Wildlife Rehabilitation Permit Application Process

Most people who desire to rehabilitate wildlife can rehabilitate wildlife by becoming a volunteer with a nearby permitted wildlife rehabilitation facility. There are currently over 110 facilities throughout the state of California and many are always looking for volunteers. Many of these facilities have been in operation for over 20 years and are familiar with governmental policies, disease issues, rehabilitation protocols and the diversity of wildlife in their area. Because all of the already permitted facilities are in good standing with the Department and have developed a highly regarded working relationship with the Department, it is important to incorporate already functioning facilities in our decision making process of permitting a new facility in a nearby location. If a person or organization would like to apply for their own Wildlife Rehabilitation permit the applicant must first demonstrate that there is a need for a new facility.

An applicant will need to acquire a copy of the Minimum Standards for Wildlife Rehabilitation manual published jointly by the International Wildlife Rehabilitation Council and the National Wildlife Rehabilitators Association to be able to fully understand the rehabilitation regulations and processes. To download a copy of the minimum standards go to <u>www.iwrc-online.org</u>. Then go to publications. You will then see an option to download IWRC/NWRA minimum standards document.

*Before a Wildlife Rehabilitation MOU can be issued, applicants must demonstrate that there is a need for a new facility in the area by providing two letters of recommendation from nearby rehabilitation facilities (the wildlife rehabilitation coordinator will advise the applicant of the two nearest facilities) stating there is a need for a new facility. PLEASE BE ADVISED THAT PERMITS WILL ONLY BE ISSUED IF THERE IS A NEED FOR A NEW FACILITY. Within 30 days of receiving the letters, the department will provide a determination stating whether such a facility is needed. If the department determines that a new wildlife rehabilitation facility is needed, that person or organization will be sent a wildlife rehabilitation application to fill out.

The following is a list of documentation that shall be provided by the applicant in order for the applicant to proceed in the application process after it is determined that a new facility is needed:

- 1. Applicant must complete Wildlife Rehabilitation Permit Application Form FG 542.
- 2. The applicant must provide documentation of the applicant's experience working (paid or unpaid) at a permitted California wildlife rehabilitation facility. The applicant must document four hundred hours of work experience within a two year period working at a permitted wildlife

rehabilitation facility in California, or experience that the department determines is equivalent, to be eligible for a permit.

- 3. The applicant must provide a letter from a veterinarian who agrees to sponsor the applicant by overseeing diagnosis, medication and surgical procedures by the proposed facility.
- 4. The applicant must provide a statement of general intent that includes a list of the species and number of animals that the applicant proposes to rehabilitate at the proposed facility and plans describing the proposed facility's record keeping system, animal intake process, euthanasia protocol, plan for carcass disposal, protocol for handling public phone calls, volunteer training protocol, animal diets, and disinfectants and disease control protocols.
- 5. The applicant must provide pictures and/ or diagrams of the caging available at the perspective facility that meets minimum standards. Pictures and/ or diagrams shall include cage dimensions and materials that caging will be built from, and where caging will be located in regards to separation from domestic animals and human contact. Please refer to minimum standards manual for the minimum caging standards.
- 6. The applicant must check with local government agencies prior to applying for any permit with the Department of Fish and Game to find out what type of city or county zoning permit/s will be required in order to rehabilitate wild animals. The applicant must provide proof that they have obtained the proper permits or a letter stating they have contacted the local government agency and will not be violating any city or county ordinances by rehabbing wildlife.
- 7. The applicant must provide an emergency evacuation plan for wildlife cared for under this permit. Evacuation plans must include information regarding emergency transportation, portable caging, possible alternate facilities that may provide temporary care, and access to emergency medical supplies if needed.
- 8. A processing fee of \$41.00 will be sent in at the time of application submission. Upon the determination that the applicant meets the minimum standards required for the application process, the applicant will be asked to send in and inspection fee of \$114.54

If the Department determines the application is complete and that the applicant and the proposed facilities meet the requirements, the proposed facility shall be inspected by the Department, California Council for Wildlife Rehabilitation or another designee. If the applicant does not qualify the applicant will be notified within 60 days. Any person denied a permit under these regulations may request a hearing before the Fish and Game Commission to show cause why their permit request should not be denied. Additional Information:

Wildlife rehabilitators must attend a "department approved" wildlife rehabilitation training session (minimum 2 hours) each year. A yearly report shall be sent in to document all training classes taken by each wildlife rehabilitator and volunteers working under the permitted applicant. Also, a yearly statistical report shall be sent in on all animals cared for and their disposition. These reports shall be turned in by January 30th of each year or the permit/ MOU will expire.

Veterinarians who intend to provide long-term care (over 48 hours) to wildlife must obtain a Wildlife Rehabilitation permit/ MOU. They will need to comply with all points of the regulations, but may demonstrate that they are licensed veterinarians instead of providing a sponsorship letter.

The determination that a prospective wildlife rehabilitator meets the minimum standards shall be made by either an appropriate representative of the Department of Fish and Game or a qualified member or the California Council for Wildlife rehabilitators.

If you would like to start the application process call or email the wildlife rehabilitation coordinator to obtain information on how to start the process. If an applicant is already aware of the two closest rehabilitation facilities nearest to them an applicant can start the process by sending two letters from nearby facilities stating there is a need for a new facility. Send letters to:

The Department of Fish and Game Nicole Carion 601 Locust Street Redding, CA 96001 <u>ncarion@dfg.ca.gov</u> 530-357-3986

Fees

Upon the determination that a new facility is needed the department will ask the applicant to send in a non- refundable processing fee along with a complete application package. After the determination that the applicant has send in a complete application the Department will arrange for an inspection of the new facility. At that time the applicant will be asked to send in a inspection fee for the upcoming inspection that will occur on the proposed facility.

The current processing fee is \$ 41.00

The current inspection fee is \$ 114.54

Also, if you intend to rehabilitate migratory birds, you will need to obtain a federal permit in addition to the state permit. Federal Wildlife rehabilitation Permits are issued by the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service in Portland, Oregon (503) 872-2715.