

# Wildlife Rehabilitation Rule Revision Proposals

WAC 220-450-060  
through  
WAC 220-450-200



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# Wildlife Rehabilitation Rule Revision Outline

- Overview of Washington Wildlife Rehabilitation
  - Stats
  - Purpose of rules, standards and permits
- Rule Revision Process
  - Current revision history
  - The WRAC
  - Review and comments
- The Proposed Amendments
  - Review of proposed WAC revisions



## Overview of Washington Wildlife Rehabilitation

# Washington Wildlife Rehabilitation Stats

- Fifty three licensed wildlife rehabilitators
- Thirty five facilities across the state
- Over 18,000 animals admitted in 2017
- Over 6000 animals released in 2017



Bobcat release from Sarvey Wildlife Care Center

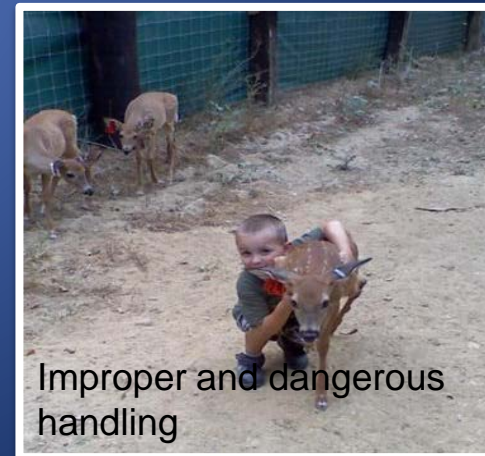
## Overview of Washington Wildlife Rehabilitation

# Why we need sound rules and standards



# Why we need effective permits

- Illegal to possess and treat wildlife without one
- Verify qualifications and facility standards
- Verify proper treatment and handling
- Ensure best practices for animal welfare
- Ensure the safety of public
- Ensure safety of wildlife rehabilitators
- Ability to random check



# Rule Revision Process

## Current revision history

- 1988 WAC 232-12-275 Wildlife Rehabilitation Permits
- 2007 RCW 77.12.467 Wildlife rehabilitation program-Requirements to receive funding (for the grant)
- 2007 RCW 77.12.469 Renewal of wildlife rehabilitation licenses
- 2013 Adoption of new wildlife rehabilitation WACs

# Advancement of Washington Wildlife Rehabilitation



Useless Bay Animal Hospital



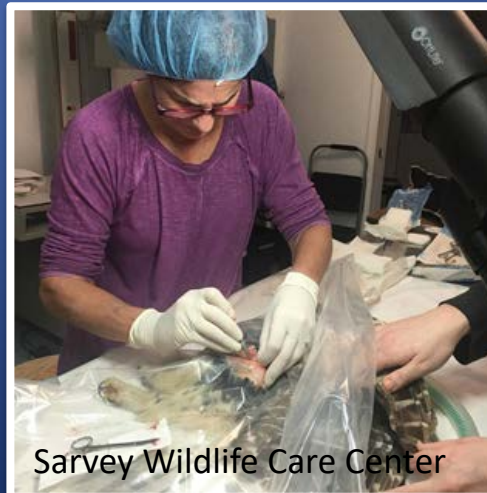
PAWS Wildlife Center



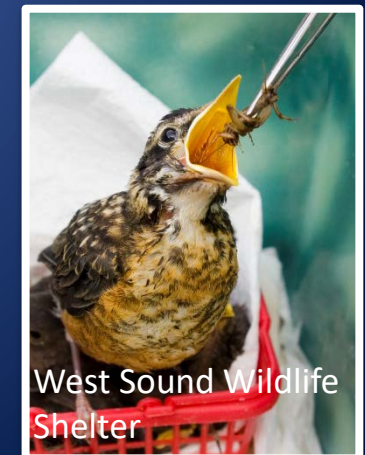
Happy Valley Bats



Blue Mt. Wildlife Gunshot RTHA



Sarvey Wildlife Care Center



West Sound Wildlife Shelter

# Committees

WDFW Internal review committee

Wildlife Rehabilitation Advisory Committee

“The WRAC”

- Recruitment – February 2018
- 12-member team selected by the Director
  - Four WWRA members
  - Four permitted wildlife rehabilitators non-WWRA
  - Four members of the public
  - WDFW staff
- Met seven times over six months in spring-summer 2018





