

Table of Contents
Introduction to Wildlife Rehabilitation
General Information for Wildlife Rescue Team Members
Emergency Care of Baby Mammals
Wildlife Rescue Team Committees
Bylaws
Precautions for Handling Wildlife
Nebraska Game and Parks Commission Rules
Animal Care Policies

Introduction to Wildlife Rehabilitation

By definition, wildlife rehabilitation is the rescuing, raising, rehabilitating, and release of orphaned and injured wild animals into their natural habitat.

Over the years, many well-meaning people throughout the country have tried to save creatures in trouble, with varying degrees of success. Little was known about wildlife care, and it became apparent that domestic animal husbandry could not always be applied successfully to wild animals. Even trained professionals like veterinarians had little information about wildlife care.

Only recently have researchers begun to investigate wild animal husbandry, nutrition, and diseases in depth. Professionals are debating several issues including the advisability of inoculations for wild animals, behavior modification techniques for wild animals highly socialized to human contact, and techniques for hand-rearing wild animals to be adequately prepared to compete with naturally-reared wildlife in establishing and maintaining a territory.

Interest in wildlife rehabilitation is growing rapidly. During the last ten or fifteen years, volunteer wildlife rehabilitation organizations have sprung up all over the nation. The Wildlife Rescue Team, Incorporated, in Lincoln, Nebraska – established in 1979 – is one of these organizations.

In 1982, the National Wildlife Rehabilitators Association was incorporated in Illinois to establish standards of wildlife care and to disseminate information to participating rehabilitators in a yearly symposium. We are learning together, professional and lay people alike, and it is exciting to be involved in a new field.

Rehabilitating wild animals reinforces people's caring attitudes and consequently allows their immediate concern for an individual creature to expand into an enlarged understanding and concern for the natural world. Wild creatures need more than life itself; they need adequate habitat with food, water, shelter, space, and a like species.

Carol H. Odell

Founder, Wildlife Rescue Team, Inc.

Lincoln, Nebraska 1984

General Information for Wildlife Rescue Team Members

The State of Nebraska considers the native wildlife to be the property of the State. To temporarily care for orphaned or injured animals is a distinct privilege granted to the Wildlife Rescue Team by the Nebraska Game & Parks Commission.

To safeguard this privilege, a number of regulations have been developed. Though they may at first seem excessive, they can be summed up in two concepts. First, report all animals; and second, be a "Team player" and work within the framework of the organization. Wildlife rehabilitation in Nebraska is not an individual "do-it-yourself" project, but a cooperative and organized effort of the entire

Wildlife Rescue Team.

This manual has been prepared to introduce you to the Wildlife Rescue Team and to acquaint you with the rules and regulations under which we must operate. ***Please read and thoroughly acquaint yourself with this manual, paying particular attention to the Animal Care Policies and the Nebraska Game & Parks Commission rules. Failure to follow these policies may jeopardize your membership in WRT.***

MISSION STATEMENT

The purpose of this non-profit corporation shall be to establish an association for the rescuing and rehabilitation of injured wild animals, and to transact any other business incidental to the advancement of said purposes of this corporation not prohibited by law.

Active Members

If you are signed up as an *active member*, please be sure that you have signed all the necessary forms and paid your membership dues before handling the animals. *Be aware* of the WRT policies and Nebraska Game & Parks Commission Rules. Keep accurate records of animals you care for and work closely with your Team Leader.

Associate Members

Associate members do not work directly with animals. If you have joined as an associate member, there are many other ways in which you may help. WRT maintains a number of committees, public relations programs, fund-raising activities, and other special projects as announced at monthly meetings and in the newsletter.

If at all possible, please volunteer to help with these activities. WRT needs you! You, of course, may at any time change to an active membership. Just notify the membership chairperson, and you will be sent proper forms.

We need dedicated volunteers; it is wise, however, to take on only as many animals as you think you can handle at one time. If you have miscalculated the amount of your volunteer time available, arrange through the Team Leader to help disperse some of your animals.

Cages and Supplies

WRT provides caging and general supplies (dishes, syringes, droppers, etc.) Check with your Team Leader. You are responsible for any supplies or cages assigned to you. At the end of the season, clean and disinfect any cages **and report inventory to the Team Leader and the Team Leaders will report the appropriate inventories to the Board.**

Resignation from WRT

When you resign from WRT, please return all cages, supplies, and animal care information to a Team Leader or Board Member.

