MINIMUM EXPERIENCE
Authorized Person	18+ years	A person with at least 80 hours of experience (<i>deemed relevant by a permittee, sub-permittee, or designee</i>) approved by and under the general supervision of that permittee, sub-permittee, or designee to directly handle and temporarily confine a rehabilitation animal, of a species or taxonomic group approved by the department, at a location other than the primary facility for the purpose of stabilization or pre-release conditioning.	80 hours
Designee	21+ years	A person with at least 500 hours of relevant experience, approved by the permittee as an authorized person to conduct activities under the permit, such as an animal care director or hospital manager, on behalf of the permittee.	500 hours
Permittee	21+ years	A person with at least 1,000 hours of relevant experience as listed in Section 679.3(a)(4)(C), authorized by the department to temporarily possess rehabilitation animals under a permit issued by the department.	1,000 hours
Sub-permittee	21+ years	A person with at least 500 hours of experience with wildlife rehabilitation authorized by the department pursuant to Section 679.3 to temporarily possess rehabilitation animals, without the supervision of the permittee, at a separate location (hereafter a satellite facility) than the facility location listed on the permit.	500 hours
Qualified Handler	18+ years	<u>For the purposes of specialty rehabilitation only</u> – A person with the minimum hours of relevant experience listed in Section 679.3(b), with that species or closely related taxonomic group of specialty rehabilitation animal.	Large Carnivore – 400 hrs. Specialty Raptor - 250 hrs. Large Ungulate - 250 hrs. Bat - 150 hrs. Venomous Snake - 100 hrs
General Volunteer	N/A	A person, of an age determined to be appropriate by the permittee, sub-permittee, or designee, who may provide general animal care, husbandry, facility and/or operational support (e.g., laundry, answering phones) under the direct supervision of the permittee, sub-permittee, or designee.	Minimum experience requirements determined by the permittee, sub-permittee, or designee



- 4. WILL CURRENTLY PERMITTED WILDLIFE REHABILITATORS HAVE TO RE-APPLY FOR A PERMIT WHEN THE REGULATIONS TAKE EFFECT?**
 No. The updated application process and eligibility requirements will primarily impact prospective applicants as they apply for new wildlife rehabilitation permits. Current permittees will continue to operate until their permit/MOU expires, or as otherwise indicated during the transition period. There will also be variances and accommodation available to help current permittees comply with the new regulations when it comes time for their renewal.
- 5. WILL CURRENT PERMITTEES HAVE TO APPLY & BE INSPECTED FOR “SPECIALTY REHABILITATION AUTHORIZATION” FOR SPECIES THEY ALREADY TREAT?**
 No. Existing facilities will not need to be inspected until they need to renew their permits or if they otherwise meet the criteria listed above. Sub-permittees will need to be inspected.
- 6. WHO IS RESPONSIBLE (LIABLE) FOR THE ACTIONS OF WILD ANIMALS, SUCH AS LARGE CARNIVORES, RELEASED TO THE WILD AFTER REHABILITATION?**
 Neither the State nor the wildlife rehabilitator are responsible for the actions of a wild animal upon its release or return to the wild.
- 7. WHY DO WE NEED A “FACILITY EMERGENCY ACTION PLAN” AND “SUCCESSION PLAN”?**
 A facility emergency action plan is needed to ensure emergency preparedness information and evacuation resources are readily available for each wildlife rehabilitator, their staff and/or network of volunteers, and the department. A succession plan is needed in case a permittee is no longer able to care for their rehabilitation animals. These plans will help ensure that humane animal care can continue with minimal interruption. The 679 Native Wildlife Rehabilitation Manual, forms, and templates will be available for reference.
- 8. CAN WE USE TELE-MENTORING TO PROVIDE GUIDANCE, CONSULTATION AND/OR TRAINING TO AUTHORIZED PERSONS, QUALIFIED HANDLERS, AND SUB-PERMITTEES?**
 Yes. In person training/supervision may be necessary for some aspects of wildlife rehabilitation. But when the situation allows, virtual meetings or tele-mentoring can be a valuable tool. We encourage wildlife rehabilitators to use all the tools, both in-person and virtual, available to them.
- 9. HOW WILL CDFW PROVIDE SUPPORT FOR THE PROPOSED MINIMUM TRAINING AND/OR EXPERIENCE REQUIREMENTS, SUCH AS EUTHANASIA CERTIFICATION?**
 Program staff are creating a robust continuing education framework that will include recurring and new department-hosted training opportunities, and list external training and certification courses. This process will include close collaboration with agency partners and various subject matter experts to support and/or create additional training & experiential learning opportunities. Of note, the CDFW Native Wildlife Rehabilitation Grant awards may be used for staff and volunteer training courses and certification.
- 10. WHY IS SO MUCH INFORMATION REQUIRED FOR THE “DAILY OBSERVATIONS”?**
 Based on the thoughtful input to date, the daily log requirements have been simplified to require only the following minimum information: date; common name; feeding/watering check-off; and medication check-off if applicable. Daily log may be recorded by individual enclosures housing multiple rehabilitation animals versus individual rehabilitation animal. Example below.

EXAMPLE - DAILY LOG

Date: 8/25/2024 Facility Name: "Wild Animal Rehabilitation Center"

Enclosure	Common Name	# Animals	Food	Water	Medication	Initial
Flight Cage #1	Red-tailed hawk	3	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<i>PJG/SL</i>
Fox Enclosure	Gray fox	4	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<i>PJG/SL</i>
Fawn Pen	Mule deer	5	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<i>PJG/SL</i>
Passerine Enclosure	Various swallow spp.	19	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<i>PJG/SL</i>