



Continuing Education Resources

Vision: *To support advancements and high ethical standards of wildlife rehabilitation in California; to increase recognition and appreciation of wildlife rehabilitation professionals and practitioners; and to promote awareness of the intrinsic value of native wildlife and human-wildlife coexistence.*

Program Overview

The purpose of wildlife rehabilitation is to release healthy native wildlife back to suitable habitat in the wild or relieve their suffering through humane euthanasia. The California Department of Fish and Wildlife (CDFW) recognizes the value of this conservation objective. The CDFW Native Wildlife Rehabilitation Program oversees the permitting of wildlife rehabilitators in the State and strives to support a collaborative network of permitted wildlife rehabilitators statewide.

A wildlife rehabilitator serves an important and unique role by ensuring the highest standards of humane care and treatment of sick, injured, and orphaned native wildlife for the purpose of their release to suitable habitat in the wild; and providing wildlife conservation education to diverse local communities.

Continuing Education

Staying current with best practices, accepted techniques, and the latest advancements in wildlife rehabilitation is critical for most wildlife rehabilitation professionals. Continuing education, as a form of lifelong learning, is one way to stay current. To support high ethical standards of wildlife rehabilitation in California, a wildlife rehabilitation permittee, their sub-permittee, their designee and authorized persons, shall complete 10 hours of continuing education each year pursuant to Title 14 §679.4(a).

Each wildlife rehabilitator shall determine the type of continued education that will be most beneficial to them, their facility, and the rehabilitation animals held in trust for the purposes of release to the wild. Each wildlife rehabilitation professional, whether operating at a private residence or separate facility, may have unique requirements and operational needs based on a variety of factors. The department has developed a robust continuing education framework to support wildlife rehabilitation professionals in meeting these requirements.

The department strives to identify, share, and/or provide various opportunities for continuing education that may occur in-person, remotely (web), or via another platform. This continuing education framework provides information on opportunities for in-person and distance learning (e.g., as a participant, presenter, or instructor). Such opportunities may include, though not limited to: department-hosted meetings or trainings; conferences, symposiums, professional meetings and related workshops, webinars, or trainings provided by agency partners, professional organizations, or other entities; related academic courses; and relevant research, internships, or externships.

Table 1. Professional Associations

California Council for Wildlife Rehabilitators <https://ccwr.org/>

Mission: Promote professionalism in the field of wildlife rehabilitation in California.

National Wildlife Rehabilitators Association <https://www.nwrawildlife.org/>

Mission: Improving and promoting the profession of wildlife rehabilitation and its contributions.

International Wildlife Rehabilitation Council <https://theiwrc.org/>

Mission: Provide evidence-based education and resources on wildlife rehabilitation to move the field of wildlife rehabilitation forward.

Certified Wildlife Rehabilitator™ Program <https://cwrexam.org/continuing-education/>

Mission: To maintain a professional certification that provides a reliable validation of training and experience and promotes high standards for the wildlife rehabilitation community.



Continuing Education Resources

Organization	Resources & Opportunities	Cost
Government Agencies		
California Department of Fish and Wildlife	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Wildlife Rehabilitation Program Annual Meeting Various continuing education opportunities, trainings 	Free (virtual/live)
California Department of Food and Agriculture	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> California Animal Response Emergency System (CARES) 	Free (virtual/live)
California Department of Forestry and Fire Prevention (Cal Fire)	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Resources, training Wildfire Action Plan, Emergency 'Go Bag' planning 	Free (virtual/live)
California Department of Industrial Relations	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Heat Illness Prevention, Injury & Illness Prevention training Cal/Occupational Safety & Health Administration (OSHA) Training Academy 	Free (virtual/live)
California Department of Labor	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> OSHA Job Hazard Analysis 	Free (virtual)
California Department of Public Health	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Veterinary Public Health Section Environmental Health Support Section 	Free / \$ (virtual/live)
California Governor's Office of Emergency Services (Cal OES)	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Resources, training Specialist Training Institute, Be Ready, Disaster Response 	Free / \$ (virtual/live)
Federal Emergency Management Agency (FEMA)	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Ready.gov trainings, testing, exercises Preparedness webinars, guides, worksheets Organizations Preparing for Emergency Needs (OPEN) 	Free (virtual/live)
National Oceanic & Atmospheric Administration (NOAA) Digital Coast	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Webinars, videos, interactive modules 	Free / \$ (virtual/live)
U.S. Center for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC)	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Keeping Wildlife Healthy training, courses Zoonoses & One Health webinars, training 	Free (virtual/live)
U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service (USFWS)	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> National Conservation Training Center Learning Resources – podcasts, videos, webinars Visitor Services Webinar Series Humans, Wildlife, and Their Shared Health webinar Human Dimensions of Natural Resources Conservation 	Free / \$ (virtual/live)
U.S. Department of Food and Agriculture (USDA)	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> USDA Animal Welfare Information Society Veterinary Services National Training and Exercise Program USDA Animal & Plant Health Inspection Service (APHIS) webinars <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Do I Need a USDA License or Registration for My Avian Use Activity Antimicrobial Resistance, Role of Attending Veterinarian at Animal Facilities National Rabies Management Program – Resources, videos 	Free (virtual/live)