Food

WRT supplies a proper balanced diet for the animals. If you wish to contribute food or provide for animals in your care, WRT appreciate any donation. As **much** as possible, food and supplies should be obtained through the Wildlife Rescue Team. Contact your Team Leader, WRT supply person or treasurer. If you have made authorized expenditures **authorized by a Team Leader or Board Member** and wish to be reimbursed, save your receipts, and present them to the treasurer for reimbursement.

Inventory Forms

Inventory Forms should be completed by WRT members by August 1st, and Team Leaders return copies of same to the Board by September 30 of each calendar year.

Training Manuals

WRT supplies rehabilitation manuals that describe the proper care, special conditions, and diet needed for successful rehabilitation for each of the different species brought to WRT. Contact the appropriate Team Leader or a Board member.

Keeping Wild Animals

We are not allowed under our state or federal permit to keep any unreleasable animals. They must be euthanized or donated to an educational facility.

Emergency Care of Baby Mammals

Usually by the time we receive orphaned baby mammals they are cold, dehydrated and weak. Reestablishing a normal body temperature and a proper fluid balance are essential and the first steps to be taken in caring for an animal.

Warming

The first step in rehabilitating a mammal is to restore its normal body temperature. Heating pads, heat lamps, and hot water bottles are adequate if they are used carefully and at low heat settings. Use a thermometer to monitor temperature. Be aware, however, that they provide warmth for only one side of an infant. One of the best methods for warming baby animals is to wrap them in a soft cloth and warm them in your hands or against your own body.

Rehydrating

Dehydration is a condition in which body fluids are depleted. It may be caused by injury, illness, or lack of food and water. A dehydrated animal may exhibit one or more of these symptoms:

1. loss of skin elasticity
2. sunken eyes
3. dull coat
4. dry mucous membranes
5. lethargy
6. overall depressed condition
7. shock
- 8. heat exhaustion (Please remember to cool slowly if they are showing any signs of heat stress)**

One method of checking for dehydration is to gently pinch the skin on the infant's back. If it stays up for more than 3 seconds, the animal is dehydrated.

Do not feed a dehydrated animal. Feeding a dehydrated animal causes further dehydration, because it takes body fluids to digest food. **Consult with a Team Leader in regard to how to hydrate animals based on the species.**

Stimulating

Before and after each feeding of a baby whose eyes are still closed, rub the baby's belly and genitals with a cotton ball or Kleenex dipped in warm water to stimulate urination and elimination. Failure to stimulate baby mammals will result in bowel blockage, uremic poisoning and eventually death.

Housing

Remove the baby from original nest material which may harbor vermin. Make a nest from an appropriately-sized box lined with non-stringy (not terry) cloth. Put box half on, half off heating pad so the baby can crawl toward or away from warmth as needed. Use a household thermometer to **monitor [sic]** warmth. Older babies (whose eyes are open) can be placed in a larger box with the nest at one end and food and water at the other end.

Cover the box to keep babies in. Even babies with eyes closed can crawl out of a shoe box. Refer to our animal care manual for further care and dietary requirements for healthy baby mammals.

Wildlife Rescue Team Committees

The following committees are recommended to carry out the functions of the Wildlife Rescue Team, Inc. These committees should function in cooperation with and in addition to any other committee indicated in the Bylaws of the Corporation.

All Committees should submit an inventory as required under the General Information - Inventory Forms. All inventories should be submitted to the Board by September 30th of each

calendar year.

