



STATE OF ALABAMA  
**DEPARTMENT OF CONSERVATION AND NATURAL RESOURCES**  
**WILDLIFE AND FRESHWATER FISHERIES DIVISION**



64 North Union Street, Ste. 567  
 P. O. Box 301456  
 Montgomery, AL 36130-1456  
 Phone: (334) 242-3465 Fax: (334) 242-3032  
 www.outdooralabama.com

**Wildlife Rehabilitators Application and Permit**

Individual's Name: \_\_\_\_\_

Organization Name \_\_\_\_\_ Phone: \_\_\_\_\_

Address: \_\_\_\_\_ City \_\_\_\_\_ Zip \_\_\_\_\_

This document serves as a permit for \_\_\_\_\_, to hold species described below in captivity for rehabilitation purposes. Rehabilitators are required to comply with all current Alabama Wildlife regulations. Questions concerning Alabama regulations should be directed to the appropriate District Wildlife and Freshwater Fisheries office. Rehabilitators are required to sign this permit and forward it to the Wildlife and Freshwater Fisheries, Wildlife District Office. Facilities of each rehabilitator are subject to inspection by WFF personnel and must meet the National Wildlife Rehabilitation Association (NWRA) caging and confinement standards. This permit is subject to cancellation at any time.

**RELEASE:**

I, \_\_\_\_\_ of \_\_\_\_\_  
(Print name of rehabilitator) (Address)

do hereby remise, release, forever discharge, indemnify and hold harmless, and for my heirs, executors, administrators, and assigns do hereby remise, release, forever discharge, indemnify and hold harmless, the State of Alabama, the Department of Conservation and Natural Resources, the employees of the Department of Conservation and Natural Resources, and its successors and assigns, of and from any and all claims, liabilities, demands, rights, and causes of action of whatsoever kind and nature arising from or by reason of any and all known and unknown, foreseen and unforeseen bodily and personal injuries, damage to property, and the consequences thereof, resulting from the rehabilitation or release of wildlife on my property located in the following Alabama county or counties:  
 \_\_\_\_\_.

**AGREEMENT:**

I hereby take full responsibility for wildlife held by me in temporary captivity. I will report any diseased animal to the local Wildlife Biologist within 24 hours or the next business day, of verification of the disease. I agree to: (1) not sell any game bird or animal; (2) not give any wildlife to any person or organization that does not have a current permit from the Alabama Department of Conservation and Natural Resources to rehabilitate or keep wildlife in captivity. Birds can be transferred between USFWS permitted migratory bird rehabilitators; (3) not release any furbearing animal more than 10 miles from its capture site or across any county lines or river systems; (4) release each rehabilitated animal at the earliest possible date in suitable habitat or euthanize animals that are not able to be rehabilitated; (5) allow the Alabama Department of Conservation and Natural Resources to provide my phone number and county location to individuals over the phone and through the Outdoor Alabama website; and (6) not hold or rehabilitate any species of wildlife for which I am not permitted.

SPECIES ACCEPTED FOR REHABILITATION: \_\_\_\_\_

Rehabilitators directly handling any rabies vector species (RVS) of wildlife must have the pre-exposure or post-exposure rabies vaccinations. Titer should be boosted if the endpoint value is <0.5 or the reciprocal of the titer is <1.5. Vaccinations are at no cost to the State of Alabama. RVS rehabilitators are solely responsible for financial obligations associated with obtaining the vaccinations.

AVAILABLE TO PICK UP ANIMALS? \_\_\_\_\_ Yes \_\_\_\_\_ No

Date of last tetanus \_\_\_\_\_ Date of rabies pre-exposure series \_\_\_\_\_  
(required and must be within last 10 years) (required for raccoons, canids, bats and skunks)

Have you ever been arrested for violation of a wildlife law or animal cruelty? \_\_\_\_\_ Yes \_\_\_\_\_ No

My signature below indicates I have read and agree to comply with all tenets of the Alabama Wildlife Rehabilitation Permitting Policies, including caging and confinement requirements outlined by the NWRA, located at [www.outdooralabama.com](http://www.outdooralabama.com).

Signature of Applicant: \_\_\_\_\_ Date: \_\_\_\_\_

This permit valid from date signed until December 31, 20\_\_\_\_\_.

APPROVAL of District Wildlife Supervisor: \_\_\_\_\_

**ALABAMA DIVISION OF WILDLIFE AND FRESHWATER FISHERIES  
WILDLIFE REHABILITATION PERMITTING POLICIES**

**I. Permit Requirements**

- A. A permit, authorized by the Alabama Department of Conservation and Natural Resources, Division of Wildlife and Freshwater Fisheries (WFF), is required before a person may rehabilitate wild animals. “Wild animals” are defined as all wild mammals (except wild pigs), reptiles, amphibians, and non-migratory birds such as turkey, quail, and grouse. Under the authority of a permit, a person may capture, receive, possess, care for, transport or transfer a wild animal within Alabama for the purposes of rehabilitation, release into the wild or euthanasia. No wild animals may be accepted from other states.
- B. Requirements for permit to rehabilitate wild animals. An applicant shall:
  - 1. Be an adult 19 years of age or older and legal resident of the United States.
  - 2. Specify the wild animals applicant desires to rehabilitate and possess appropriate facilities and equipment for caging and confinement as outlined in *Minimum Standards for Wildlife Rehabilitation (3<sup>rd</sup> & 4<sup>th</sup> Editions)* published by the National Wildlife Rehabilitator’s Association.
  - 3. Provide documentation of receiving a tetanus vaccination within the last 10 years.
  - 4. Read, understand and sign all documents associated with rehabilitation activities including:
    - a. Verification of receipt of policies.
    - b. Waiver and release of responsibility.
    - c. Alabama Wildlife Rehabilitator application.
    - d. Annual reports of wildlife intake and disposition.
- C. An applicant shall supply WFF with a copy of their permit issued by the USFWS to rehabilitate migratory birds. A permit issued by WFF to rehabilitate migratory birds will be issued and will be valid through the term of the USFWS permit. Only Section IV of these WFF Wildlife Rehabilitation Permitting Policies are applicable to the issuance of WFF migratory bird rehabilitation permits.
- D. Wildlife rehabilitation permits are not issued to individuals who are holding wild animals in captivity illegally.

