

Wildlife Rehabilitation Rule Update

“The legislature finds that licensed wildlife rehabilitators often work closely with local law enforcement, animal control officers, wildlife enforcement officers, and wildlife biologists... The state recognizes the critical role licensed wildlife rehabilitators play in capturing and caring for sick, injured, and orphaned wildlife.” Finding - 2007 c 246



Photo - PAWS

Outline



- Overview of Washington Wildlife Rehabilitation
 - Rules
 - Permits and Permitting
 - WDFW Role
- Purpose and Importance of Wildlife Rehabilitation
 - Services by and for Wildlife Rehabilitators
 - Grant
- Review of current WAC 232-12-275 – Wildlife Rehabilitation Permits
- Need to clarify and expand current WAC
- Proposed Wildlife Rehabilitation Rules

A Profession Regulated by the WDFW

- WAC 232-12-275 – Wildlife rehabilitation permits
- RCW 77.12.469 – Renewal of wildlife rehabilitation permits
- RCW 77.12.467 – Wildlife rehabilitation program (grant)
 - RCW 46.16.606 – PLP
 - RCW 46.68.435 – PLP fees disposition to wildlife rehabilitation grant
- RCW 90.56.110 – Rehabilitation of wildlife – Rules

History of Rules

- **1988** **WAC 232-12-275 Wildlife Rehabilitation Permits first filed 4/15/88**
- **1990** **RCW 90.56.110 Authority to adopt oiled wildlife care rules**
- **1996** **WAC 232-12-275 Wildlife Rehabilitation Permits revision with Wildlife Rehabilitator review**
- **2004** **Oiled wildlife facility requirements added (minor updates in 2008)**
- **2007** **RCW 77.12.469 Renewal of wildlife rehabilitation licenses *and* RCW 77.12.467 Wildlife rehabilitation program , the grant RCW, enacted**
- **2009** **Wildlife Rehabilitation Program manager hired**

Permits

Permitting ensures the highest quality of professionalism and care resulting in the release of truly healthy wild animals.



Photo - PAWS

Why We Need Permits

- Illegal to possess and treat wildlife without one
- Verify qualifications and facilities
- Verify proper facilities, treatment, and handling
- Ensure safety of public and well-being of wildlife
- Ensure safety and health of wildlife rehabilitators
- Ability to random check



Photo - PAWS

Zoonotic diseases are a risk for wildlife rehabilitators



Improper and dangerous handling

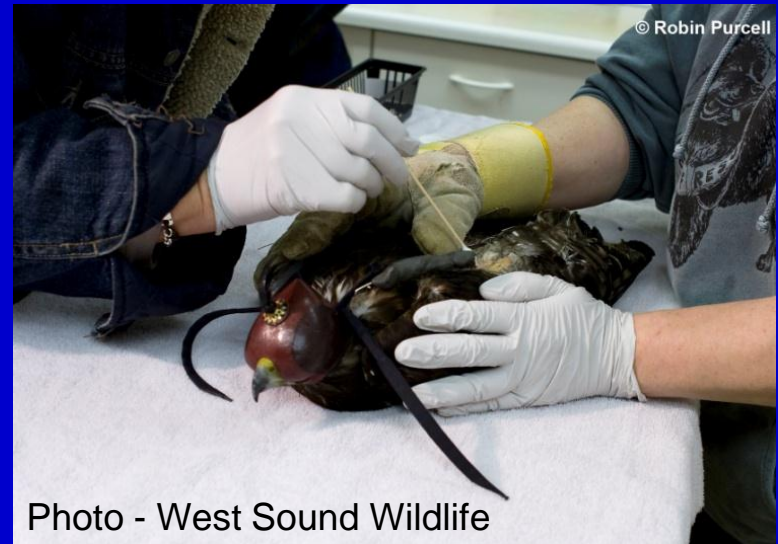
Washington Wildlife Rehabilitators



- 67 licensed wildlife rehabilitators
 - 4 of these are endorsed for oiled wildlife care
- 52 facilities
- 7 initial care veterinarians

Current Department Permitting Process

- Complete application form
- 1000 hours of experience
- Letter of recommendation
- Written agreement with veterinarian
- Pass the General exam and/or Raptor exam
- Pass facility inspection



WDFW Role in Wildlife Rehabilitation - Regulatory

- Evaluate qualifications
- Inspect facilities
- Issue permits
- Interpret regulations
- Enforce regulations
- Administer grant



Bobcat release

WDFW Role in Wildlife Rehabilitation - Service

- Research and disseminate current information
- Update standards and rehabilitation packet
- Maintain web site
- Provide support and assistance to wildlife rehabilitators



Photo - CDC

Emerging tick-borne zoonotic diseases

Oiled Wildlife

- Habitat Program Oil Spill Team responsible for directing oiled wildlife response.
- Very specific facility requirements
- Current facilities include two mobile wildlife care units
- Two facilities are licensed for oiled wildlife care – PAWS and West Sound Wildlife Shelter



Purpose and Importance of Washington Wildlife Rehabilitation



Ferruginous hawk, State Threatened
cared for at Blue Mt./Benton City



Western Pond Turtle, State Endangered,
with shell rot, cared for at PAWS

Wildlife Rehabilitator Services to Washington State

- Primary services
 - Wild release
 - Public assistance and education
 - Wildlife pick-up and handling
- Other services
 - Disease monitoring and reporting
 - T & E species rescue
 - Data and peer reviewed publications
 - Self regulation and enforcement



Grants to Wildlife Rehabilitators

- RCW 77.12.467 – Wildlife Rehabilitation Program

- \$2.00 from PLP
- Biennial
- Application and review
- Facility inspection
- Accountability



Deer enclosures at For Heaven's Sake Animal Rescue



Raptor enclosure at Wolf Hollow

Rigorous Grant Application Process

- Complete formal application
- Be licensed by the WDFW
- Background check and fingerprints
- Internal WDFW and outside quantitative and subjective evaluation
- In compliance with all Federal permitting and rules



Approved Uses of Grant Funding

- Equipment and housing
- Contracted veterinary, diagnostic, and lab services
- Food, medication, and supplies
- Continuing education
- Building construction
- PROHIBITED -



Current WAC 232-12-275 Wildlife Rehabilitation Permits

- Last general wildlife rehabilitation update in 1996
- Everything is in one section
- Guidelines very general
- Oiled wildlife within the general rehabilitation section



This is bad... habituation not clarified in current rule

Proposed Wildlife Rehabilitation Rules –

The need to strengthen and clarify the rules

- Process to renew permits mandated by RCW 77.12.469
- Supply detailed guidelines and requirements
- Provide greater ability to enforce standards
- Wildlife Rehabilitators were confused due to lack of detail



Very poor transport conditions

Additions and Clarifications

- Definitions
- Requirements
- Import/export
- Update reportable diseases
- Permit duration, renewal, reinstatement, out-of-state
- Non-releasable wildlife and release restrictions
- Commercial and Education uses and restrictions



PHOTO - Supensky

Additions and Clarifications

- Endorsements
 - Clarified Raptor
 - Added Large Carnivore and Oiled Wildlife
- Sub-permittees
- Falconers
- Permit Revocation



Future Initiatives

- Large carnivore exam and endorsement*
- Continuing education classes*
- Additional partnerships with falconers*
- Non-native and nuisance species guidelines
- Bat guidelines
- Basic training classes
- Automated database

*Included in proposed rule changes



Photo - Sarvey Wildlife Care Center

Thank you!

The End

