

VIRGINIA DEPARTMENT OF GAME & INLAND FISHERIES

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WILDLIFE REHABILITATION PERMIT CONDITIONS

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I. OVERVIEW

All persons caring for sick, injured, orphaned, or debilitated wildlife are required to have a permit from the Virginia Department of Game and Inland Fisheries (VDGIF). The goal of the permittee is to return successfully rehabilitated wildlife to their natural habitat, as quickly as possible, providing them with a reasonable chance to function and behave normally within their population and ecosystem.

Licensed veterinarians providing medical care to sick, injured, or debilitated wildlife are not required to have a permit from VDGIF. Non-permitted licensed veterinarians may hold wildlife until patients are medically stable. Once stable, wildlife patients must be transferred to a permitted wildlife rehabilitator. Licensed veterinarians rehabilitating healthy or recovered wildlife for release back to their natural habitat are required to have a wildlife rehabilitator permit.

II. PERMIT PROCESS

Individuals with interest in becoming wildlife rehabilitators are directed to the Wildlife Rehabilitator permit application and permit conditions located on the VDGIF website where the types of permits and processes are detailed. Applicants may forward their completed applications with the non-refundable fee to the VDGIF Permits Section address listed above or by electronic mail to Collectionpermits@dgif.virginia.gov. Received applications will be reviewed for completeness by VDGIF Permits Section Staff; incomplete applications may require staff to contact applicants for additional information, thereby delaying permit issuance. Rehabilitators caring for wildlife in their homes or their own designated facilities are required to have a pre-inspection of their home or designated facilities scheduled by VDGIF Permits Section staff and

completed by a VDGIF Conservation Police Officer (CPO). (Note: Permits that have lapsed for a year or more are required to have a new CPO pre-inspection prior to re-issuance.)

Applicants should allow thirty (30) days for the issuance of all permits. Category I, II, or III wildlife rehabilitators must be at least eighteen (18) years of age, a resident of the Commonwealth of Virginia (unless a student of an accredited institution of higher learning [college or university] and possessing a temporary Virginia residential address), and not have been previously convicted of violating any Federal, State or local law or ordinance relating to wildlife. Category IV or V wildlife rehabilitators must be at least sixteen (16) years of age, a resident of the Commonwealth of Virginia, not have been previously convicted of violating any Federal, State or local law or ordinance relating to wildlife, and have their application co-signed by a legal custodian.

Those wishing to rehabilitate migratory birds or waterfowl must possess a U.S. Fish & Wildlife Service (USFWS) Federal Wildlife Rehabilitation Permit, or be authorized (as a subpermittee, in writing) by a rehabilitator who possesses a Federal permit, and have their facilities approved by USFWS.

A. Rehabilitator Categories

Wildlife Rehabilitation Permits are issued in five (5) categories and are defined as follows:

Category I (Apprentice) permit is for an individual with entry level skills who has less than two (2) years of rehabilitation experience. Category I permittees must be sponsored by an active Category II or Category IIIB permittee and applicants are highly encouraged to serve as a Category IV rehabilitator for a minimum of six (6) months at their prospective Sponsor's facility before transitioning to a Category I permittee. Applicants must provide evidence of completion of at least six (6) hours of approved continuing education prior to submitting an application to become a Category I permittee. His/her work is performed under the supervision and guidance of the sponsoring Category II or Category IIIB permittee and is generally limited to uninjured, orphaned wildlife. A Category I permittee must satisfy annual educational requirements as well as successfully complete fifty (50) hours per year of hands-on training/work experience under the supervision and guidance of their Sponsor or other Category II or IIIB permittee. Documentation (maintained by the Apprentice and subject to review by the Sponsor or VDGIF) should include a log of each training/work experience date, topics/skills covered, number of hours, and the supervising permittee's name. The details of the training, including number of hours per training period, will be coordinated between the Sponsor and the Apprentice, although at least four (4) hours per month is recommended. As wildlife rehabilitation is seasonal it is extremely important that the Apprentice be exposed to a complete calendar year of rehabilitation experience.

This permit requires a facility inspection by a representative of VDGIF. If the facility is going to be rehabilitating highest-risk rabies vector species (RVS) then proof of either a complete rabies vaccine series administered within the last two years or an adequate rabies titer performed within the last two years (pursuant to the *Virginia Department of Health's Virginia Guidelines for Rabies Prevention and Control*) is required. For Category I permittees to be allowed to rehabilitate migratory birds and waterfowl, their sponsors must contact the USFWS in writing requesting that the Category I be included as sub-permittees of their Federal permit to rehabilitate migratory birds and waterfowl and Category I permittees must have their facility approved by the USFWS prior to rehabilitating migratory birds or waterfowl at home. Individuals providing care to raptors, predatory animals, or animals requiring unusual expertise, would need to have advanced skills and provide proof that they have met the requirements necessary for the level of care they are providing. Category I permittees:

1. May provide basic care (i.e., food, shelter, warmth, water) for uninjured, orphaned wildlife (except raptors, predatory animals, or animals requiring unusual expertise or facilities).
2. May not administer Controlled Substances to wildlife unless under the direct supervision of a licensed veterinarian or permitted Category II or IIIB wildlife rehabilitator.
3. May receive, transport (see #24 under general conditions), and house (for not more than 24 hours) injured wildlife or orphaned species not authorized under the Category I permit (except bald and golden eagles, threatened or endangered species, black bears, coyotes, adult white-tailed deer, elk, mute swans, feral swine, or other nuisance species [as defined in 4 VAC 15-20-160 of the Virginia Administrative Code or §29.1-100 of the Code of Virginia], with the exception of woodchucks), providing they have received authorization and necessary instruction, in advance, from sponsoring Category II or Category IIIB permittee, cooperating veterinarian, agent of the VDGIF, or other individual designated by the VDGIF.
4. A Category I permittee shall not solicit contact with the public regarding direct acceptance of wildlife from the community except upon referral by their sponsoring Category II or Category IIIB permittee, or designees of the VDGIF. Category I permittees who receive animals must contact a Category II permittee within 12 hours of directly receiving animals.
5. Must maintain and provide, as required, a full record of each animal received which should include, at minimum, date of submission, contact information for rescuers and/or others who handled the animal prior to receipt by the rehabilitator, reason for submission, final disposition (i.e., died in cage, euthanized, released), date of disposition, and location of release (if applicable). A copy of all records must be provided to the sponsoring rehabilitator.

Category IIA (Individual), or **Category IIB (Organization)**, permit is for those with advanced skills who have more than two (2) years of rehabilitation (as a Category I rehabilitator), or equivalent, wildlife care experience. Applicants must provide evidence of completion of at least six (6) hours of approved continuing education prior to submitting an application to become a Category II permittee and must satisfy annual educational requirements. They must work in cooperation with a licensed veterinarian and may provide care for all wildlife (except bald and golden eagles, threatened or endangered species, black bears, coyotes, adult white-tailed deer, elk, mute swans, feral swine, or other nuisance species [as defined in 4 VAC 15-20-160 of the Virginia Administrative Code or §29.1-100 of the Code of Virginia], with the exception of woodchucks), providing that their animal holding facilities meet standard requirements, have passed inspection by VDGIF, and they have documentation of either receiving a complete rabies vaccine series administered within the last two years or possessing an adequate rabies titer performed within the last two years, if necessary. Individuals providing care to raptors or animals requiring unusual expertise would need to have advanced skills and provide proof that they have met the requirements necessary for the level of care they are providing.

Category IIA (Individual) is an individual meeting all of the Category II criteria.

Category IIB (Organization) is an incorporated and insured organization meeting the Category II criteria.

Category II permittees:

1. May provide basic care (i.e., food, shelter, warmth, water) for sick, injured, debilitated, and/or orphaned wildlife.

2. May receive, transport, and house (for not more than 24 hours) injured wildlife or orphaned species not authorized under the Category II permit (except bald and golden eagles, threatened or endangered species, black bears, coyotes, adult white-tailed deer, elk, mute swans, feral swine, or other nuisance species), providing they have received authorization and necessary instruction, in advance, from cooperating veterinarian, agent of the VDGIF, or other individual designated by the VDGIF.
3. May receive, transport, and hold sick, injured, orphaned, or debilitated wildlife (threatened or endangered species and bald and golden eagles will be transported to a Category III facility, or other approved facility designated by U. S. Fish and Wildlife Service [USFWS], within 24 hours.) The care of the animals must be carried out under the general supervision of the cooperating veterinarian or a Category III facility.
4. May administer Controlled Substances to wildlife that have been prescribed to a specific animal by a licensed veterinarian, provided that the veterinarian has properly trained them to do so.
5. May designate individuals to act under their permits as "Transporters." The authority of "Transporters" is limited to retrieval and delivery of secured animals directly to Category I, Category II, or Category III permittees, to a veterinarian, or to approved release points when rehabilitation is complete. The permittee is responsible for maintaining a dated log on each transporter, indicating their name, destination, and type of animal(s) transported.
6. May sponsor up to five (5) Category I permittees, if they are category IIA permittees. The Category IIB permittees may sponsor up to twenty (20) Category I permittees. Category II permittees may sponsor Category I apprentices only after having served as a Category II permittee for a minimum of two (2) years.
7. Must be accessible to the VDGIF and the public for consultation and assistance, including having a working telephone number available to the VDGIF and other appropriate individuals, at all times.
8. May, upon written notice to the VDGIF, terminate the sponsorship of a Category I permittee. At the VDGIF's discretion, these permittees may be reassigned to another Category II permittee, or have their permits revoked.
9. Must maintain records on all animals treated by Category I permittees or associated Category II permittees if different from the Category II permittee's own records. Records must include, at minimum, date of submission, name and contact information for rescuers and/or others who handled the animal prior to receipt by the rehabilitator, reason for submission, final disposition (i.e., died in cage, euthanized, released), date of disposition, and location of release (if applicable).

Category IIIA (Wildlife Teaching Hospital), or **Category IIIB (Wildlife Hospital)**, permit is generally for a professionally operated facility with on-site veterinary equipment and staff, including a licensed veterinarian on staff, whose purpose is the care of sick, injured, orphaned, or debilitated wildlife. Category III permittees may provide care for all types of wildlife providing that holding facilities meet standard requirements, except for black bears, coyotes, elk, mute swans, feral swine, and adult white-tailed deer (unless directly authorized by the Executive Director of VDGIF or his/her designee). Only Category III facilities may provide care for threatened or endangered species, bald and golden eagles, if they possess the required Federal permits to do so. Individuals providing care to raptors or animals requiring unusual expertise would need to have advanced skills and provide proof that they have met the certification requirements necessary for the level of care they are providing.

Category IIIA (Wildlife Teaching Hospital) is a professionally operated facility that is registered with the Virginia Board of Veterinary Medicine as a stationary establishment (pursuant to 18VAC150-20-180, Virginia Administrative Code), whose primary purpose is the care of sick, injured, orphaned, or debilitated wildlife and who provides formal training programs to veterinary students. Category IIIA facilities are issued a facility permit which covers the possession of wildlife by all staff, volunteers, and/or veterinary students. All staff and volunteers who handle wildlife must be listed on the facility's permit as subpermittees.

Category IIIB (Wildlife Hospital) is a professionally operated facility whose purpose is the care of sick, injured, orphaned, or debilitated wildlife. Category IIIB permittees will maintain a permit for themselves to operate as a wildlife rehabilitator and any of their permanent staff or volunteers who are engaged in the caring for sick, injured, orphaned, or debilitated wild animals will obtain and possess individual permits that are at a minimum, Category IV permits.

