



**California Code of Regulations (CCR) Title 14 Section 679
FREQUENTLY ASKED QUESTIONS**

1. WHAT IS A VETERINARIAN OF RECORD?

A veterinarian of record is defined as a: “A veterinarian, currently licensed by the State of California, who agrees in writing to provide and direct veterinary treatment for rehabilitation animals pursuant to Section 679.3.” The role of a veterinarian of record is to consult with a wildlife rehabilitation permittee about animal care and treatment, including medication. A permittee and their veterinarian of record should have, either in a written agreement or a standing order, clear expectations on what services the veterinarian will provide, or not provide, to the wildlife rehabilitation permittee.

2. WHAT IS A STANDING ORDER?

A standing order is defined as a: “A permittee, their sub-permittee, designee, authorized person, or qualified handler, and any employee or volunteer supervised by such a person, shall adhere to the written standing order, provided by a California licensed veterinarian acting within the scope of their professional licensure, for routine medical care to treat a taxonomic group or species of rehabilitation animal based on the animal condition, age class, and life history of a specific rehabilitation animal”. A standing order should provide guidance on treatment guidelines that may be conducted by an individual without the presence of the veterinarian of record.

3. WHAT IS EXTRALABEL USE OF ANIMAL DRUGS?

Wildlife rehabilitators should discuss the potential extra label use (i.e., “off label”) of any drug with their veterinarian of record or another licensed veterinarian. Some drugs may require that a rehabilitation animal remain in care for a period of time post drug administration because they should not be consumed after release.

4. CAN I PROVIDE TREATMENT OR MEDICATION TO FREE-ROAMING WILD ANIMALS IN THE WILD?

No, the field treatment of free-roaming wild animals is not an approved activity under a wildlife rehabilitation permit. This includes but is not limited to the distribution of medication or food. One example may be a request by the public to “treat” wild animals with mange by baiting and feeding them food laced with anti-mange medication.

Title 14 CCR 251.1 Prohibits the Harassment of Animals. Harassment is defined as an intentional act which disrupts an animal's normal behavior patterns which include feeding. Additionally, with free-roaming animals it is not possible to ensure that any one specific animal is receiving the correct dosage of medication. Title 14 CCR 679 does not allow for the treatment of free-roaming animals in the wild and requires that sick or injured animals to be temporarily possessed and confined in order to be medicated, treated, or rehabilitated.

5. CAN I TRAP OR DART (CHEMICALLY IMMOBILIZE) A FREE-ROAMING WILD ANIMAL IN THE FIELD THAT IS SICK OR INJURED?

Chemical immobilization drugs are controlled substances and require licensing and training to use. The State cannot authorize individuals to use these drugs under Title 14 CCR 679. In some cases, CDFW regional staff may approve a native wildlife rehabilitation permittee, or individuals permitted under a native wildlife rehabilitation permit, to live trap (non-chemically immobilize) a sick or injured wild animal.

6. WHAT IF MY VETERINARIAN OF RECORD IS UNAVAILABLE OR UNABLE TO PROVIDE VETERINARY EVALUATION AND TREATMENT OF A REHABILITATION ANIMAL UNDER MY PERMIT?

You may use another California licensed veterinarian to provide medical care and treatment, or you may transfer the animal to another native wildlife rehabilitation permittee for care and treatment.