1. Hospitality Committee: Welcome incoming new members by introducing them and getting them involved in the program; develops and implements membership program.
2. Supplies Committee: Negotiates best prices for supplies, food, etc. Ensures an ample supply of such items is on hand based on the expected seasonal needs of the organization. Coordinates the collection of natural foods. Maintains records of the locations of freezers and other designated supplies. Responsible for numbering and identifying all items of value.
3. Public Relations Committee: Prepares news releases regarding WRT activities; prepares and mails newsletter and all general interest information to members; prepares posters, fliers, etc., for activities such as garage sales and other fund-raising activities. Maintains picture scrapbook of WRT activities.
4. Fund Raising Committee: Proposes and coordinates fund-raising programs such as garage sales, etc., and pursues whatever grant and gift opportunities may be available. Also, develops promotional materials for sales of hats, T-shirts, and sweatshirts, and coordinates sale.
5. Animal Records Committee: Maintains lists identifying numbers and species of animals processed, animals on hand, animals released to date this year, or any other designated subjects. Provides reports to members of the Board of Directors and to state and federal agencies as needed or as requested.
6. Telephone Committee: Organizes and compiles the monthly telephone and drop-off schedule. Responsible for training of on-call personnel. Makes calls necessary to coordinate or assist various programs as proposed by other committees.
7. Program Committee: Arranges monthly programs for regular meetings and provides information to newsletter publisher in ample time to be included in publication before next meeting.
8. Caging Committee: Organizes and coordinates the construction and maintenance of cages. Keeps records of the locations of cages and pet taxis.
9. Education Committee: Provides presentations regarding WRT activities and goals to schools, civic and private groups, etc. to assist community in better understanding role of WRT. Prepares training materials and conducts training sessions at the direction of Team Leaders.
10. Team Leaders: Should be supported with assistants. More than one Team Leader per species may be needed to coordinate handling and placing of animals. Provides training of team members. Keeps current on latest means of handling, feeding, and treating animals and assists Public Relations Committee in drafting training materials. Determines maximum number of animals their team can accommodate, and determines when animals should be put down. Should know which members will accept animals from drop-off people.
Transportation Committee: Arranges for transporting animals, materials, and supplies as needed.

Bylaws

Article I – Definitions

Sec. 1 *Majority*, as used in these bylaws shall mean at least fifty (50) percent plus one (1).

Sec. 2 *Ex-officio*, as used in these bylaws shall mean a member of a committee who may attend all of the committee's meetings and otherwise act as a full member of the committee but shall not have the right to make motions, seconds, vote on committee matters, or call committee meetings.

Sec. 3 *Plurality*, as used in these bylaws shall mean the greatest number of votes cast in an election and may be less than a majority of those votes cast.

Sec. 4 Except where specifically describing duties and/or functions of an officer, the terms *Board*, *Board of Directors*, and *Officers* shall mean the same thing.

Sec. 5 *Proxy* shall mean written authorization transferring voting power from one member to another individual.

Sec. 6 The Corporation as used in these bylaws refers to the Wildlife Rescue Team, Inc. (WRT).

Article II – Membership

Sec. 1 Any person interested in the purposes of the Corporation shall be eligible **to apply** for membership.

Sec. 2 Annual membership dues and categories of membership shall be as set forth by the Board of Directors except as otherwise stated in these bylaws.

Sec. 3 Membership dues shall be payable at the time of application. Dues shall be paid yearly thereafter and become delinquent 30 days after anniversary of membership date. Life or Corporate memberships shall be due upon application. Auxiliary memberships entitle those members to perform some WRT duties without payable dues, but shall not entitle them to vote or hold office.

Sec. 4 All members of the Corporation who participate in the active handling or care of the wildlife shall be required to meet the animal care qualifications as set forth by the Board of Directors and the Training Committee **and Team Leaders**. Handling or care of the animals shall include transport, housing, feeding, medication and release. **Please refer to Nebraska Game and Parks Commission Rules and WRT's Bylaws.**

Sec. 5 All members current with their dues shall be entitled to elect officers and directors and to vote on such issues germane to the membership as the directors agree upon, provided:

a) each such elector shall have been a member in good standing for a period of at least ninety (90) days.

b) shall be at least sixteen (16) years of age, and

c) not an auxiliary member. **(An Auxiliary member is a member who is on the Honorary Board of Directors and/or receives a complimentary newsletter, but is not signed up as an Active or an Associate member.)**

Good standing shall mean a), b), and c) of this section.

Sec. 6 Persistent or deliberate failure to comply with the Nebraska Game and Parks Commission regulations or the animal care policies as set forth in this manual shall be considered causes to change membership from Active to Associate status, or to revoke or deny membership in Wildlife Rescue Team, Inc., subject to a majority vote of the Board of Directors. If any such action is being considered, the individual member in question shall be given written notice of the specific complaint and shall have fourteen (14) days in which to respond.

Article III – Meetings

Sec. 1 Regular meetings shall be held monthly at a time and place determined at the previous meeting.

Sec. 2 Annual meetings of the Corporation shall be in September of each year at a time and place determined during a previous meeting.