Category III permittees:

1. Category IIIA permittees are required to annually provide a list (to VDGIF) of permanent staff of the facility engaged in caring for sick, injured, orphaned, or debilitated wild animals in renewing its facility permit. The lists will include complete names and job titles. As an option, facilities may also supply a summary of duties and any licensing or credentials held by each staff member that are related to their work on behalf of the facility. Copies of all current licenses, certifications, or other authorizations or credentials related to the work of the professional staff at the facility as well as their home addresses will be maintained at the facility, and made available for inspection by VDGIF upon request. Additions of subpermittees to permits may be accomplished by sending an e-mail to the VDGIF Permits Section at Collectionpermits@dgif.virginia.gov. Category IIIA permittees are also required to provide a quarterly list of all veterinary students.
2. Category IIIA permittees are required to annually provide a list (to VDGIF) of all volunteers who are specifically authorized to possess wildlife at the facility, and will provide to each of these individuals a letter of authorization demonstrating their ability to exercise control over wildlife within the facility.
3. May receive, transport, hold, and provide care for sick, injured, orphaned, debilitated wildlife (except black bears, coyotes, adult white-tailed deer, elk, mute swans, feral swine, or other nuisance species [as defined in 4 VAC 15-20-160 of the Virginia Administrative Code or §29.1-100 of the Code of Virginia], with the exception of woodchucks), unless specifically authorized by the Executive Director of DGIF or his/her designee), including threatened or endangered species and bald and golden eagles (with the approved Federal permits). The permittee must report to VDGIF Permit Section possession of all threatened and/or endangered species and all bald and/or golden eagles as well as their final disposition within 48-hours.
4. Must immediately report (within 72 hours) to VDGIF all threatened or endangered species (refer to 4 VAC 15-20-130 for list of threatened and endangered species of native wildlife in Virginia) and all bald and golden eagles that are brought to their facility. Upon being contacted, VDGIF will decide if the animal must be transported to another facility that can offer specialized care or if the animal may be retained by the current facility. If retained, rehabilitation and release of the animal must be coordinated with VDGIF's Regional Biologists.
5. May not remove wildlife from the facility under any circumstances, unless the person is a designated transporter (see # 6 below) or they hold an individual Category I or Category IIB permit in their own name.

6. May designate individuals to act under their permits as "Transporters" The authority of "Transporters" is limited to retrieval and delivery of secured animals directly to Category I, Category II, or another Category III permittee, to another facility for additional medical evaluation and/or testing or to approved release points when rehabilitation is complete. The permittee is responsible for maintaining a dated log on each transporter, indicating their name, destination, and type of animal(s) transported.
7. Category IIIB permittees only may sponsor up to twenty (20) Category I permittees, but only after having served as a Category III rehabilitator for a minimum of two (2) years. Because Category IIIA permits are collective permits and not individual permits (sponsorship carries an individual responsibility and accountability), they (Category IIIA) permittees may not sponsor apprentices.
8. Upon written notice to the VDGIF, Category IIIB permittees may terminate the sponsorship of a Category I permittee. At the discretion of VDGIF, these permittees may be reassigned to another Category II or IIIB permittee, or have their permits suspended.
9. Must be accessible to the VDGIF and the public for consultation and assistance, including having a working telephone number available to the VDGIF and other appropriate individuals, at all times.
10. Category IIIB permittees must maintain records on all animals treated by the Category I permittees that they sponsor, if different from the permittee's own records. Record must include, at minimum, date of submission, name and contact information for rescuers and/or others who handled the animal prior to receipt by the rehabilitator, reason for submission, final disposition (i.e., died in cage, euthanized, released), date of disposition, and location of release (if applicable).
11. Those students, who are permanent Virginia residents, whose only purpose is to become educated in wildlife rehabilitation, must obtain a separate (Category IV) permit prior to handling wildlife at a Category IIIB facility.

Category IV (Care Provider) may provide direct care for, and may come into contact with, wildlife at the facility of a Category I, II, or III permittee, when direct supervision is not available at that facility and only with the wildlife that particular facility is permitted to possess. (Example: A Category II goes on vacation and needs someone to provide care to the animals at their facility. The Category IV would be qualified to render this assistance.) The Category IV permittee may not care for animals in their own home. Therefore, there is no need for an initial facility inspection (although their home may be inspected periodically to ensure they are not in possession of wildlife), nor do they need a sponsor. The Category IV permittee may, after successfully completing six (6) months of rehabilitation experience at a Category II or III facility, transition to a Category I permittee with the written recommendation of their sponsor, if they so desire. The permittee would need to provide evidence of completion of at least six (6) hours of approved continuing education prior to submitting an application to become a Category IV permittee and must satisfy the pre-permitting and annual educational requirements. They must also be able to prove administration of a complete rabies vaccine series within the last two years or an adequate rabies titer performed within the last two years if they are to be working with high-risk rabies vector species animals. Individuals, at whose permitted facility the Category IV is assisting, must contact the USFWS, in writing, requesting that the Category IV be included as a sub-permittee of their Federal permit to rehabilitate migratory birds and waterfowl. Category IV permittees may not administer Controlled Substances to wildlife unless it has been prescribed to a specific animal by a licensed veterinarian and provided that the veterinarian has properly trained them to do so.

Category V (Student/Trainee) are primarily veterinary students, students enrolled in a higher education program, or wildlife rehabilitation trainees who are non-Virginia residents or whose

intentions are not to become Virginia wildlife rehabilitators. Those Virginia residents whose intentions are to become Virginia wildlife rehabilitators should apply for Category IV permits. Category V permittees may assist in the direct care for, and may come into direct contact with, wildlife while being directly supervised at the facility of a Category II or Category IIIB permittee. The Category V permittee may not care for animals without being directly supervised (in the same room) by a Category II or Category IIIB permittee. The Category V is not required to have any training prior to being permitted as they are solely in a training status during their tenure as a permittee. A Category V permittee may transport wildlife but may not (without direct supervision) directly handle wildlife during the transport. Category V permits are only valid for 120 days; beyond that time period permittees would be required to apply for and obtain another Category permit in order to continue the rehabilitation of wildlife.

Sponsors are Category II or IIIB permitted rehabilitators who agree to provide mentoring, training, and professional assistance to a Category I (Apprentice) permittee for a minimum of two (2) years.

Transporters do not need an individual permit. A Category II (A or B) or III (A or B) permittee may designate individuals (in writing and the transporter will possess such written authorization while acting as such) to act under their permits as "Transporters." As noted elsewhere in the permit conditions, the authority of "Transporters" is limited to retrieval and delivery of secured (in a cage, crate or other transportation container) animals directly to a Category I, a Category IIA or B, or a Category IIIA or B permittee, to a licensed veterinarian, or to approved release points when rehabilitation is complete. Transporters may not come into physical contact with wildlife.

Staff (paid employees or volunteers) that do not come into contact with wildlife, including but not limited to receptionists, data entry volunteers, food prep volunteers, etc., are not required to obtain an individual permit. If staff or volunteers of a Category II or IIIB rehabilitation facility provide care to and/or exercise control over wildlife they are required to become permitted as a Category IV Care Provider. If they care for wildlife on their own property or at their residence (regardless of the source of the wildlife or the duration of the care provided) they must be permitted as at least a Category I rehabilitator.

III. **CONDITIONS APPLICABLE TO ALL REHABILITATORS**

A. **General Conditions**

1. The goal of the permittee is to return to the wild, once necessary rehabilitation and treatment is complete, any previously sick, injured, or orphaned native wildlife that are deemed able to function normally in their natural habitat. This does not include naturalized wildlife.
2. All wildlife possessed under the authority of this permit shall remain the property of the Commonwealth of Virginia (§29.1-557, Code of Virginia) and under the primary jurisdiction of VDGIF.
3. All persons caring for sick, injured, or orphaned wildlife are required to have a permit from the VDGIF. Licensed veterinarians providing medical care to sick, injured, or debilitated wildlife are not required to have a permit from VDGIF. Once stabilized, wildlife patients must be transferred to a permitted wildlife rehabilitator. Non-permitted licensed veterinarians may hold wildlife until patients are medically stable. Licensed veterinarians rehabilitating healthy or recovered wildlife for release back to their natural habitat are required to have a permit.
4. The permittee shall abide by the Wildlife Rehabilitator Code of Ethics (see section I).

5. This permit is not valid for possession of migratory birds unless accompanied by a Federal Fish and Wildlife Rehabilitation Permit issued by the U. S. Fish and Wildlife Service (USFWS). (Contact U.S. Fish & Wildlife Service Migratory Bird Regional Office, Region 5, P. O. Box 779, Hadley, MA 01035-0779 or call (413) 253-8643 or email at permitsR5MB@fws.gov.)
6. VDGIF is not responsible for or liable for any injuries or damage caused by wildlife held under the authority of this permit. Applicants should possess sufficient liability insurance to cover any situations that may occur.
7. Wildlife that is believed to be infected with a zoonotic disease (i.e., a disease that can be transmitted from animals to humans) or highly contagious diseases known to infect other wildlife must be treated, quarantined, or euthanized appropriately based upon advice from a licensed veterinarian.
8. Wildlife that was captured, rescued, or collected outside of Virginia (with the exception of migratory birds) cannot be rehabilitated in Virginia without specific authorization from the Executive Director or his/her designee. Rehabilitators are prohibited from encouraging other citizens to deliver or present wildlife to them that was captured, rescued, or collected outside of Virginia. Any wildlife rehabilitator who obtains wildlife collected, captured, or rescued from a state other than Virginia must notify VDGIF Permits Section at Collectionpermits@dgif.gov within 24 hours of taking possession to make arrangements for transfer back to the state of origin.

B. Wildlife Care Conditions

1. All permittees shall keep individual records for each wildlife patient in their care, and each individual record should include, at minimum: species, date of admission, location of collection, contact information for rescuers and/or others who handled the animal prior to receipt by the rehabilitator, reason for admission, final disposition (i.e., died, euthanized, released, transferred), method of euthanasia (if applicable), date of disposition, and location of release (if applicable). Location of collection is especially important for amphibians and reptiles as they must be released at the site of collection. All medications administered, procedures, and/or treatments should be recorded. A reporting form (see page 38) shall be submitted to the VDGIF for all wildlife entering the facility for rehabilitation by February 1 of each year, or upon request. Permittees who only rehabilitate migratory birds may submit a copy of their U.S. Fish & Wildlife Service Rehabilitation Annual Report (Form 3-202-4) in place of the required DGIF annual report form. Failure to submit this report may result in revocation, suspension, or non-renewal of an individual's permit.
2. Wildlife shall be maintained in safe, clean, uncrowded, appropriately sized enclosures that are able to be disinfected and are suitable for the species held in captivity. The permittee shall ensure that wildlife is kept in compatible groups (i.e., prey and predator species separated by visual and/or olfactory barriers) and shall be located in areas with minimal human disturbance, minimal impact on human safety, and minimal potential for interaction with free-ranging wildlife, domestic animals and humans not affiliated with the rehabilitation operation.
3. All wildlife shall be fed a species-appropriate diet and shall have free access to water, unless contraindicated based on their illness, injury, debilitation, or age. The wildlife diet preparation area shall be separate from the human food preparation area, and perishable foods shall be appropriately stored in areas free of pest infestation.
4. All wildlife that is being rehabilitated shall be kept in separate rooms, buildings or areas from domestic animals.
5. The permittee shall make every effort to avoid taming or imprinting wildlife receiving care if the animal

is a candidate for release back into the wild.

