

## WHO ARE WILDLIFE REHABILITATORS?

They wear many hats. They are a nurse, a caregiver, a janitor, a teacher and much more! They are **NOT** paid. Everything they do is at their own expense. Their oath is to help wildlife that has been injured, orphaned or sick due to storms, cycle of life or humans. We never treat them as pets. Our ultimate goal is to return them back to the wild. If they are so severely injured that we cannot return them to the wild we humanely euthanize. If they recover from their injuries but cannot be returned to the wild but can have a good life as an ambassador for their kind in an educational facility they will be transferred to one.

Our goal as rehabilitators is to provide professional care to sick, injured or orphaned wildlife so they can ultimately be returned to their natural habitat.

Wildlife Rehabilitators work very closely with Veterinarians to assess injuries and diagnose a variety of illnesses. They must be able to administer basic first aid and physical therapy. They need extensive knowledge of each and every species that they rehabilitate because each animal has a different diet, cage & rehab requirements.

The federal government under the Migratory Bird Act protects almost all

birds. It requires a Federal permit & a state permit to work with birds. To work with mammals, reptiles and amphibians it requires a State Rehabilitators License. Once they get their appropriate permits they are required to do continuous education by attending conferences, seminars and workshops, by keeping up with published literature and networking with others in their field.

Because of their training a Wildlife Rehabilitator can help the public decide if an animal needs to come into care. They educate people on how to live with wildlife.

People may be attracted to wildlife rehabilitation because it sounds rewarding, exciting and fun!! It can be all that and more. But the reality is that it can also be difficult, stressful, tiring and frustrating. It is not easy and it is not a hobby!! It takes commitment, time, energy and the willingness to provide the highest quality of care needed. Wildlife Rehabilitation also takes money---the government DOES NOT pay you!!! It is not about “cuddling of animals” or “making them pets”. It’s about releasing those who recover back into the wild. It’s about recognizing that some will die and some you will have to be euthanized. But overall, the joy and pride that overwhelms you when you release one back into the wild makes it all worthwhile.

### **How to help your local rehabbers:**

Call them and ask what things they need. Give them a gift certificate to a place where they get supplies.

### **Two most common believes:**

**I cannot return baby birds to their nest.**

False, as long as the bird is warm and uninjured you can. Birds have the worst sense of smell.

**Raccoons have rabies if they are out during daylight.**

Not necessarily, they could be looking for food for themselves and/or their babies, looking for a place to live or sleep.

### **HOW TO FIND A REHABILITATOR**

In any State, you can call your local Game & Inland Fisheries, local Veterinarian, or animal shelter and they should have some phone numbers of some local wildlife rehabilitators.



## WITHIN THE STATE OF VIRGINIA

Some places you can call for help are:

**Evelyn's Wildlife Refuge**, Virginia  
Beach 757-430-2886

**Roanoke Wildlife Rescue** 540-989-  
3798

**Virginia Beach SPCA** (after hrs) 757-  
263-4762

**Wildlife Center of Virginia**,  
Waynesboro 540-241-4045

**Wildlife Rescue League**, Falls Church  
703-440-0800

**Wildlife Response Inc**, Hampton  
Roads 757-543-7000

## FOR HUMANE WILDLIFE RESCUE & REMOVAL FROM HOME, BUSINESS OR PROPERTY:

**Acme Animal Control** 757-737-4035

**If you have any questions you may call  
Pearl Beamer, State & Federally licensed  
Wildlife Rehabilitator within the state of  
Virginia about wildlife. Pearl specializes  
in Raptors, Crows and Loons. 757-855-  
2922 (7am-7pm)**

## How to Report a Violation

If you found an animal that was shot or  
deliberately injured by humans call 1-  
800-237-5712 or email

[WildCrime@dgif.virginia.gov](mailto:WildCrime@dgif.virginia.gov).

When Reporting try to provide as much  
information as possible, such as:

- What happened
- Where it happened, being  
specific as possible
- Who was involved, describing  
persons (names if known),  
vehicles ( license numbers are  
crucial), names of other  
witnesses
- When did it happen (date and  
time are very important!)

**IF THIS IS AN EMERGENCY  
SITUATION**, contact the local Game  
Warden immediately through the local  
sheriff's office or police department.  
**Don't allow the actions of a few  
outlaws tarnish everyone else's  
reputation.**

## **"KOLA WAKON OF WILDLIFE"**

Roughly translated it means "Sacred  
Friend of Wildlife". This is what every  
Wildlife Rehabilitator, every person who  
rescues wildlife, everyone who  
transports and every Veterinarian that  
works with wildlife are to the wild  
kingdom.

## **WHO ARE WILDLIFE REHABILITATORS AND WHAT DO THEY DO?**