Sec. 3 Five (5) members current with Corporation dues shall constitute a quorum for the transaction of business.

Article IV – Board of Directors

Sec. 1 The control and conduct of the business of the Corporation shall be vested in the Board of Directors. The Board shall include the elected officers and no more than five (5) directors.

Sec. 2 Terms of office for Board members at large shall be two years running from the date of installation. The Board members at large shall be elected in even-numbered years.

Sec. 3 Regular meetings of the Board of Directors shall be at a time and place determined by the Board of Directors. Emergency meetings of the Board of Directors may be called by the President or a majority of the Board of Directors, provided each member involved with the meeting shall be provided with at least ten (10) days notice and a statement of the objectives of the meeting. Such requirement of notice and intent may be waived by a unanimous poll of the Board of Directors.

Sec. 4 A majority of the Directors shall constitute a quorum of the Board of Directors for transacting business of the Corporation.

Sec. 5 The immediate past president shall serve as an ex-officio member of the Board of Directors for transacting business of the Corporation but shall serve as such for no more than one (1) year.

Sec. 6 Any vacancy in the Board Member at Large position shall be filled by a majority vote of the Board of Directors and that individual shall serve until the next election of the at large Board Members.

Article V – Officers

Sec. 1 The elected officers of the Corporation shall be the President, Vice-President, Recording Secretary, Corresponding Secretary and Treasurer. All elected officers shall serve a term of one year.

Sec. 2 A vacancy in any office shall be filled by a majority vote of the Board of Directors and that individual shall serve until the next election meeting. In the case of the vacancy in the office of President, the Vice-President shall assume the duties.

Sec. 3 The President shall be the President of the Corporation, Chairperson of the Board of Directors, and an ex-officio member of all standing committees.

Sec. 4 The Vice-President shall assist the President and shall preside at all meetings in the absence of the President and serve as ex-officio member of all non-standing committees.

Sec. 5 The Recording Secretary shall keep all minutes of the meetings of the Board of Directors and of the general membership. In the absence of the Recording Secretary, a person shall be appointed by the moderator of the meeting to record the minutes.

Sec. 6 The Corresponding Secretary shall be responsible for the general correspondence of the Corporation.

Sec. 7 The Treasurer shall (a) have custody of all Corporate funds, (b) disburse funds, (c) keep a correct and accurate record of all financial transactions and accounts, (d) prepare an annual report of the financial status of the Corporation for the general membership to be presented at the annual meeting and (e) prepare a proposed budget for the upcoming year.

Sec. 8 All checks and drafts issued by the Corporation shall require two (2) authorized signatures, one being the Treasurer, unless written exception is voted by the Board of Directors. Other authorized signatures shall be the elected officers of the Corporation.

Sec. 9 No Board member may hold a board position for a period of one year upon resigning a present board position except to replace an officer of the Corporation.

Sec. 10 Any officer or director who misses three (3) consecutive Board meetings shall be subject to review by the Board for removal from the Board.

Article VI – Committees

Sec. 1 An effort will be made to maintain the following standing committees: Training, Public

Education, Nominating, Public Relations/Publicity, membership, Supplies, Caging, Records, and Finance. Non-standing committees may be created by the Board of Directors as needed.

Sec. 2 All committee chairpersons shall be appointed by the committee members and shall assume office upon receiving confirmation by a plurality vote of the Board of Directors.

Sec. 3 Standing committees shall be formed in **October** of each year and assume their functions the same month.

Sec. 4 All committee chairpersons must file a written report of committee activities, progress, problems, solutions, and goals with the Recording Secretary by the **30th of September**. Exceptions may be granted by a majority vote of the Board of Directors.

Sec. 5 The chairperson of the Nominating Committee shall serve as presiding officer of the general membership meeting during the portion of that meeting concerned with the election of officers.

Sec. 6 The Nominating committee shall solicit nominations for officers and directors of the corporation from the general membership and submit the results of the findings to the general membership in ballot form. The Committee shall in no way deny a member's name from appearing on the ballot if that member so indicates approval and is a member in good standing and conforms to the qualifications of Article II, Sec. 5. The Nominating committee shall in no way indicate a preference of candidates to the general membership. Nominations may be submitted to the Nominating committee by **fax, text, email**, letter, telephone, or in person. Persons may also be nominated from the floor at a general meeting prior to the election meeting.