6. The distribution, possession, and prescription of Controlled Substances is regulated by the Virginia Board of Pharmacy in accordance with the Drug Control Act (Section 54.1-3400 of the Code of Virginia). Only licensed veterinarians can prescribe Schedule II – VI Controlled Substances to wildlife. No permitted wildlife rehabilitator that is not also a licensed veterinarian or registered with the Virginia Board of Pharmacy can prescribe or distribute any Schedule II – VI substances and may only possess Schedule II – VI substances that have been prescribed by a licensed veterinarian for a specific animal. Information on drug schedules can be found in Sections 54.1-3448 (Schedule II), 54.1-3450 (Schedule III), 54.1-3452 (Schedule IV), 54.1-3454 (Schedule V), and 54.1-3455 (Schedule VI) of the Code of Virginia. (Note: Schedule I substances are illegal and veterinarians are not authorized to prescribe them.) Schedule VI Controlled Substances include any drug required by Federal law to bear on its label the symbol "Rx only" or which bears the legend "Caution: Federal Law Prohibits Dispensing Without Prescription" or "Caution: Federal Law Restricts This Drug To Use By Or On The Order Of A Veterinarian".
7. All mammals shall be considered potentially infected with rabies. If any human or domestic animal, including the rescuer, transporter, or handler, has been bitten or been exposed to saliva, the fluid that surrounds the brain and spinal cord, or brain and spinal cord material from any mammal, the permittee must contact the local Health Department immediately or, after business hours, contact the Virginia Department of Health at 1-866-531-3068 and report the incident. The bite must be reported regardless of the rabies vaccination status of the bitten human or domestic pet. The local Health Department will evaluate the situation and determine if the animal needs to be euthanized and tested for rabies. While neither the health department nor city/county animal control offices issues permits to wildlife rehabilitators, permittees must abide by all requests made by authorized public health department personnel, animal control, or VDGIF personnel. Any mammal that has bitten a human or domestic animal cannot be released until the local Health Department investigates the situation to determine if testing is necessary.
8. The welfare of wildlife populations is more important than the welfare of an individual animal. Nothing done in the interest of an individual animal should jeopardize the health and sustainability of wildlife populations.
9. Duly authorized employees of local, state, and Federal agencies, in the performance of their official duties, may inspect the permittee's premises at any time to determine whether or not the permittee is complying with these conditions. This includes the inspection of Category IV permittees' premises to ensure that wildlife is not being cared for or maintained at that location, upon reasonable suspicion that the permittee is in possession of wildlife at that location.
10. Permittees must notify DGIF Law Enforcement personnel immediately, via the Wildlife Crime Line (1-800-237-5712), of any wildlife admitted with gunshot wounds or other injuries of a suspicious nature.

C. Restricted Species Conditions

1. No bears, coyotes, adult white-tailed deer (a fawn becomes an adult on December 31 of the year of birth), elk, nutria, mute swans, feral swine, or any other nuisance species (as defined in 4 VAC 15-20-160 of the Virginia Administrative Code or §29.1-100 of the Code of Virginia), with the exception of woodchucks, may be housed, rehabilitated, or reared by any person or at any facility in Virginia unless specifically authorized by VDGIF. Any wildlife rehabilitator, who acquires a bear, coyote, adult white-tailed deer, elk, nutria, mute swan, or feral swine by any means, must notify VDGIF Permits Section (804-367-9588) within 12 hours of acquiring the animal (800-237-5712 after hours or on weekends and holidays); all other nuisance species shall be humanely euthanized. Rehabilitators permitted by VDGIF

may transport and temporarily possess adult cervids solely for the purpose of immediate humane dispatch, but must notify VDGIF immediately after the deer has been dispatched. No white-tailed deer fawns may be rehabilitated in the Chronic Wasting Disease (CWD) Containment Area, which includes Frederick, Shenandoah, Clarke, and Warren counties nor may white-tailed deer originating from any of the CWD Containment Area counties be rehabilitated.

2. Bald or golden eagles and threatened and endangered species, with the exception of threatened and endangered reptiles and amphibians, shall be referred within 24 hours to a Category III facility where full-time veterinary care and appropriate facilities are available, unless specifically authorized by VDGIF. The VDGIF Permits Section shall be notified prior to referral to a Category III facility if a threatened or endangered species is presented to a facility for rehabilitation or a bald or golden eagle (dead or alive) is possessed by any rehabilitator. Category V permittees may not possess threatened or endangered species or bald or golden eagles at any time without direct, on-site supervision of the facility permittee and only within the facility. Category I permittees may not possess eagles at their home facility but may possess and handle eagles within their Category II or Category III sponsor's facility while under the direct supervision of that sponsor. A list of permitted facilities is maintained by VDGIF (<https://www.dgif.virginia.gov/wildlife/injured/rehabilitators/>). Any rehabilitator possessing any bald or golden eagle or any threatened and endangered species shall notify the VDGIF Permits Section by e-mail at collectionpermits@dgif.virginia.gov or by telephoning a Permits Section staff member and shall make such notification within 12 hours of taking possession of the specific wildlife.
3. Due to disease concerns and particular requirements for successful Cervid rehabilitation, these conditions apply to white-tailed deer only.
 - a. Deer that are brought from outside of Virginia shall not be rehabilitated and shall not be commingled with other deer on premises. Notify VDGIF immediately (within 24 hours) if a deer is brought in from outside the state.
 - b. The permittee shall immediately (within 24 hours) notify VDGIF if any member of the Cervidae family demonstrates some combination of clinical neurological signs consistent with Chronic Wasting Disease (e.g., abnormal behavior, increased salivation, tremors, stumbling, lack of coordination, difficulty swallowing, excessive thirst, and/or excessive urination). The permittee shall euthanize and submit such an animal to VDGIF for disease testing.
 - c. Deer cannot be exhibited in a facility that accepts fawns for rehabilitation, even if the rehabilitator also possesses an exhibitor's permit. Additionally, fawns cannot be transferred from a rehabilitator to any other facility for exhibit unless that facility has already been authorized by VDGIF to exhibit deer. Prior authorization must be obtained by VDGIF before a fawn is transferred to an authorized deer exhibitor.
 - d. Deer fawns must be released no later than December 31 of the year of birth. If a fawn cannot be released by this date, permission must be granted from the Permits Section in order to continue rehabilitation. No adult deer (a fawn becomes an adult on December 31 of the year of birth) may be rehabilitated for any reason.
4. Due to the higher than average rabies transmission risk associated with the rehabilitation of certain high-risk rabies vector species, these conditions apply to all species included in the scientific orders Carnivora (raccoons, skunks, foxes, bobcats, fishers, mink, otter, etc.) Chiroptera (bats), and large members of the scientific order Rodentia (beavers and woodchucks [groundhogs]). These species are referred to hereafter as "highest-risk rabies vector species".
 - a. Rehabilitation of highest-risk rabies vector species is entirely a voluntary decision made by

the individual wildlife rehabilitator.

- b. Only individuals that have received a complete rabies vaccine series within the last two (2) years or has documentation of adequate rabies titers drawn within the last two (2) years will be permitted to handle highest-risk rabies vector species. Proof of immunization, which demonstrates that the vaccine was administered, must be provided with the application each year and will remain on file. Proof of immunization consists of documentation of the initial series of rabies vaccines and a follow-up titer at least every two years thereafter. Proof of immunization and subsequent adequate titer results (if more than two years has passed since the initial vaccine administration) for each staff member or volunteer that works with high-risk rabies vector species must be kept on the rehabilitator's premises at all times.
- c. Only individuals that have submitted a rabies exposure communication plan will be permitted to handle highest-risk rabies vector species. A copy of the rabies exposure communications plan must be submitted with the application each year and will remain on file. A rabies exposure communication plan shall include, at minimum, the name and phone number of the local Department of Health, the name of at least one member of the Environmental Services staff at the local Department of Health, and the after-hours number for the Virginia Department of Health. The rabies exposure communication plan shall be permanently posted on the rehabilitator's premises in an easily accessible location. (See page 35 of this document for a sample rabies exposure plan.)
- d. Additional information from rescuers delivering a highest-risk rabies vector species is required because of the risk of rabies transmission. Additional information to be obtained include the following: date of initial acquisition of the animal, contact information for any humans that were bitten or scratched by the animal, contact information for any humans that handled the animal without gloves, and a description of any interaction between a dog or cat and the animal. (A sample admission form for highest-risk rabies vector species can be found on pages 36-37 of this document.)
- e. All wild mammals shall be considered potentially infected with rabies. If any human or domestic animal, including the rescuer, transporter, or handler, has been bitten or been exposed to saliva, the fluid that surrounds the brain and spinal cord, or brain and spinal cord material from any wild mammal, he or she must contact the local Health Department immediately or, after business hours, contact the Virginia Department of Health at 1-866-531-3068 and report the incident. If it is noted on the admission form that someone handled a highest-risk rabies vector species without gloves, someone was bitten or scratched by the animal, someone hand-fed the animal or otherwise came into direct contact with the saliva of the animal, suspicious contact with the animal was described or suspected based upon information obtained during the admission process (i.e., the animal slept in the same bed with a member of the household, the animal was hand-fed without gloves, the animal had extended contact with a child or an individual with cognitive delays, etc.), or the animal was held by the rescuer for longer than two days before delivery to a rehabilitator, the local Department of Health must be contacted immediately. After business hours, contact the Virginia Department of Health at 1-866-531-3068 and report the incident. The interaction must be reported regardless of the rabies vaccination status of the bitten human or domestic pet. The local Health Department will evaluate the situation and determine if the animal needs to be euthanized and tested for rabies. Any wild mammal that meets the above criteria cannot be released until the local Health Department investigates the situation to determine if testing is necessary.
- f. While neither the health department nor city/county animal control offices issues permits to wildlife rehabilitators, permittees must abide by all requests made by authorized public health

department personnel, animal control, or VDGIF personnel.

- g. All staff/volunteers who provide direct care and/or interact directly with highest-risk rabies vector species (i.e. restrain, administer medications, apply bandages, etc.) shall use protective measures (i.e. gloves, long-sleeved shirts, proper restraint devices, etc.) and shall be vaccinated for rabies and have current titers. All staff/volunteers who provide direct care and/or interact directly with highest-risk rabies vector species at Category I, II or IIIB facilities that handle high-risk rabies vector species shall also have, at a minimum, a Category IV rehabilitation permit. Individuals cleaning cages, water dishes, etc., but not in direct contact with highest-risk rabies vector species wildlife shall wear gloves and use effective disinfectant measures but do not need to be vaccinated for rabies per guidance from the state public health veterinarian in consultation with the state wildlife veterinarian.
 - h. Rehabilitated highest-risk rabies vector animals must be released in the county in which they were rehabilitated; transportation across county lines is prohibited unless specifically authorized by the Executive Director of VDGIF or his/her designee.
 - i. No rehabilitation of any highest-risk rabies vector species, except for bats, is authorized in Buchanan, Dickenson, Lee, Russell, Scott, Tazewell, Washington, and Wise counties due to the Oral Rabies Vaccination (ORV) program conducted by USDA-APHIS in these counties.
5. Due to the risk of transfer of raccoon roundworm, these conditions apply to raccoons only:
- a. Cages, towels, and food and water bowls that are used for raccoons shall not be utilized for other species.
 - b. Wooden cages or cages with dirt floors shall not be used to house raccoons.
 - c. "Raccoon-only" towels should be cleaned in a washing machine not used to wash human clothes.
 - d. Masks and gloves should be worn when cleaning raccoons' cages and when washing raccoon laundry.

D. Final Disposition Conditions

- 1. Release: Rehabilitated native wildlife that recover and are not permanently impaired shall be returned to the wild. Transport carriers that are of appropriate size, and preferably are able to be disinfected, shall be utilized to transport rehabilitated animals to the release site. Consent must be obtained prior to release of rehabilitated wildlife from either a landowner for wildlife released on private property, or a government administrator for wildlife released on city or county land. Consent must be obtained from the VDGIF Permits Section staff prior to the release of any wildlife unless release occurs as described below.
 - a. Deer fawns must be released in the county in which they were rehabilitated or in an adjacent county, except when specifically allowed by the Executive Director of VDGIF or his/her designee.
 - b. Rehabilitated highest-risk rabies vector animals must be released in the county in which they were rehabilitated; transportation across county lines is prohibited unless specifically authorized by the Executive Director of DGIF or his/her designee.