# The WRAC Process and Procedures

- Guiding Principle –  
Animal welfare
- Ground Rules – Mutual respect;  
constructive communication; no  
outside discussions
- Decision making
- Sufficient consensus
- Social media rules



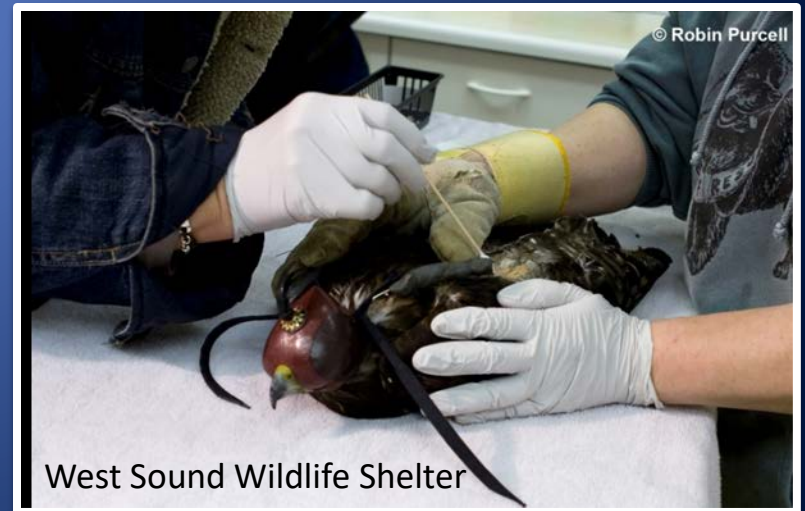
# Draft Rules Review and Comments

- OTS documents were sent to:
  - The WRAC ahead of the public comment period
  - All Washington wildlife rehabilitators
  - All Washington wildlife rehabilitation facilities
- 30-day public comment period



# The Proposed Amendments

- Will -
  - Define more clearly requirements, restrictions, and best practices of wildlife rehabilitation and animal welfare
  - Enhance ability of the department to assist with, verify, and resolve compliance issues
  - Enable permitted wildlife rehabilitators to practice their profession using their own best judgement but within standards and rules



# Background

## Purpose of Wildlife Rehabilitation Rules

- International Wildlife Rehabilitation Council (IWRC) says: *“A legal framework of science-based rehabilitation ensures that-”*
  - Wildlife receives quality humane care
  - The public is protected
  - Zoonotic and epizootic potential is recognized
  - Information is shared



## The Proposed Amendments

# Background

## Purpose of Wildlife Rehabilitation Rules

### WAC 220-450-070

... to ensure that humane care and treatment is provided for wildlife in rehabilitation including all aspects of animal welfare with the goal of relieving suffering and release back to the wild.



# WAC 220-450-060 Definitions

- Eliminate unnecessary definitions
  - All oiled are within WACs
- Add new terms - examples
  - Habituate
  - Tame
  - Nonreleasable
  - Patient record
- Refine current definitions
  - Imprinting vs. mal-imprinting



## The Proposed Amendments

# WAC 220-450-070 Wildlife rehabilitation permits - requirements and restrictions

- Added
  - Public transport
  - Inactive permit
  - Cervid endorsement
  - Signature requirement
  - Permittee requested permit changes
- Strengthened
  - Raptors
  - Continuing Education



## The Proposed Amendments

# WAC 220-450-080 Responsibilities of primary permittees and subpermittees

- Added requirements of primary permittees applying for subpermittees
- Added subpermittee requirements



Squirrel Refuge



Wolf Hollow



## The Proposed Amendments

# WAC 220-450-090 Permit revocation, modification, or suspension

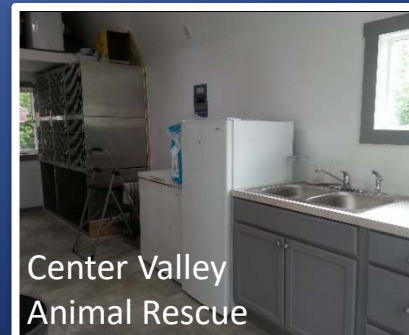
- Added
  - Step-by-step compliance system
  - Subject matter experts
  - Re-application after revocation
- Removed
  - Violations defined elsewhere