Sec. 7 The Training Committee shall include all Team Leaders and the Chairperson(s) of the Telephone Committee. The Training Committee shall **review** annually **and** revise **as necessary** the training manual and establish and conduct or supervise training sessions for the general membership in the care and handling of the animals. **Any revisions will be submitted to the Board for its approval.** The Committee shall also annually formulate or update the care qualifications for Board approval subject to the approval of the Nebraska Game and Parks Commission. The Team Leaders shall be subject to confirmation by a plurality vote of the Board of Directors.

Sec. 8 The Public Education Committee shall prepare such materials necessary for the education of the general public as to the purpose, activities and functions of the Corporation and shall arrange for distribution and exposure of such materials subject to the approval of the Board.

Sec. 9 The Membership Committee shall keep accurate records of the names and addresses of all members, periodically update all records and be in charge of membership drives.

Sec. 10 The Supplies committee shall order and maintain supply inventory, with approval of the Board of Directors for orders in excess of fifty dollars (\$50.00), develop and negotiate competitive supply sources, coordinate collection of natural foods as required, develop and oversee storage locations, and fill Team Leader supply orders.

Sec. 11 The Caging Committee shall maintain inventory of cages and caging materials and their locations, issue cages to team leaders and caregivers, and coordinate construction and maintenance of cages.

Sec. 12 The Records Committee shall report animal records to the Board and to state and federal agencies as needed or required, issue acquisition numbers to Team Leaders, acquire reports of transfer and final disposition of animals from same, and maintain lists identifying numbers and species of animals processed, on hand, or released to date in a given year.

Sec. 13 The Educational Animal Committee shall serve as the initial contact for WRT members requesting permission to have Educational Animals in their care; act as liaison between WRT and Nebraska Game and Parks Commission for Educational Animal Permits; develop an Educational Animal Request Application for possible referral to the WRT board and subsequently Nebraska Game and Parks Commission; inspect long-term housing, arrangements for the Educational Animal at the time of the initial request, with additional no-notice inspections; develop Educational Animal Guidelines; train members with Educational Animal permits in proper presentation techniques; and

submit written reports of Educational Animal presentations quarterly, or as requested, to the WRT Board and to Nebraska Game and Parks Commission.

Article VII – Elections

The election of the officers and directors shall take place at the annual meeting of the Corporation. Elected officers and directors shall be sworn in and assume office the month following the election. The sections under this article govern the electoral process.

Sec. 1 Any member in good standing and conforming to Article II, Sec. 5 of these bylaws shall be eligible for election **as an Officer or** to the Board of Directors.

Sec. 2 Officers and Board Members of the Corporation shall be elected by ballot by a plurality of those votes cast for the office. In the case of a tie, a run-off election will be immediately held among members present until such time as the vote shall be resolved.

Sec. 3 Separate ballots shall be used for the election of Officers and the election of Board Members of the Corporation.

Sec. 4 Voters may vote for as few as one or as many as five candidates for Board member-at-large.

Sec. 5 A Family membership entitles the family to two (2) votes.

Sec. 6 In the event that a member can not be present at the election, an absentee ballot may be requested by phone or letter from the Nominating Committee Chairperson or the President. The ballot will be mailed **or emailed** to the member to be returned, postmarked no later than 5 days prior to the election date. The absentee ballots will be held, sealed, by the Nominating committee Chairperson or the President until the election when they will be opened and counted with the ballots cast at the election.

Need to work on this:

Sec 6 – animal care 14 days Facebook 3 days to Board. Failure to do so will result in revocation of membership.

Plus – not post info on Facebook, etc.

Article VIII – Donations

Sec. 1 This Corporation may accept gifts, legacies, donations and/or contributions in any amount or in any form with Board approval.

Article IX – Procedures

Sec. 1 The general meetings and committee meetings shall be run in such a way as to keep the proper business before the body and conduct the affairs of the Corporation in the best interests of the general membership and the Corporate whole. In the instances where procedural questions are in contention, Roberts Rules of Order shall apply.

Sec. 2 Voting by written proxy in [sic] not allowed in general meetings or in Board meetings.

Article X – Amendments

Sec. 1 These bylaws may be amended at any time by a two-thirds majority of those voting on the issue at a general membership meeting, after such time as the Board of Directors shall have had the amendments before them and recommended to the body a vote of approval and upon at least ten (10) days notice to the membership thereof.