- c. All reptiles and amphibians should be released at the point of collection if the location is considered safe, suitable habitat (i.e., do not release into the middle of a road, in a parking lot, etc.). If the point of collection is determined to be unsuitable, then the animal should be released at the nearest site of appropriate habitat. If the point of collection is not known, then the animal should not be released and should either be euthanized or placed in permanent captivity. If rehabilitated reptiles and amphibians are not able to be released by October 1, they should be overwintered in captivity according to the needs of the species. They can be released the following May 1 or after based on each species' natural history.
 - d. All other native species shall be returned to the area in which they were found or in the county in which they were rehabilitated; they cannot be transported across county lines, except to return an animal to the point of origin or unless specifically allowed by the Executive Director of VDGIF or his/her designee.
 - e. Non-native (to include naturalized) species shall not be released into the wild but shall be either euthanized or placed in a suitable captive environment. Non-native animals are defined as those species and subspecies of animals not naturally occurring in Virginia. The official VDGIF List of Native and Naturalized Fauna of Virginia can be found at <https://www.dgif.virginia.gov/wp-content/uploads/virginia-threatened-endangered-species.pdf>
2. Euthanasia: All wildlife requiring euthanasia shall be dispatched in a humane manner approved by the American Veterinary Medical Association, the American Association of Zoo Veterinarians, the International Wildlife Rehabilitation Council, and/or the National Wildlife Rehabilitator's Association. Non-releasable migratory birds must be euthanized pursuant to the requirements in the American Veterinary Medical Association Guidelines on Euthanasia as per the Federal Rehabilitation permit conditions. Unacceptable/inhumane methods of euthanasia include, but are not limited to, drowning, freezing, and carbon monoxide overdose via inhalation of car exhaust. Licensed veterinarians, into whose care wildlife is temporarily transferred, will be the ultimate authority in deciding on whether that wildlife should be euthanized. Wildlife rehabilitators will comply when advised by a licensed veterinarian that a specific animal should be humanely dispatched.
 3. Permanent Confinement: Permanently impaired wildlife, which has been deemed non-releasable, should be evaluated on an individual basis to determine their suitability for permanent confinement for education purposes or a surrogate. To exhibit a non-releasable animal for educational purposes, a permit to exhibit wildlife is required from the VDGIF.
 - a. In order to possess permanently impaired migratory birds, a Special Purpose Possession Permit must be obtained from USFWS and VDGIF must be notified of the intent and reason for holding this wildlife and must be in concurrence with the stated purpose. VDGIF must be notified within ten (10) business days if the status or disposition of the wildlife changes. Migratory birds may not be transferred to non-permitted individuals unless prior permission is obtained from the VDGIF. The possession of these permanently impaired birds by non-exhibitors and not for educational purposes must be directly tied to the rehabilitation of other wildlife. If the permanently impaired migratory birds are Federally threatened or endangered or a golden or bald eagle, and the rehabilitator has a proven need to possess the bird(s) for non-educational purposes (surrogacy, etc.), they are required to possess a Virginia Threatened/Endangered Species Permit, and if applicable, a USFWS Special Purpose Possession - Eagle Exhibition Permit. Threatened and endangered animals requiring a Virginia Threatened/Endangered Species Permit can be found at: <https://www.dgif.virginia.gov/wp-content/uploads/virginia-threatened-endangered-species.pdf>
 - b. For species other than migratory birds, non-releasable wildlife may only live at facilities operating

with an exhibitor's permit issued by the VDGIF. In addition to a VDGIF exhibitor's permit, a U.S. Department of Agriculture (USDA) Animal Welfare Act License is required to exhibit mammals. The Virginia USDA office may be reached by writing the United States Department of Agriculture, Eastern Region, APHIS, AC, 920 Main Campus Drive, Suite 200, Raleigh, NC 27606 or by calling (919) 716-5532.

- c. Animals assessed by a licensed veterinarian, a wildlife biologist, or VDGIF Permits Section staff to have a less than acceptable quality of life may not be exhibited and shall be euthanized. Characteristics that suggest a poor quality of life include, but are not limited to, grossly underweight or obese body condition, significant lameness, chronic head tilt or balance issues, chronic poor appetite, blindness (in certain species), visible discomfort or stress upon exhibition, or repetitive activity, such as pacing.
 - d. Animals with visible deformities, including, but not limited to, obviously missing limb, eye, or ears, disfiguring scars, or severe lameness or head tilt, shall be euthanized or may only be exhibited with permission from the VDGIF Permits Section. In order to obtain permission, a letter from a licensed, qualified veterinarian describing why the animal in question is deemed non-releasable and attesting to the fact that the non-releasable animal has an acceptable quality of life in captivity must be submitted to the Permits Section for review.
 - e. Permittees who possess USFWS Federal Fish and Wildlife Rehabilitation Permits may possess a limited number of feathers (excluding eagle feathers) for imping purposes only.
 - f. Permittees with a desire to transfer permanently impaired wildlife must first seek approval from the VDGIF Permits Section which will consider each case on an individual basis.
4. Death: Wildlife that dies while in the custody of the permittee shall be buried (provided it was not euthanized via veterinary drugs), incinerated, used as food for other rehabilitating wildlife (provided they were not euthanized with veterinary drugs, were not treated with medications prior to death, and are not fed to exhibition wildlife), or, upon approval from the Executive Director of VDGIF or his/her designee, be offered to a mutually acceptable museum, university, Native Americans with appropriate permits for possession, or other institution(s) for use in authorized activities. Deceased wildlife may be transferred for necropsy purposes with the approval of the DGIF Permits Section. Deceased wildlife that is used for food for rehabilitating animals must not have been ill, treated with any medications, chemically euthanized, or found dead in their cage from unknown causes.

E. Administrative Conditions

- 1. All permittees must obtain at least six (6) hours of approved continuing education related to wildlife rehabilitation (treatment and care of sick, injured, orphaned, or debilitated wildlife) annually. All permittees must attend at least six (6) hours of VDGIF approved continuing education prior to submitting their rehabilitation application (a log documenting time spent training with a Category II or III rehabilitator is acceptable). Evidence of attendance at a continuing education seminar or program (certificate of completion, etc.) shall be submitted to the VDGIF along with the appropriate reporting form by February 1 of each year. An approved continuing education course or program shall be sponsored by one of the following:
 - a. The International Rehabilitation Council (IWRC) and/or The National Wildlife Rehabilitator's Association (NWRA);
 - b. Accredited university, college, and/or community college classes related to wildlife rehabilitation,

- wildlife conservation, or veterinary medicine;
- c. International, national, or regional conferences of wildlife rehabilitation, wildlife conservation, or veterinary medicine;
 - d. Academies or species-specific interest groups of wildlife rehabilitation, wildlife conservation, or veterinary medicine;
 - e. State associations of wildlife rehabilitators, wildlife conservation, or veterinary medicine;
 - f. State or Federal government agencies;
 - g. An organization or entity approved by the Certification Review Board of The International Wildlife Rehabilitation Council (IWRC);
 - h. An organization or entity approved or authorized by the Executive Director of VDGIF or his/her designee.
2. Permittees shall give any and all changes of name, address, and/or phone number to the VDGIF Permits Section within no more than seven (7) days of those changes. All permittees shall provide DGIF with a complete home and facility address, contact telephone number (home or cellular), and a valid e-mail address.
 3. Permittees, or their volunteers (including transporters), shall not charge any fee associated with the activity herein authorized, nor shall permittees, or their volunteers, require fees for the pick-up or delivery of sick, injured, or orphaned wildlife.
 4. Permittees, or their volunteers (including transporters), shall not represent themselves as agents of the VDGIF, nor shall they trespass upon the property of another for the purpose of taking possession of wildlife without permission of the property owner.
 5. Category II and III permittees are strongly encouraged to develop business continuity plans for their facilities. The plans should be developed with the consideration that a natural or unnatural disaster or emergency could occur at a permittee's facility thereby forcing the temporary closure or cessation of operations. Permittees are encouraged to develop memorandums of agreement with other rehabilitators allowing for the temporary transfer of wildlife during emergency situations (i.e. fire, hurricane, flood, tornado, permittee illness or incapacity, etc.). Category I permittees should have agreements with their sponsors to take their wildlife in the event of an emergency or disaster.
 6. Permittees (Categories II and IIIB) desiring to sponsor apprentice rehabilitators (Categories I, IV, and V) should do the following:
 - a. Clearly explain the responsibilities and regulations pertaining to wildlife rehabilitation.
 - b. Share opportunities for apprentices to attend and successfully complete continuing education.
 - c. Assist their apprentices in locating consulting veterinarians of their own.
 - d. Encourage apprentices to seek higher wildlife rehabilitator category status (Category II).
 - e. Develop contingency plans with their apprentices wherein they (Category II permittees) can take possession of their apprentices' (Category I permittees) animals during emergencies and/or

disasters.

F. Renewal Conditions

Regulation 4 VAC 15-30-7 requires that provided that the issuance of a permit renewal has been delayed past the expiration date of the permittee's previous permit at no fault of the applicant, the permittee may continue the specific activities authorized by the expired permit until VDGIF has acted on such person's application for renewal. To qualify for this allowance, applicants must submit a completed renewal application to VDGIF at least 30 days prior to the expiration date of the permit. VDGIF may deny renewal of a permit to any applicant who fails to meet the issuance criteria set forth by VDGIF. Renewal applications should be mailed approximately two months in advance of the permit's expiration date. All wildlife rehabilitation permits expire at midnight on January 31st of each year. Only fully completed applications received prior to midnight of January 31st will be processed for renewal (Note: Anyone who has ever possessed a rehabilitation permit will be considered a renewal even if they have not rehabilitated in the previous year); all other applications will be returned to the applicants, unprocessed, advising that they may reapply the following year. Annual reports documenting the previous year's rehabilitation activities are due at the time of renewal and permit renewal applications will not be considered complete without the annual report. It is the responsibility of all permittees who sponsor Category I permittees to ensure that their apprentices' renewal applications are appropriately completed and submitted prior to the January 31st deadline as they are considered part of the sponsor's application package.

G. Federal, State, and Local Laws

This permit does not absolve the permittee of any responsibilities or conditions of any other Federal, state, or local laws and regulations, including those that apply to threatened or endangered species.

H. Cancellation, Suspension and Revocation

Cancellation and Suspension: Any permit may be canceled, suspended or revoked, at any time when it is found that the permittee is not in compliance with the conditions of this permit. In addition to suspension or revocation, VDGIF may issue written or verbal warnings, conduct consultations, or modify permits accordingly. Regulation 4 VAC 15-290-130 states that a permit holder shall comply with all terms and conditions of any permit issued by the VDGIF pursuant to Title 29.1 of the Code of Virginia and the regulations of the Board pertaining to hunting, fishing, trapping, attempting to take, possessing, offering for sale, transporting or causing to be transported, importing or exporting, propagating, exhibiting, and rehabilitating of any wild bird, wild animal or fish. The penalty for violation of this section is a Class 3 misdemeanor unless another penalty is specified and can be enforced by a VDGIF Conservation Police Officer (CPO).

I. Wildlife Rehabilitator Code of Ethics

1. A wildlife rehabilitator should strive to achieve high standards of animal care through knowledge, and an understanding of the field. Continuing efforts must be made to keep informed of current rehabilitation information, methods, and regulations.
2. A wildlife rehabilitator should be responsible, conscientious, and dedicated and should continuously work toward improving the quality of care given to wild animals undergoing rehabilitation.
3. A wildlife rehabilitator must abide by local, state, and Federal laws concerning wildlife, wildlife rehabilitation, and associated activities.
4. A wildlife rehabilitator should establish safe work habits and conditions, abiding by current health and

safety practices at all times.