Continuing Education Resources

Nongovernmental Organizations		
Association of Zoos and Aquariums	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • AZA Training catalogue, webinars 	Free / \$ (virtual/live)
American Veterinary Medical Association	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • AVMA courses, webinars, Wildlife Decision Tree 	Free / \$ (virtual/live)
American Association of Veterinary State Boards	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Registry of Approved Continuing Education (RACE) webinars, training 	Free / \$ (virtual/live)
California Animal Welfare Association	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Webinars, training 	Free / \$ (virtual/live)
California Council for Wildlife Rehabilitation	CCWR Annual Symposium	\$ (live)
International Wildlife Rehabilitators Council	IWRC trainings, workshops, resources, annual symposium	\$ (live)
National Wildlife Rehabilitators Association	NWRA trainings, workshops, resources, annual symposium	\$ (live)
National Animal Care & Control Association	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • NACA webinars, Field Services series <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Combatting Compassion Fatigue & Enhancing Resiliency... • Maximizing Your Reuniting and Renesting Strategies for Wildlife • Help for the Helpers: Recognizing and Addressing Stress Injury 	Free / \$ (virtual/live)
American Society for the Prevention of Cruelty to Animals (ASPCA)	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • ASPCA webinars, courses, training 	Free / \$ (virtual/live)
The Association for Biosafety and Biosecurity (ABSA) International	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Training tools & resources • Emerging Infection Diseases Toolboxes 	Free / \$ (virtual/live)
Center for Collaborative Conservation	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Webinars, training 	Free / \$ (virtual/live)
Center for Food Security & Public Health	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Cleaning and Disinfection in an Animal Setting course • Biosecurity/Animal Health/One Health courses, webinars 	Free / \$ (virtual/live)
Center for Wildlife Studies	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Wildlife Capture & Chemical Immobilization • Webinars, courses, training 	\$ (virtual/live)
Conservation Social Science Working Group	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Webinars, resources, training 	Free (virtual)
Global Wildlife Resources	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • The Foundations of Wildlife Chemical Capture 	\$ (virtual/live)
Humane Society of the United States (HSUS)	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • HSUS webinars, training 	Free / \$ (virtual/live)
International Union for the Conservation of Nature (IUCN) Human-Wildlife Conflict & Coexistence Specialist Group	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Human-Wildlife Conflict & Coexistence Conference, Library • Videos, resources, training 	Free (virtual)
LafeberVet	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Basic Wildlife Rehabilitation Triage course • Webinars, training 	Free / \$ (virtual/live)



Continuing Education Resources

Nongovernmental Organizations		
Partners for Wildlife	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Toolkit, podcast, training • Wildlife Rehabilitators Skills and Knowledge List 	Free (virtual)
Red Rover	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Animal Resources for California Wildfires 	Free (virtual)
San Diego Zoo Wildlife Alliance Academy	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Safe Capture Training • Chemical Immobilization and Anesthesia of Domestic and Wild Species 	\$ (virtual/live)
Vet Med Team	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Webinars, courses, training 	Free / \$ (virtual/live)
Veterinary Information Network / Veterinary Support Personnel Network	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Webinars, courses, training 	Free / \$ (virtual/live)
Wildlife Center of Virginia	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Wildlife Care Academy • Mental Health in Wildlife Rehabilitation course, training, resources 	Free / \$ (virtual/live)
World Organization for Animal Health (WOAH)	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • WOAH Training Platform (eLearning), tools, resources • World Animal Health Information System (WAHIS) 	Free (virtual)
Zoo and Aquariums All Hazards Partnership	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Facility Preparedness • All Hazards Contingency Planning 	Free / \$ (virtual/live)
Taxa and Species-Specific Resources		
Amphibians and Reptiles	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Partners in Amphibian and Reptile Conservation (PARC) • Disease Task Team resources, webinars, Partner Expert Database 	Free (virtual/live)
Avifauna	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Fundamentals of Bird Banding (Passerines) USFWS • Bird Banding Laboratory U.S. Geological Survey (USGS) • Avian Knowledge Network – Resources, tools • California Avian Data Center – Resources, tools 	Free (virtual/live)
Bats	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Bat World Sanctuary - Insectivorous Bats Rehabilitation Guide, videos • White-Nose Syndrome videos, training USGS 	Free / \$ (virtual/live)
Oiled Wildlife	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Oiled Wildlife Training Video Series USFWS • International Oil Spill Conference Government/NGO/Private Sector 	Free / \$ (virtual/live)
Venomous Snakes	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Save the Snakes - Courses, training • The Rattlesnake Conservancy- Courses, training 	Free / \$ (virtual/live)

Other Potential Training -- As based on operational needs			
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Hand/power tool use • Chainsaw safety • Safe lifting 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Volunteer management • Using Virtual tools (Zoom, TEAMS) • Using Virtual tools (Telehealth) • Telephone skills 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Public speaking • Customer service • Effective presentations • Operating non-profits 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Web development / Digital content • Educational campaigns (outreach materials) • Social media • Fundraising