Sec. 2 The Board of Directors shall adopt resolutions setting forth proposed amendments to the Articles of Incorporation or the Constitution of the Corporation as needed, subject to a two-thirds majority ratification of those voting at a general membership meeting provided at least ten (10) days notice has been given to the membership.

Precautions for Handling Wildlife
Originally Prepared by
Wildlife Rescue, Inc.
Austin, Texas

To protect yourself when handling unfamiliar wildlife, observe the following suggestions.

1. Use long, heavy-duty gloves, such as welding gloves.
2. Keep your fingers out of the ends of the gloves.
3. Keep your face away from the animal's head and legs.
4. Protect your eyes and from teeth, beaks, and claws.

Wild animals can be carriers of a variety of disease; develop good hygiene habits when handling wild animals.

Tetanus

In the handling of wild animals, tetanus can occur as the result of any wound in which the skin is broken; animal bite, deep scratch, or puncture wound from animal or dirty cage wire. Check with a physician to ascertain whether or not you are allergic to tetanus, TAT, or rabies vaccines.

Preventative tetanus shots are highly recommended. If you have never had the series of two initial tetanus shots, (usually given in childhood) plus one booster, you are encouraged to do so. Otherwise, tetanus booster shots should be taken every ten years. To obtain the initial series of shots or to update your booster, contact your doctor.

If you are bitten by an animal whose bite breaks the skin, and if you have not had a tetanus shot within the above mentioned time, request a TAT (Tetanus Antitoxin) shot immediately and seek preventative inoculation advice from your physician or the Health Department.

Rabies

Rabies is extremely rare in birds. There are, however, documented cases of experimentally induced rabies in some species of birds, mainly raptors. Thus, special caution should be exercised with those species likely to come into contact with high risk mammals. The greatest risk groups are Great Horned Owl and other raptors that are known to prey on skunks and nighthawks, and other nocturnal species that are known to come into contact with bats. Clinical signs of rabies infection in a bird are not necessarily similar to those in a mammal, and natural transmission is rare. No research has been conducted on a possible vaccination or treatment for rabies in birds. Suspected cases should be referred to a veterinarian immediately.

All warm-blooded mammals, whether vaccinated or not, may be subject to rabies. Because of insufficient data, it is not known how long wild animals may transmit the rabies virus prior to the onset of symptoms. There are three groups of mammals: **high-risk** that are most likely to carry and transmit rabies, **low-risk** that are less likely to get the disease, and **very-low-risk** that are least likely to be infected. The high-risk species of mammals include bobcat, coyote, raccoon, fox, bat, and skunk. The low-risk species include deer and opossum. The very-low-risk species include hare, rabbit, and squirrel.

Types of Rabies

Dumb Rabies: The animal has had such a large dose of the virus that it does not exhibit the early symptoms of the disease. The first symptom noticed is paralysis. Jaw may hang slack; the animal will refuse water.

Furious Rabies: Classical "mad dog syndrome." There is an excitatory stage prior to the onset of paralysis. Animals may become irrational, viciously aggressive, and lose [sic] caution and fear of

natural enemies.

Rabies symptoms are usually apparent, except in skunks. The most noticeable symptoms are:

1. Abnormal reaction to a stimulus such as sound; sudden change in behavior or personality of an animal in your care. *Occur in both dumb and furious rabies.*
2. Snapping, snarling, salivating, and darting movement; refusal of water. *Occur in furious rabies.*
3. Creeping paralysis; jaw may appear slack; refusal of water. *Occur in dumb rabies.*

In The Event Of A Bite

If an individual is bitten by a wild animal which may be rabid:

1. Isolate and lock up the animal.
2. Immediately contact a physician.
3. Check with a veterinarian regarding treatment or disposition of the animal.
4. If the veterinarian recommends euthanasia or if the animal dies, take the head to your local Health Department. Be sure to tell the person on duty that human exposure is involved, and request a report of the findings.
5. If the report is "positive", immediately contact a physician for further instructions.

Preventative Rabies Shots

Preventative rabies vaccinations are available. Anyone who is planning to handle wildlife should arrange to have this protection. Ask your physician or Health Department for details.