## The Proposed Amendments

# WAC 220-450-100 Facility requirements and inspections and off-site care

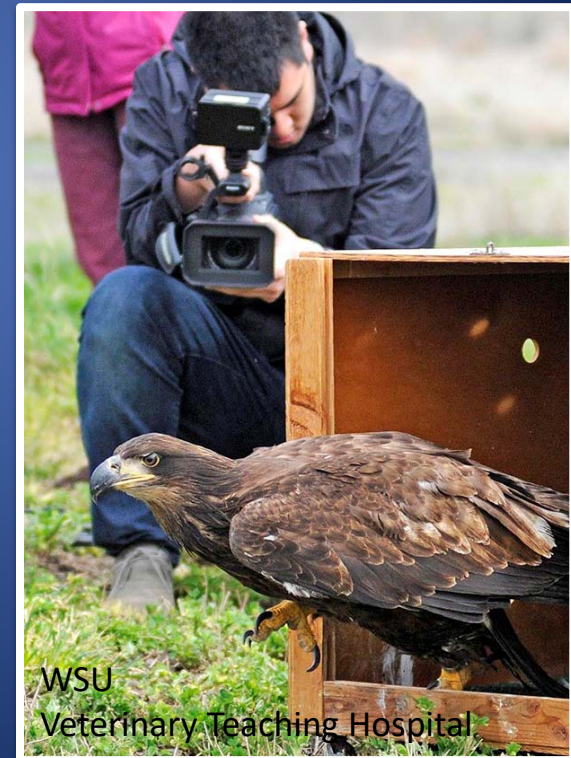
- Word changes
- Oiled wildlife
- Added disease reporting
- Enhanced
  - Off-site subpermittee restrictions
  - Inspection ability



## The Proposed Amendments

# WAC 220-450-110 Releasing wildlife

- Tightened release restrictions on
  - Cervids
  - Non-native species
  - Amphibians and reptiles



## The Proposed Amendments

# WAC 220-450-120 Veterinary care

- Tightened transfer requirement
- Added Principal Veterinarian

# WAC 220-450-130 Records retention and reporting requirements

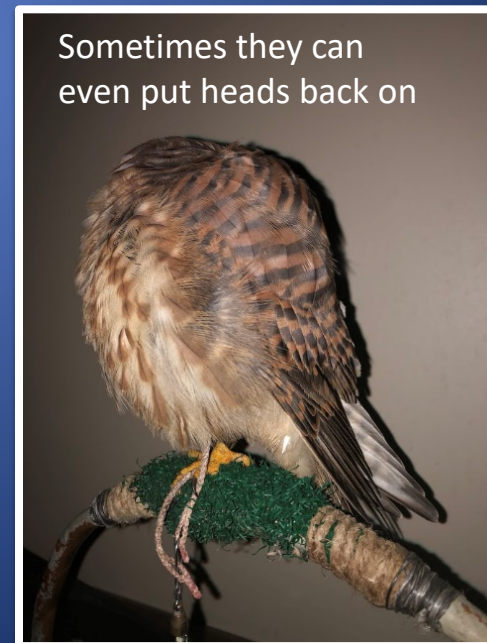
- Listed required records
- Generalized reportable diseases



## The Proposed Amendments

# WAC 220-450-140 Falconers assisting with raptor rehabilitation

- Clarified falconer role
- Added prohibition on transfer to falconry permit



## The Proposed Amendments

# WAC 220-450-150 Transfer, import, and export of wildlife and restrictions

- Strengthened to prevent disease introductions and transmissions – *particularly these* -
- Supports WAC 220-450-030 – Live wildlife – Taking from the wild, importation, possession, transfer, and holding in captivity.
- Prohibits transfer of cervids between WDFW Regions



## The Proposed Amendments

# WAC 220-450-160 Possession of dead wildlife and wildlife parts

- Expanded to all wildlife parts

# WAC 220-450-170 Disposition of non-releasable and mal-habituated, mal-imprinted, and tamed wildlife

- Added application
- Added allowable fee and required education information
- Education birds okay for foster care
- Added prohibited species as program and static display animals



# WAC 220-450-180 Euthanizing wildlife

- Added language to protect wildlife from prolonged suffering
- Added disease reporting





## The Proposed Amendments

# WAC 220-450-190 Disposing of wildlife remains

- Added reportable diseases and oiled wildlife carcass disposal

# WAC 220-450-200 Commercial uses

- Simplified to allow collection of funds for certain activities

## The Proposed Amendments

# WAC 220-450-210 and WAC 220-450-220

- Proposed for repeal
  - All oiled wildlife rehabilitation rules and standards are in the general WACs.



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