5. A wildlife rehabilitator should acknowledge limitations and enlist the assistance of a veterinarian or other trained professionals when appropriate.
6. A wildlife rehabilitator should respect other rehabilitators and persons in related fields, sharing skills and knowledge in the spirit of cooperation for the welfare of the animals.
7. A wildlife rehabilitator should place optimum animal care above personal gain.
8. A wildlife rehabilitator should strive to provide professional and humane care in all phases of wildlife rehabilitation, respecting the wildness and maintaining the dignity of each animal in life and in death. Releasable animals should be maintained in a wild condition, and released as soon as appropriate. Non-releasable animals which are inappropriate for education, foster-parenting, or captive breeding (only when VDGIF approved) have a right to euthanasia.
9. A wildlife rehabilitator should encourage community support and involvement through volunteer training and public education. The common goal should be to promote a responsible concern for living beings, and the welfare of the environment.
10. A wildlife rehabilitator should work on the basis of sound ecological principles, incorporating appropriate conservation ethics and an attitude of stewardship.
11. A wildlife rehabilitator should conduct all business and activities in a professional manner, with honesty, integrity, compassion, and commitment, realizing that an individual's conduct reflects on the entire field of wildlife rehabilitation.

APPENDIX A BASIC REQUIREMENT FOR HOUSING WILD ANIMALS

INSPECTION - Wildlife held in captivity shall be subject to inspection by any Virginia Conservation Police Officer or duly authorized VDGIF personnel. Inspecting officers shall determine whether said wildlife are adequately fed, sheltered, cleaned, cared for, provided with sufficient space, veterinary care, and securely, properly, and safely penned. In the event that the animal is not adequately cared for, the officer shall report the situation in writing to the person holding such wildlife. Failure of the permittee to correct the situation within 24-hours after such written notice will result in automatic suspension of all permits to hold such wildlife.

HOLDING CAPTIVE WILDLIFE - All persons keeping wildlife shall be responsible for practicing good animal husbandry, handling, management, confinement, feeding, watering, protection, shelter, transportation, and, when necessary, euthanasia, appropriate for the age, species, condition, size, and type of the animal, and the provision of veterinary care, when needed, to prevent suffering or impairment of health. All persons keeping wildlife shall ensure that human health and safety is never in jeopardy due to confinement of wildlife and shall also strive to avoid creation of a public nuisance by minimizing smells, noise, etc.

ALL CAPTIVE WILDLIFE SHALL BE PROVIDED WITH:

Adequate food to include access to, and provision of, food which is of sufficient quantity and nutritional value to maintain each animal in good health; is accessible to each animal; is prepared so as to permit ease of consumption for the age, species, condition, size, and type of each animal, is provided in a clean and sanitary manner, is placed so as to minimize contamination by excrement and pests; and is provided at suitable intervals for the species held, but at least once daily, except as prescribed by a veterinarian or as dictated by naturally occurring states of hibernation or fasting normal for the species.

Adequate water to include provision of and access to clean, fresh, potable water of a drinkable temperature which is provided in a suitable manner, in sufficient volume, and at suitable intervals but at least once every twelve hours, to maintain normal hydration except as prescribed by a veterinarian or as dictated by naturally occurring state of hibernation or fasting normal for the species; and is provided in clean, durable receptacles which are accessible to each animal and are placed so as to minimize contamination of the water by excrement and pests or an alternative source of hydration consistent with generally accepted husbandry practices.

Properly cleaned enclosures to include the removal of carcasses, debris, food waste, and excrement in sufficient frequency to minimize the captive wildlife contact with the above-mentioned contaminants; the primary enclosure is sanitized with sufficient frequency to minimize odors and the hazards of disease; and the primary enclosure is cleaned so as to prevent the animals confined therein from being directly, or indirectly, sprayed with the stream of water, or exposed to hazardous chemicals or disinfectants.

Proper lighting means sufficient illumination to permit routine inspections, maintenance, cleaning and maintenance of the shelter, and observation of captive wildlife; to provide regular diurnal light cycles of either natural or artificial light, uniformly diffused throughout the wildlife holding facilities, and to promote the well-being of the wildlife.

Adequate care meaning the responsible practice of good animal husbandry, handling, management, confinement, feeding, watering, protection, shelter, transportation, and, when necessary, euthanasia, appropriate for the age, species, condition, size, and type of the animal, and the provision of veterinary care when needed to prevent suffering, impairment of health or disease transmission.

CAGE DISINFECTION - Daily removal of feces and urine from mammal cages is necessary to prevent odor, parasite infestation, and insect over-population, avian species in large flight aviaries may be cleaned on a less frequent basis, providing there is a regular schedule for cleaning. Some mammals (i.e., cottontails) have a need to ingest feces. Special arrangements can be made for species who have this need. There are various

disinfecting agents used after daily cleaning to properly sanitize the cage.

CAGING RECOMMENDATIONS

The enclosures suggested, with the exception of conditioning cages, are for short-term (i.e., less than six months) housing of rehabilitation animals. The philosophy which dictates cage size presupposes normal recovery times for the patient. None of the confinement or recovery cages are recommended for extended or permanent care.

Any bird old enough to perch requires the same size cage as the adult of the species. Enclosures should be made secure against common local predators.

Cage design should provide for ease of cleaning, ventilation, light, and temperature control. A separate source of water for drinking and bathing for each enclosure should be provided.

AVIAN CAGING - Materials for caging vary within the field. Solid walls for aviaries can be constructed of wood, fiberglass, or their equivalent. Hardware cloth, chicken wire, and chain-link fencing are not recommended if the birds can come into direct contact with them. If vertical wood lath, fiberglass screening, or netting prevent direct contact, then wire on outside can add extra security. Flooring for aviaries is often pea gravel over sand which should be changed bi-annually, or as needed. Natural flooring is acceptable in very large enclosures but it must be turned and disinfected from time to time. Flooring for small cages may include towels or raised netting over newspaper, newspaper alone, or wood (but not cedar) shavings, depending on the species being housed. Perches can be wood doweling or plastic piping (or the equivalent) covered by ¼" AstroTurf, hemp, or indoor/outdoor carpeting. Platforms can be covered with ½" AstroTurf or indoor/outdoor carpeting. Natural limbs, bow, block, and ring perches are appropriate for certain species of birds. For small confinement, as in a carrier, removable and changeable perches, giving a different resting surface each day, are recommended to avoid confinement sores.

RESTRICTED ACTIVITY - designated for initial housing of birds suffering from special problems such as traumatic injuries, post-surgical care, severely debilitating conditions such as shock, toxicity, neurological impairment, or other conditions that require close supervision and management. Confinement cages include airline pet carriers, incubators, padded cages, open boxes that allow for thermo-regulation with heat lamps, etc. These cages should be used when activity must be restricted.

LIMITED ACTIVITY - designated to encompass all necessary elements of housing during the initial healing period, including "cage rest" situations.

UNLIMITED ACTIVITY - designated to provide an opportunity for recuperated birds to improve their strength, develop stamina and coordination, restore muscle tone, and acclimate to ambient weather conditions by swimming, flying, etc. in larger outdoor enclosures.

CONSIDERATIONS IN DEFINING AVIAN CAGE SIZES - Although considerable thought and experience determined the cage sizes listed in this program, it is impossible to consider all possibilities in terms of material, design, or size. Caging will be reviewed, on-site, by experienced Virginia Conservation Police Officer(s) who will be concerned with its workability.

Since exterior plywood is available in economical and easy to use 4'x 8' sheets, some caging standards have been calculated, using numbers that are based on material size. Maximum volume is achieved with cubic cages. Cage sizes specify minimums, but it is best to give the birds the maximum amount of space. Consequently, cages should be built using the size designed for the largest species to be housed, since they will be reused with different species at different times. While the raptor cage information states a minimum rectangular size, it has been found that a semi-circular L-shaped enclosure will often be better to evaluate angling abilities.

Equivalent substitution is encouraged. Certainly, in most cases, the usual 7" x 10" x 17" cardboard portable pet carrier is an excellent substitute for the 12" x 12" x 12" cage size listed for initial care of small birds. Intelligent substitution of height and ground area requirements is encouraged. While pheasants and egrets are the same size, one requires height and the other needs ground space. Cages are only specified in cubic footage. It would be very difficult to specify ground room for individual species. Additionally, birds cannot be assigned cage sizes by species, due to variations within species. For example, the Canada goose has at least seven races that are identifiable by size. They range from the giant, which has a six-foot wingspread and breeds in Missouri, to the small mallard size that breeds near the Arctic Circle and winters in California. For this reason, non-raptorial species are housed according to their general size (in this instance, the height of the bird).

CODES FOR SPECIAL CAGING REQUIREMENTS FOR SONGBIRDS & MISC AVIAN SPECIES

Birds such as woodpeckers and nuthatches require angled and/or vertical logs for climbing. Provide suitable materials for clinging birds such as chimney swifts.

Birds with this designation require old logs, etc. as drumming materials.

F Special substrate needed. These species are susceptible to foot problems. Depending on the species, padded flooring, towels, sheeting, carpets, kitty litter, crumpled newspaper covered with toweling, sand, or suspended net flooring may be used.

B Special vertical surfaces needed for swifts. Temporary confinement and recovery housing must be lined on all sides with snag-free fabric or other material with enough texture for the birds to cling vertically. Two or more walls of the conditioning housing must be constructed of or covered with rough-textured material such as cork, rough-textured siding, or fiberglass window screening.

Ch A waist-high "artificial chimney" should be located in the center of the outdoor housing as a feeding station or roost; suggestions for construction may be found in Kyle, P. and G. Kyle, 1995.

H Hides: provide natural vegetative material or man-devised areas for cover.

P Requires two or more perches of varied diameter.

Pi Piling or shelves required for perching; these may be covered with AstroTurf™ or other suitable material to provide good footing and prevent bumble foot lesions.

Q Quiet and extreme privacy required.

S Bathing area required; "kiddie pool" size.

So Swimming area required; large pool (deeper than 2'), tank, pond. Provide a resting platform in any swimming area. For above ground pools, a ramp covered with AstroTurf or equivalent should be provided.

W Large pan with soil, leaves, grass and/or wood chips containing live worms, grubs, mealworms, and/or insects to allow the birds to forage on their own. May not be required for all species in the orders listed – check natural history requirements.

Z Although larger conditioning cage sizes are preferred for hummingbirds, great care must be taken to seal off small openings or cracks that can act as traps.

APPENDIX B MINIMUM HOUSING GUIDELINES FOR SONGBIRDS & MISCELLANEOUS AVIAN SPECIES †

Although considerable thought and experience determined the cage sizes listed in this program, it is impossible to consider all possibilities in terms of material, design, or size. Caging will be reviewed, on-site, by experienced Conservation Police Officers or authorized VDGIF personnel who will assess its workability. Caging guidelines are listed W x L x H (Width x Length x Height).