Nebraska Game and Parks Commission Rules

1. Prior approval is necessary from an agent of the Commission before any wildlife held under this authorization can be displayed. All animals so displayed for public lectures, news media release, etc., shall be adult animals under control, unless specific prior approval is given. Animals so displayed cannot be fed or hand-held while in front of any audience or news media personnel.
2. All animals which are temporarily possessed under the privileges of this authority shall remain in the property of the people of the State of Nebraska through the Nebraska Game and Parks Commission, and may not be sold, transferred, bartered, donated or given away.
3. All live animals possessed under the terms and conditions of this authorization for temporary care or treatment of injury or disease shall be maintained under the following conditions:
 - a. All animals shall at all times be kept in cages or enclosures of such size as to permit them reasonable freedom of movement.
 - b. The cages or enclosures shall be kept in a clean and sanitary condition.
 - c. The animals shall be provided with sufficient suitable food.
 - d. The Department representative shall judge the suitability of the cages, enclosures and food for these purposes.
 - e. The authorized person shall notify the Commission without delay if any animal dies, and shall make the dead animal available for delivery to an educational institution or public health facility as designated by the Commission.
 - f. Adult male and female animals shall be housed and maintained in separate cages; the privileges of this permit shall not be used in any way for the propagation of any animals.
4. The authorized persons shall be responsible for any and all costs which are incurred in connection with the treatment, confinement, or transportation for transfer or release of any animal possessed under the privileges of this authorization.
5. Immediately upon the recovery of a sick or injured wildlife specimen or upon the determination that the animal will not recover, the authorized person shall notify the Game and Parks Commission of the condition of the animal and the need to return it to the wild or whatever

other disposition is appropriate at the discretion of the Game and Parks Commission, except that permanently injured animals may be held for educational purposes, with the approval of the Commission staff.

6. The authorized persons shall released each animal into the wild upon its recovery from injury or disease. The Commission may require that any release of any animal into the wild be witnessed or otherwise documented by Commission personnel or representatives.
7. The authorized persons shall transfer any animal which cannot be released because of a permanent injury to a public zoological garden, museum, college, university, or other institution or organization as determined or approved by the Commission.
8. This authorization does not allow the persons to possess or confine any animal in violation of any federal, city, or county law, ordinance or regulation. This authorization is not valid unless any required federal, city, or county permit is also obtained.
9. All animals and all facilities used for their confinement, treatment or care shall be open to inspection by Commission employees or other persons who are authorized to enforce fish and game laws and regulations.
10. All participants who handle or keep animals in the rescue program shall not hold a game fancier or game farm permit.
11. The Game and Parks Commission shall not be held liable for any damage or injury resulting from any animals possessed under authority of this authorization.

This authorization may be amended or canceled for just cause at any time by the Nebraska Game and Parks Commission.

Animal Care Policies

These Animal Care Policies are to be used in conjunction with the Game and Parks Commission Permit rules, WRT Rehabilitation manual, and WRT Telephone Tips.

1. Only current dues-paying members who have signed a *Release from Liability* form and an *Active Membership Agreement* shall have the privilege of handling the animals. Members wanting to handle birds must fill out an application from the Fish and Wildlife Service as a subpermittee of WRT.
Any WRT members' children handling animals must also be current members and have signed the above forms. *At all times* these children will be directly supervised by an adult member of WRT when handling the animals.
If more than one individual of a household handles, feeds, comes in contact with, or otherwise cares for WRT animals, a Family Membership must be obtained and *Release from Liability* forms, *Active Member Agreements* and subpermittee forms (for birds) filled for each member handling animals.
2. Members under the age of sixteen (16) cannot care for animals in their homes unless their parents are members, or by Board approval.
3. Members who are under the age of sixteen (16) whose parents are not members, but whose parents have signed the WRT *Release from Liability* form for them, may work with animals at an active member's house.
4. Members handling animals must live within **the boundaries of the state of Nebraska** in order for WRT to facilitate monitoring the care of the animals unless otherwise permitted to do so by the Nebraska Game and Parks Commission.
5. Any home with children under the age of 16 will be limited as to the species of animals that may be cared for or released on the premises, by consent of the Training Team, to protect the animals and children.
6. **WRT will not be permitted to handle raptors, deer, antelope, elk, moose, bighorn sheep,**

bears, skunks, mountain lions, threatened or endangered species. WRT does not handle domestic animals.

7. Wildlife that have been pets will be accepted for rehabilitation only by consent of the Team Leader and/or Board of Directors.
8. A WRT volunteer cannot confiscate animals from the public; WRT is not a law enforcement agency.
9. When an animal is turned directly in to any volunteer member of WRT, it shall be reported immediately to the species Team Leader to obtain the acquisition number and be delivered to the proper location for care as soon as possible. Team Leaders *must* be notified when an animal is moved to another volunteer, is released or dies.
10. If a WRT member is at any time unable to report directly to the species Team Leader, such information and the acquisition forms shall be mailed within three (3) days to the animal records person for the purpose of registering the animal and obtaining an acquisition number. A copy of the acquisition form shall also be sent to the Team Leader at that time.
11. Wildlife must be kept in a separate area with as minimum amount of contact as possible with domestic animals and people. A minimum of fifteen (15) feet is suggested between outside wilding and release cages and domestics.
12. All animals will be kept in a clean and safe environment, both inside the house and in outside cages. Follow the most recent animal care information.
13. Permission must be given by a Team Leader or Board Member *before* taking an animal for veterinary care.
14. All large mammals (i.e., bobcats, coyotes, fox, raccoons, or opossum) are to be placed outside city limits when they are ready for outside caging, wilding, and release.
15. Release or final disposition of a bird or animal is to be approved by the species Team Leader. The Team Leader will also be responsible for decisions on euthanasia. If there is a conflict, the Board of Directors or licensed veterinarian will be consulted.
16. The only approved method of euthanasia are lethal injection by a trained person, in an approved CO₂ chamber, or by instant decapitation.
17. The Board of Directors will be responsible for placement of non-releasable animals.
18. Any contact with the media about anything concerning specific WRT animals or activities must go through the Board of Directors.
19. No information concerning the long term care or handling of wildlife shall be given to any individual or group other than WRT members. Instructions may be given regarding temporary emergency care. Further information may be given by the species Team Leader of the local Game Commission.
20. All animals are to be turned over to the Team Leader or Board of Directors upon request. This may include a deceased body for possible necropsy.
21. If there is no Team Leader for a species, a Board Member may function as a Team Leader in making necessary decisions.
22. Any person caring for WRT animals may not concurrently keep captive on the premises any other non-WRT wildlife, including licensed or unlicensed wildlife except for non-protected wildlife.
23. The animals and facilities of persons caring for WRT animals shall be subject to inspection by the Team Leader or a WRT inspection team at any time.
24. Educational Permit Procedures:
 - a. Obtain Educational Animals Request form from WRT Educational Animal Committee member.
 - b. Complete form and submit to the WRT Educational Animal Committee for initial screening, to include:

- on-site inspection of permanent housing arrangements. Housing should offer appropriate substrate and habitat (natural plants, lots, etc.) and ample space to allow choice of open, secluded and exercise areas.
- verification of prior WRT speaking engagements.
- ability to meet long-term nutritional needs.
- knowledge of the animal's natural history.

The above policies are for the protection of WRT, its volunteers and the animals. Any violations of the Game and Parks Commission Rules or WRT Animal Policies may result in the matter being brought before the WRT Training Team and/or Board of Directors for review.

Any questions or disputes concerning these policies shall be brought to the attention of the Board of Directors for discussion at a Board meeting.

NOTICE

The WRT attorney advises:

Animals are legally known as “attractive nuisances.”

Be it known that the Wildlife Rescue Team is in no way an insurer. Members who will be taking care of animals on their property do so at their own risk. If the general public trespasses and is injured by an animal on a WRT member's property, and *if* that WRT member is found to be negligent, that WRT member may be held responsible by the courts.

Pelts of WRT deceased animals may not be sold to fur buyers for personal or WRT gain. The deceased animals must be disposed of properly. (*Law Enforcement Office of Nebraska Game and Parks Commission, 1985*).

Thank You

for caring about Nebraska wildlife and being an active WRT member.

We need to add some kind of “purpose” paragraph – from articles of incorp.

Game and Parks:

raptors, deer, antelope, elk, moose, bighorn sheep, bears, skunks, mountain lions, threatened or endangered species

We need to add some kind of “purpose” paragraph – from articles of incorp.

We wanted to add “Refer to NWRA's Code of Ethics” - “ WRT recognizes and upholds the NWRA Code of Ethics as stated below...”

We discussed creating a Media Committee or just making the Board and Officers responsible to discuss Facebook violations, etc. with members.