Order	Length of Bird	Restricted Activity W x L x H	Limited Activity W x L x H	Unlimited Activity W x L x H	Maximum Number	Codes
Columbiformes (Pigeons, Doves)	> 9 in	12 in x 12 in x 12 in	12 in x 12 in x 12 in	16 ft x 8 ft x 8 ft	8 pigeons; 12 doves	P, Pi, Q
Cuculiforme (Cuckoos)	< 12 in	18 in x 18 in x 18 in	24 in x 24 in x 24 in	8 ft x 8 ft x 8 ft	4-6	P, Q
	> 12 in	24 in x 24 in x 24 in	36 in x 36 in x 36 in	16 ft x 16 ft x 16 ft		
Caprimulgiformes (Nighthawks, Goatsuckers)	~ 9 in	12 in x 12 in x 12 in	12 in x 24 in x 12 in	8 ft x 16 ft x 8 ft	6	C, P
Coraciformes (Kingfishers)	< 9 in	12 in x 12 in x 12 in	18 in x 18 in x 18 in	8 ft x 16 ft x 8 ft	4	C, F, Pi, Q, S
Apodiformes Apodidae (Swifts) Trochilidae (Hummingbirds)	< 9 in	12 in x 12 in x 12 in	12 in x 12 in x 12 in	8 ft x 16 ft x 8 ft	15-20	B, Ch
	< 5 in	7 in x 11 in x 5 in	12 in x 17 in x 7 in	2 ft x 4 ft x 6 ft	4	P, Z
Piciformes (Woodpeckers)	< 9 in	12 in x 12 in x 12 in	18 in x 18 in x 18 in	4 ft x 8 ft x 8 ft	2-4	C, D, H, W
	> 9 in	18 in x 18 in x 18 in	24 in x 24 in x 24 in	8 ft x 16 ft x 8 ft		
Passeriformes Perching & Songbirds Swallows Small Corvidae (Jays, Magpies, and small Crows)	< 5 in	7 in x 11 x 5 in	12 in x 17 in x 7 in	2 ft x 4 ft x 4 ft	4	H, P, Z
	5-10 in	12 in x 12 in x 12 in	18 in x 18 in x 18 in	4 ft x 8 ft x 8 ft	4-6	H, P, Z, W
	< 17 in	14 in x 18 in x 18 in	24 in x 18 in x 24 in	8 ft x 16 ft x 8 ft	6	P
Corvidae (Large Crows & Ravens)	> 17 in	16 in x 22 in x 22 in	24 in x 24 in x 24 in	10 ft x 30 ft x 12 ft	6	P
Galliformes (Quail, Pheasants)	< 20 in	2 ft x 2 ft x 2 ft	3 ft x 3 ft x 3 ft	4 ft x 4 ft x 8 ft	4	H
	> 20 in	3 ft x 3 ft x 3 ft	4 ft x 4 ft x 8 ft	8 ft x 12 ft x 8 ft		

Table B-1: † Miller, E.A., editor. 2012. Minimum Standards for Wildlife Rehabilitation, 4th edition. National Wildlife Rehabilitators Associations, St. Cloud, MN. 116 pages.

CODES FOR SPECIAL CAGING REQUIREMENTS FOR WATERBIRDS

- AG Note that these birds can be extremely aggressive, even with conspecifics. Use caution and observe the birds' interactions when introduced, before housing together.
- AP These birds require pre-release conditioning (unlimited activity) aviaries that contain pools to swim in and standing/perching surfaces
- AW These birds require pre-release conditioning (unlimited activity) aviaries that contain shallow wading pools and a variety of perches, especially up high.
- FP These birds have very sensitive feet. Provide as much wading area (in addition to a "swimming" pool) as possible in Limited and Unlimited Activity housing to help prevent husbandry injuries. The wading areas should have mud or sand substrates on the bottom for foraging, avoiding cement or other hard rough surfaces that might damage feet.
- N Should be housed on tightly stretched, suspended netting as a substrate whenever bird is not in water.
- ON When an individual of these species is housed inside and is emaciated (pronounced keel) or not standing, it should be housed on net bottom caging to protect feathers and keel until standing normally and of normal weigh. Otherwise, when standing normally and keel is not extremely pronounced, housing substrate is solid and covered with toweling or matting.
- PP These species, during pre-release conditioning, require only pool space. Prior to release, individuals must be able to stay in pool full time, without a haul-out area for a minimum of 48 hours without compromise to their waterproofing.
- PT During recovery, bird should be allowed pool time as long and as often as medical condition allows (minimum 3ft diameter). This may include cold or warm water pools as appropriate for individuals. NOTE: These species require graduated pools, with the depth proportionate to their size (e.g., shallower for small terns and skimmers): these species may drown in a kiddie pool.
- SO Surface overflow of a pool required to maintain water quality (this can be achieved by constantly running a hose or by overflowing pool, filtering, and recirculating water.
- ST As soon as they are standing these stiff-tail-feathered birds should have a stump or stump-like perch to avoid feather breakage and soiling.
- Gre Social or gregarious; can usually be housed with other individuals or same species and often with like birds of other species; may be territorial to varying degrees in breeding/nesting season
- Terr These birds are often social, but may be territorial in breeding/nesting season. Territory size needs may vary from a few feet to the entire cage, so check natural history and anticipate housing fewer individuals together during breeding/nesting season.
- Col These birds are colonial and tend to do better when housed together with other individuals of the same species; may need to house fewer together

during breeding/nesting season.

Sol These birds are solitary and generally do best when housed alone; when group-housed, they require individual hides and may defend these territories within the cage.

H Hides: provide natural vegetative material or man-devised areas for cover.

Key to Table

*This measurement represents the length of the bird from tip of beak to tip of tail with neck fully extended

** These include: black, gadwall, mallard, pintail, widgeon, wood, shoveler, and teal.

^These include: scooter, eiders, harlequin, and oldsquaw.

^^These include: redhead, ring-necked, scaups, goldeneyes, bufflehead, and ruddy.

APPENDIX C MINIMUM HOUSING GUIDELINES FOR WATERBIRDS †

Although considerable thought and experience determined the cage sizes listed in this program, it is impossible to consider all possibilities in terms of material, design, or size. Caging will be reviewed, on-site, by experienced Virginia Conservation Police Officer(s) or authorized VDGIF personnel who will assess its workability. Caging guidelines are listed W x L x H (Width x Length x Height).

Order	Bird Size	Restricted Activity W x L x H	Limited Activity W x L x H	Unlimited Activity W x L x H	Codes
Gaviiformes (Loons)	Any	15 in x 30 in x 30 in	3 ft x 3 ft x 3 ft	Pool: 8 ft diam x 2 ft deep	N, PT, PP, SO, Col/Sol
Podicioediformes Small grebes (Eared, Horned & Pied-billed) Large grebes (Western, Clark's & red-necked) Albatrosses	Any	12 in x 12 in x 12 in	18 in x 18 in x 18 in	Pool: 6 ft diam 2 ft deep	N, H, PT, PP, SO, Col/Sol
		18 in x 18 in x 18 in	2 ft x 2 ft x 2 ft	Pool: 6 ft diam 2 ft deep	N, PT, PP, SO, Col/Sol
		3 ft x 3 ft x 3 ft	4 ft x 6 ft x 4 ft	Pool: 10 ft diam 18 in deep	N, PT, PP, SO, AG, Col/Terr
Pelecaniformes Pelicans (Brown) Pelican (White) Gannets, Boobies Cormorants, Anhingas, Tropicbirds Frigatebirds	Any	3 ft x 3 ft x 3 ft	4 ft x 8 ft x 4 ft	Pool: 10 ft diam 2 ft deep Aviary: 15 ft x 30 ft x 12 ft	PT, AP, SO, Col/Terr
		4 ft x 4 ft x 4 ft	4 ft x 8 ft x 4 ft	Pool: 10 ft diam 2 ft deep Aviary: 15 ft x 30 ft x 12 ft	PT, AP, SO, Col/Terr
		3 ft x 3 ft x 3 ft	4 ft x 8 ft x 4 ft	Pool: 8 ft diam 2 ft deep Aviary: 8 ft x 16 ft x 8 ft	PT, AP, SO, ST, Col/Terr
		24 in x 30 in x 30 in	4 ft x 6 ft x 8 ft	Pool: 8 ft diam 2 ft deep Aviary: 8 ft x 20 ft x 10 ft	PT, AP, SO, ST, Col/Terr
		3 ft x 6 ft x 3 ft	4 ft x 6 ft x 8 ft	Aviary: 12 ft x 30 ft x 12 ft	ST, Sol
Ciconiiformes Bitterns, Herons & Egrets* Bitterns, Herons, Egrets, Storks, Ibis & Spoonbills*	< 20 in	18 in x 18 in x 24 in	2 ft x 2 ft x 4 ft	Pool: 2-3 ft diam 6-10 in deep Aviary: 4 ft x 12 ft x 8 ft	AW, AG
	> 20 in	3 ft x 3 ft x 3 ft	4 ft x 8 ft x 6 ft	Pool: 5-6 ft diam 6-10 in deep Aviary: 10 ft x 25 ft x 10 ft	AW

Table C-1
 † Miller, E.A., editor. 2012. Minimum Standards for Wildlife Rehabilitation, 4th edition. National Wildlife Rehabilitators Associations, St. Cloud, MN. 116 pages

Order	Bird Size	Restricted Activity W x L x H	Limited Activity W x L x H	Unlimited Activity W x L x H	Codes
Anseriformes Swans Geese Marsh Ducks & Whistler Ducks (dabblers)** Bay Ducks, Sea Ducks & Mergansers (divers)	Any	4 ft x 4 ft x 4 ft	4 ft x 8 ft x 4 ft	Pool: 8 ft diam 2 ft deep Aviary: 12 ft x 20 ft x 8 ft	PT, PP Gre but Terr
		3 ft x 3 ft x 3 ft	4 ft x 6 ft x 4 ft	Pool: 6 ft diam 2 ft deep Aviary: 10 ft x 18 ft x 8 ft	PT, PP Gre but Terr
		18 in x 18 in x 12 in	2 ft x 2 ft x 2 ft	Pool: 45 in diam 8 in deep Aviary: 6 ft x 10 ft x 8 ft	ON, PT, AP Gre but Terr
		18 in x 18 in x 12 in	2 ft x 2 ft x 2 ft	Pool: 6 ft diam 2 ft deep	N, PT, PP, SO Gre but Terr
Gruiformes Cranes Rails* Rails, Gallinules & Coots*	Any	3 ft x 3 ft x 4 ft	4 ft x 8 ft x 8 ft	Pool: 4 ft diam 4-10 in deep Aviary: 10 ft x 25 ft x 10 ft	AW Gre but Terr
	< 10 in	12 in x 12 in x 12 in	18 in x 18 in x 18 in	Pool: 3 ft diam 3-5 in deep Aviary: 4 ft x 6 ft x 6 ft	H, AW, FP, Sol
	> 10 in	18 in x 18 in x 18 in	2 ft x 2 ft x 2 ft	Pool: 45 in diam 8 in deep Aviary: 6 ft x 8 ft x 8 ft	H, AW, FP Rails = Sol Gal & Coot = Gre
Charadriiformes Phalaropes Sandpipers, Plovers & Shorebirds Sandpipers, Shorebirds & Avocets Gulls* Gulls* Skimmers, Terns, Oystercatchers, Jaegers & Skuas Auks*	Any	12 in x 12 in x 12 in	18 in x 18 in x 18 in	Pool: 45 in diam 6-8 in deep Aviary: Small land area	FP, PT, PP, SO Gre but Terr
	< 10 in	12 in x 12 in x 12 in	18 in x 18 in x 18 in	Pool: 3 ft diam 1-3 in deep Aviary: 4 ft x 6 ft x 6 ft	AW, FP Gre but Terr
	> 10 in	12 in x 18 in x 18 in	18 in x 18 in x 18 in	Pool: 3 ft diam 3-5 in deep Aviary: 4 ft x 6 ft x 6 ft	AW, FP Gre but Terr
	< 14 in	12 in x 15 in x 18 in	18 in x 18 in x 18 in	Pool: 45 in diam 10 in deep Aviary: 6 ft x 12 ft x 8 ft	PT, AP, SO Gre but Terr
	> 14 in	18 in x 18 in x 18 in	3 ft x 3 ft x 3 ft	Pool: 45 in diam 12 in deep Aviary: 8 ft x 16 ft x 8 ft	ON, PT, AP, SO Gre but Terr
	Any	18 in x 18 in x 18 in	3 ft x 3 ft x 3 ft	Pool: 45 in diam 2-4 in deep Aviary: 8 ft x 16 ft x 8 ft	ON, AP, SO, FP PT***
	< 12 in	12 in x 12 in x 12 in	18 in x 18 in x 18 in	Pool: 6 ft diam 2 ft deep	N, PT, PP, SO, Col
	> 12 in	12 in x 18 in x 18 in	2 ft x 2 ft x 2 ft		

Table C-2

APPENDIX D MINIMUM HOUSING GUIDELINES FOR RAPTORS †

Although considerable thought and experience determined the cage sizes listed in this program, it is impossible to consider all possibilities in terms of material, design, or size. Caging will be reviewed, on-site, by experienced Virginia Conservation Police Officer(s) or authorized VDGIF personnel who will assess its workability. Caging guidelines are listed W x L x H (Width x Length x Height).

Order	Restricted Activity W x L x H	Limited Activity W x L x H	Unlimited Activity W x L x H
BOOW, BUOW, EASO, ELOW, FEPO, FLOW, NOPO, NSWO, PRSO, WESO, WHSO	12 in x 17 in x 12 in	3 ft x 6 ft x 8 ft	8 ft x 16 ft x 8 ft
MAKE, APFA, EUKE, GRHA, HBKI, MERL, MIKI, **NOHO, NHOW, ROHA, SNKI, SSHA, STHA	16 in x 23 in x 19 in	6 ft x 6 ft x 8 ft	8 ft x 16 ft x 8 ft
BNOW, BWhA, COHA, HWHA, LEOW, RSHA, SEOW, WTKI	20 in x 27 in x 22 in	6 ft x 8 ft x 8 ft	10 ft x 30 ft x 12 ft
BDOW, CBHA, CRCA, GHOW, HRLH, HRSH, NOGO, NOHA, RLHA, RTHA, SPOW, STKI, SWHA, WTHA, ZTHA	20 in x 27 in x 24 in	6 ft x 8 ft x 8 ft	10 ft x 50 ft x 12 ft
BAEA, BLVU, FEHA, GGOW, GOEA, GYFA, OSPR, PEFA, PRFA, **SEEA, SNOW, TUVU, **WTEA	3 ft x 3 ft x 3 ft	8 ft x 10 ft x 8 ft	20 ft x 100ft x 16 ft

Table D-1

† Miller, E.A., editor. 2012. Minimum Standards for Wildlife Rehabilitation, 4th edition. National Wildlife Rehabilitators Associations, St. Cloud, MN. 116 pages.

Key to Table

*Species are listed using four letter AOU code (American Ornithologists Union).

**Indicates that the codes used for these species are not official AOU codes.

American Ornithologists Union Codes

Accipiters

COHA – Cooper’s Hawk
NOGO – Northern Goshawk
SSHA – Sharp-shinned Hawk

Buteos

BWHA – Broad-winged Hawk
FEHA – Ferruginous Hawk
HRLH – Harlan’s Hawk
HRSH – Harris’ Hawk
HWHW – Hawaiian Hawk
RSHA – Red-shouldered Hawk
RTHA – Red-tailed Hawk
RLHA – Rough-legged Hawk
SWHA – Swainson’s Hawk
WTHA – White-tailed Hawk
ZTHA – Zone-tailed Hawk

Eagles

BAEA – Bald Eagle
GOEA – Golden Eagle
*WTEA – White-tailed Eagle
** SSEA – Steller’s Sea Eagle

Small Falcons

AMKE – American Kestrel
EUKA – Eurasian Kestrel
**NOHO – Northern Hobby
MERL – Merlin

Medium Falcons

APFA – Aplomado Falcon
PEFA – Peregrine Falcon
PRFA – Prairie Falcon

Large Falcons

CRCA – Crested Caracara
GYFA – Gyrfalcon

Harriers

NOHA – Northern Harrier

Kites

HBKI – Hook-billed Kite
MIKI – Mississippi
SNKI – Snail Kite
STKI – Swallow-tailed Kites
WTKI – White-tailed/Black-shouldered Kite

Osprey

OSPR – Osprey

Vultures

BLVU – Black Vulture
TUVU – Turkey Vulture

Small Owls

BOOW – Boreal Owl
BUOW – Burrowing Owl
EASO – Eastern Screech Owl
ELOW – Elf Owl
FLOW – Flammulated Owl
NOPO – Northern Pygmy Owl
PRSO – Puerto Rican Screech Owl
WESO – Western Screech Owl
WHSO – Whiskered Owl

Medium Owls

BNOW – Barn Owl
LEOW – Long-eared Owl
NHOW – Northern Hawk Owl
SEOW – Short-eared Owl

Large Owls

BDOW – Barn Owl
GGOW – Great Gray Owl
GHOW – Great Horned Owl
SNOW – Snowy Owl
SPOW – Spotted Owl

APPENDIX E MINIMUM HOUSING GUIDELINES FOR SELECTED MAMMALS †

Comments on Mammal Housing - Although considerable thought and experience determined the cage sizes listed in this program, it is impossible to consider all possibilities in terms of material, design, or size. Caging will be reviewed, on-site, by experienced Conservation Police Officers or authorized VDGIF personnel who will assess its workability.

The following are suggested building materials for outdoor cages. Walls are generally made of chain-link fencing, welded wire, or wood. When wooden cages are used, they should be water-sealed. Welded wire sizes are as follows: ½" x ½" for small rodents and opossums (100g or less); ½" x 1" for squirrels; and 1" x 1-½" for raccoons and larger mammals. Roofing materials are the same with a covered area that provides protection from the elements. Fiberglass is sometimes used on top of the wire to provide protection. The flooring depends on the species being housed. Concrete flooring should be sloped for proper drainage. If natural flooring is utilized, wire fencing should be placed under the cage and be covered with draining gravel. Wood shavings can be used if they are changed regularly. All doors should be equipped with a double door system for the protection of the handler and the animal. A den should be provided for the animal. Raccoons should have a dedicated enclosure to avoid spreading disease to other species; examples can include a wooden box, fiberglass, or plastic animal carrier.

Specific Species Requirements

Rodents	Logs for gnawing to curb tooth growth; bark must be edible. Some species may utilize dirt for burying food, dust baths, etc. A source of calcium (i.e. a cuttlebone or antler) could also be provided.
Raccoons	Hammocks made of fabric, hanging tires, etc. attached to wall or roof; tree limbs and logs to promote climbing; provide a wading pool or water container applicable to the animal's size to allow bathing and food handling.
Bobcats	Large branches and logs (some hollow) should be provided for climbing; high platforms for resting above the cage floor.
Muskrats/Otters/Beavers	Must have water containers that are large enough to swim in and are at least two feet; examples include bathtubs, metal troughs, metal or concrete pools (plastic kiddie pools are not deep enough and will be destroyed by the animal). Heavy fiberglass stock tanks with a drain in the bottom work well. Container of soil at least one foot deep should be provided for digging. A den for hiding should be provided.
Hooved	If chain link is used for the walls, drapes must be hung over the inside of the chain link to avoid injury to Mammals the animal and to keep it from climbing out (i.e., blankets tied securely or tarps).

The following guidelines are meant to give guidance on minimum housing requirements for the rehabilitation of various species of eastern mammals. All cage sizes are indicated in feet and are in order of Width x Height x Length.

= Number of animals

Note: Occasional large litter (8-10 animals) may require larger housing.

W = wire bottom

A = must have easy access; if not, use larger cage size for safety

** = 12"x12"x12" tote can substitute for 10 gal aquarium for Tree Squirrels

† Miller, E.A., editor. 2012. Minimum Standards for Wildlife Rehabilitation, 4th edition. National Wildlife Rehabilitators Associations, St. Cloud, MN. 116 pages.



HOUSING GUIDELINES FOR INFANT AND JUVENILE MAMMALS †

Order/Family	Infant Care W x L x H	Nursing/Pre-weened W x L x H	Juvenile Outside W x L x H	Code
Marsupialia Opossums	10 Gallon	3 ft x 3 ft x 3 ft	10 ft x 12 ft x 8 ft	
Insectivora Shrews & Moles	10 Gallon	20 Gallon		
Chiroptera (Bats) Little Browns & Pipistrelles Evenings, Reds, Myotis, Big Brown Free-tails, Hoarys, Pallids & Yellows	6 in x 8 in x 6 in	12 in x 18 in x 12 in	8 ft x 16 ft x 8 ft	
			8 ft x 16 ft x 8 ft	
			10 ft x 20 ft x 8 ft	
Carnivora Raccoons Fishers Weasels & Minks River Otters Skunks Foxes Bobcats	10-20 Gallon	3 ft x 3 ft x 3 ft	10 ft x 12 ft x 6 ft	
	10 Gallon	3 ft x 3 ft x 3 ft	6 ft x 8 ft x 6 ft	
	10 Gallon	10 Gallon	6 ft x 8 ft x 8 ft	
	20 Gallon	6 ft x 12 ft x 6 ft	6 ft x 12 ft x 6 ft	
	20 Gallon	2 ft x 4 ft x 3 ft	10 ft x 12 ft x 6 ft	
	30 Gallon	3 ft x 3 ft x 3 ft	4 ft x 4 ft x 8 ft	
	10 Gallon	3 ft x 3 ft x 3 ft	10 ft x 10 ft x 8 ft	
Rodentia Muskrats, Woodchucks, etc. Chipmunks, etc. Squirrels Voles Rats (All) Mice (All) Beavers Porcupines	20 Gallon	4 ft x 4 ft x 3 ft	8 ft x 8 ft x 8 ft	W
	10 Gallon	10-20 Gallon	3 ft x 6 ft x 6 ft	A
	10-20 Gallon	20 Gallon (or 2 ft x 3 ft x 2ft)	8 ft x 8 ft x 8 ft	
	10 Gallon	10-20 Gallon	3 ft x 6 ft x 6 ft	A
	10 Gallon	20 Gallon	3 ft x 6 ft x 6 ft	
	10 Gallon	15-20 Gallon	3 ft x 3 ft x 3 ft	
	20 Gallon	3 ft x 3 ft x 3 ft	8 ft x 12 ft x 6 ft	
	15 Gallon	3 ft x 3 ft x 3 ft	6 ft x 8 ft x 6 ft	
Lagomorpha Jackrabbits 2-6 wks Jackrabbits 6-12 wks Cottontail Rabbits	20 Gallon	18 in x 18 in x 12 in	20 ft x 20 ft x 6 ft	
	20 Gallon	10 ft x 10 ft x 4 ft	20 ft x 20 ft x 6 ft	
	10 Gallon	10 Gallon	6 ft x 6 ft x 4 ft	
Artiodactyla Deer	4 ft x 4 ft x 2 ft	10 ft x 15 ft x 6 ft	30 ft x 50 ft x 8 ft	

Table E-1

† Miller, E.A., editor. 2012. Minimum Standards for Wildlife Rehabilitation, 4th edition. National Wildlife Rehabilitators Associations, St. Cloud, MN. 116 pages.

HOUSING GUIDELINES FOR ADULT MAMMALS †

Order/Family	Adult Outside W x L x H	Restricted Injured Adult W x L x H	Code
Marsupialia Opossums	10 ft x 12 ft x 8 ft	2 ft x 2 ft x 2 ft	
Insectivora Shrews & Moles		10 Gallon	
Chiroptera (Bats) Little Browns & Pipistrelles Evenings, Reds, Myotis, Big Brown Free-tails, Hoarys, Pallids & Yellows	8 ft x 16 ft x 8 ft	12 in x 18 in x 12 in	
	8 ft x 16 ft x 8 ft	12 in x 18 in x 12 in	
	10 ft x 20 ft x 8 ft	12 in x 18 in x 12 in	
Carnivora Raccoons Fishers Weasels & Minks River Otters Skunks Foxes Bobcats	10 ft x 12 ft x 8 ft	2 ft x 3 ft x 3ft	
	6 ft x 8 ft x 8 ft	4 ft x 3 ft x 3 ft	
	6 ft x 8 ft x 6 ft	3 ft x 3 ft x 3 ft	
	6 ft x 12 ft x 6 ft	4 ft x 3 ft x 3 ft	
	8 ft x 10 ft x 6 ft	3 ft x 3 ft x 3 ft	
	6 ft x 6 ft x 8 ft	3 ft x 3 ft x 3 ft	
	10 ft x 10 ft x 8 ft	3 ft x 3 ft x 3 ft	
	Rodentia Muskrats, Woodchucks, etc. Chipmunks, etc. Squirrels Voles Rats (All) Mice (All) Beavers Porcupines	8 ft x 8 ft x 8 ft	3 ft x 3 ft x 2 ft
6 ft x 8 ft x 6 ft		1 ft x 1 ft x 1 ft	
8 ft x 8 ft x 8 ft		2 ft x 3 ft x 2 ft	
8 ft x 8 ft x 8 ft		1 ft x 1 ft x 1 ft	A
3 ft x 4 ft x 3 ft		10 Gallon	
2 ft x 2 ft x 2 ft		10 Gallon	
8 ft x 12 ft x 6 ft		4 ft x 3 ft x 3 ft	
6 ft x 8 ft x 8 ft		3 ft x 3 ft x 3 ft	
Lagomorpha Jackrabbits Cottontail Rabbits		20 ft x 20 ft x 6 ft	18 in x 36 in x 12 in
	6 ft x 6 ft x 6 ft	12 in x 18 in x 12in	

Table E-2

† Miller, E.A., editor. 2012. Minimum Standards for Wildlife Rehabilitation, 4th edition. National Wildlife Rehabilitators Associations, St. Cloud, MN. 116 pages.

APPENDIX F MINIMUM HOUSING GUIDELINES FOR REPTILES †

Comments on Reptile Housing - Although considerable thought and experience determined the cage sizes listed in this program, it is impossible to consider all possibilities in terms of material, design, or size. Caging will be reviewed, on-site, by experienced Conservation Police Officers or authorized VDGIF personnel who will assess its workability.

All reptile housing shall:

- Provide a thermal gradient appropriate to the species;
- Have full-spectrum light with a suitable photoperiod (note that sunlight through glass is not full-spectrum);
- Provide appropriate humidity levels;
- Provide drinking/bathing water;
- Provide ventilation and drainage;
- Provide location for animals to hide in both cooler and warmer areas of the enclosure;
- Provide a light gradient;
- Provide substrate appropriate to the species;
- Be a single enclosure per animal (reptiles are mostly solitary and company may impede recovery);
- Be escape proof; and
- Allow for natural behaviors such as swimming, basking, burrowing and climbing.

Temperature Requirements

The following are temperature requirements for some species, but be sure to research species-specific needs for those not listed:

Turtles

Box Turtles – gradient of 70°C to 85°F (88F for basking area)

Warm aquatic turtles (sliders, cooters, painted turtles, etc.) – water temperature 76°F, basking platform 88°F

Cool aquatic turtles (eastern mud, spotted, common snapper, etc.) – water temperature 73°F, basking platform 88°F

Snakes

Rat – 70-75°F at the cool end to 85°F, basking area 88°F

Lizards

Eastern fence lizard – 71° – 86°F gradient with 90°F basking platform.

Humidity - Humidity is extremely important to reptile species. Rehabilitators should be sure to use a humidity gauge and research humidity requirements for each species.

Substrate – Selection of an appropriate substrate is essential to reptile health. Substrate needs vary and should be researched for individual species. Substrates that are suitable for reptiles (depending upon species needs) include aspen, AstroTurf, coco fiber, cypress mulch, gravel, leaf litter, mulch (pine and cedar free), sand, soil (sterile, free of fertilizers or other chemicals), sphagnum moss (not peat), towels. Substrates that are not recommended include calci-sand, carefresh, cedar, clay, corncob, kitty litter, newspaper, paper toweling, peat, pine or redwood, rabbit pellets.

HOUSING GUIDELINES FOR REPTILES †

REPTILE TYPE	LENGTH	WIDTH	HEIGHT
Snakes			
Burrowing	3/4 animal length, not < 24"	1/3 animal length, not < 12"	3/4 animal length, not < 12", add 6" to 12" for substrate
Terrestrial	3/4 animal length, not < 24"	1/3 animal length, not < 12"	3/4 animal length, not < 12"
Semi-aquatic	1.5 animal length, not < 24"	3/4 animal length, not < 12"	3/4 animal length, not < 12"
Arboreal	3/4 animal length, not < 24"	1/3 animal length, not < 12"	animal length, not < 12"
Lizards			
Burrowing	3 x animal length, not < 24"	2x animal length, not < 12"	animal length, add 6" to 12" for substrate
Terrestrial	3 x animal length, not < 24"	2x animal length, not < 12"	animal length (enough to prevent escape)
Semi-aquatic	3 x animal length, not < 24"	2x animal length, not < 12"	animal length (enough to prevent escape), plus 12" to 24" for water
Arboreal	3 x animal length, not < 24"	2x animal length, not < 12"	2-3x animal length
Turtles			
Terrestrial	5x animal length, not < 24"	3x animal length, not < 12"	high enough to prevent escape, usually 2x carapace length
Aquatic and semi-aquatic	5x animal length, not < 24"	3x animal length, not < 12"	high enough to prevent escape, plus water to a depth 2x animal width

Table F-1

† Miller, E.A., editor. 2012. Minimum Standards for Wildlife Rehabilitation, 4th edition. National Wildlife Rehabilitators Associations, St. Cloud, MN. 116 pages.

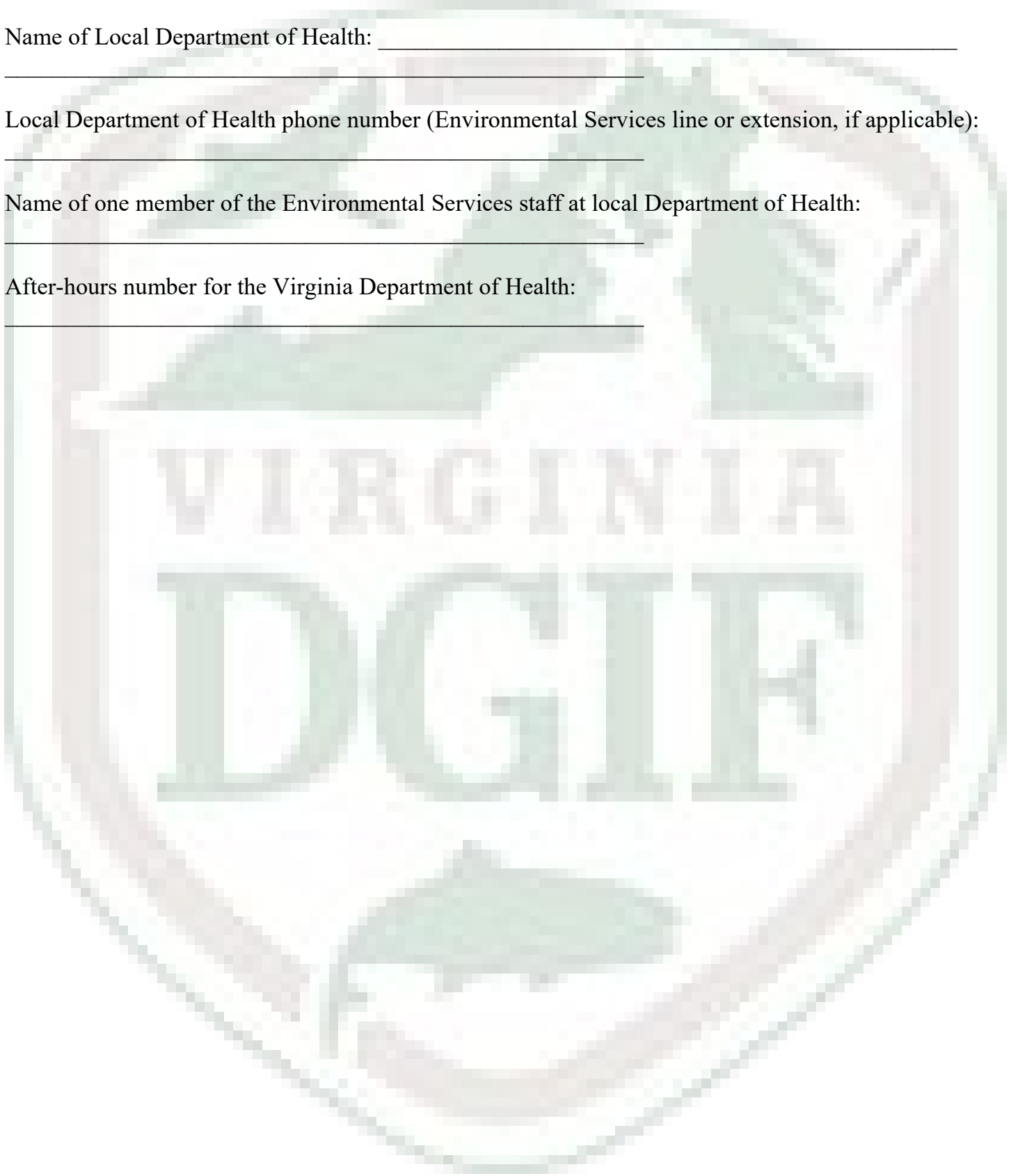
SAMPLE RABIES COMMUNICATION PLAN

Name of Local Department of Health: _____

Local Department of Health phone number (Environmental Services line or extension, if applicable):

Name of one member of the Environmental Services staff at local Department of Health:

After-hours number for the Virginia Department of Health:



SAMPLE ADMISSION FORM FOR HIGHEST-RISK RABIES VECTOR SPECIES

Scientific orders Carnivora (raccoons, skunks, foxes, bobcats, fishers, mink, otter, etc.), Chiroptera (bats), and large members of the scientific order Rodentia (beavers and woodchucks)

Species: _____ Number of animals: _____ Date of admission: _____

Injured ___ Orphaned ___ Displaced ___ Sick ___ Other: _____

Rescued by: _____ Phone: _____

Address: _____ Cell phone: _____

City, State, Zip code: _____ Email: _____

Date when animal was found: _____

Area/address where the animal(s) was found: _____

Did the animal bite, scratch or lick anyone? _____

If a bite occurred, please describe what happened:

Was the animal hand-fed? _____

Name of person bitten, scratched or licked:

Address: _____

Phone: _____

Use back of form for additional names, addresses, and phone numbers

How was the animal moved into the transport container (shovel, gloved hands, scooted in without touching, etc.)? If the animal was picked up and placed in the transport container, was the person wearing gloves?

List the name, address, and phone number of anyone that handled the animal without gloves on the back of this form.

Did the animal have any contact with a dog or a cat? _____

If so, please describe the interaction.

Is the dog or cat listed above current on rabies vaccination? _____

Additional People Bitten, Scratched, Licked, or Contacted the Animal Without Gloves

Name: _____

Address: _____

Phone: _____ Bitten or licked? _____ Handled without gloves? _____

Name: _____

Address: _____

Phone: _____ Bitten or licked? _____ Handled without gloves? _____

Name: _____

Address: _____

Phone: _____ Bitten or licked? _____ Handled without gloves? _____

Name: _____

Address: _____

Phone: _____ Bitten or licked? _____ Handled without gloves? _____