**II. Facilities and Operating Standards**

- A. “Facility” or “facilities” is defined as the location the rehabilitation takes place.
- B. The WFF will use the *Minimum Standards for Wildlife Rehabilitation; 3<sup>rd</sup> & 4<sup>th</sup> Editions* as guidance to determine operating standards for wildlife rehabilitators. This publication is available for download or purchase online at:  
[www.nwrawildlife.org](http://www.nwrawildlife.org)
- C. Rehabilitators shall provide caging and confinement for wild animals in their care as published in *Minimum Standards for Wildlife Rehabilitation; 3<sup>rd</sup> & 4<sup>th</sup> Editions*.
- D. Without exception, enclosures shall:
  - a. Be sufficiently separate from domestic animals and human living space.
  - b. Be inaccessible to the general public.
  - c. Be appropriate for the age, species and disability of each animal.

- d. Be structurally sound and in good repair to protect the animals from injury, contain the animals securely, and prevent other animals from entering.
  - e. Allow sufficient space to allow each animal to make normal postural adjustments with adequate freedom of movement.
  - f. When outdoors, provide protection from the weather and access to sunlight.
- E. Adequate potable water and electrical power shall be available on the premises.
  - F. Indoor facilities are not a substitute for outdoor facilities but rather a temporary holding area until animals are prepared for outdoor living.
  - G. Indoor facilities shall be adequately temperature controlled with sufficient lighting and ventilation.
  - H. Disposal of food, waste, bedding, dead animals, trash and debris must be in accordance with all applicable laws and regulations. All areas should be managed to minimize vermin infestation, odors and disease hazards.

### **III. Animal Health and Care**

- A. Food provided for the wild animals shall be appropriate to the species, age and ailment of the wild animal. Natural foods should be used whenever possible.
- B. Wild animals must be observed by an adult caretaker at least once every day.
- C. Handling of wild animals should be kept to a minimum, but when necessary shall be done in a way to prevent stress to the wild animal or harm to the handler.
- D. The WFF will use the *Minimum Standards for Wildlife Rehabilitation; 3<sup>rd</sup> and 4<sup>th</sup> editions* as guidance to determine feeding and cleaning guidelines for rehabilitators. This publication is available for download or purchase online at: [www.nwrawildlife.org](http://www.nwrawildlife.org)
- E. Rehabilitator is responsible for expenses incurred by veterinary visits.
- F. Wild animals should be housed with their own species and every effort should be made to minimize human contact to avoid imprinting and taming.
- G. Wild animals may not be used in educational presentations, except as allowed under the appropriate permit issued by WFF, USFWS, or the US Department of Agriculture. Wild animals cannot be handled by the public. USDA and WFF Exhibitor Permits are required for some educational exhibitions and to permanently hold animals in captivity for exhibition purposes. The purpose of the rehabilitation permit is to: 1) euthanize; or 2) rehabilitate and release wildlife back to the wild. Captivity permits for Special Purpose/Education with the intent of education or exhibition will be considered on a case-by-case basis and the WFF will retain all rights to the animal. USDA licenses are also required for permanent captives used in educational presentations. Contact the USDA Animal Care Office for federal exhibition licenses at:

USDA/APHIS/AC  
 920 Main Campus Drive  
 Suite 200  
 Raleigh, NC 27606-5210  
 Phone: (919) 855-7100  
 Fax: (919) 855-7123

- H. Wild animals can't be permanently held in captivity under the wildlife rehabilitation permit issued by WFF. Wild animals must be released back to the wild as soon as the animal has recovered from its injury.

#### **IV. Inspection of Facilities**

The WFF may:

- A. Without prior notice, enter and inspect the facilities where operation under this permit occurs; this includes both indoor and outdoor areas: including within one's home, curtilage and vehicles.
- B. Inspect the records associated with activities regulated under this permit. Failure to maintain accurate records will be cause for cancellation of wildlife rehabilitation permits.
- C. Mandate reasonable facility changes or upgrades when deemed appropriate and when keeping with NWRA standards. Failure to make mandated changes within a specified time will be cause to cancel the wildlife rehabilitation permit.

#### **V. Diseases and Liability Release**

- A. Wildlife Rehabilitators are required to sign a release of liability.
- B. Pre-exposure or post-exposure rabies vaccinations, or titer boosted if the endpoint value is  $<0.5$  or the reciprocal of the titer is  $<1.5$  is required to rehabilitate rabies vector species (RVS, i.e. raccoon, skunks, canids, and bats). **Only one facility will be permitted to rehabilitate RVS species in each of the 5 WFF districts. WFF will work with existing rehabilitators to select the best facility to permit for RVS rehabilitation.** Vaccinations will be done at the individual's expense. WFF is not responsible for any fees associated with rehabilitator vaccinations. Documentation of vaccination schedule must be submitted with permit application and proof of titer must be submitted every three years.
- C. Any wild animal suspected of rabies exposure is required to be euthanized, bagged and refrigerated for transfer to a state lab for testing. In the case of suspected rabies exposure, wild animals should not be euthanized by gunshot to the head. The suspected rabies vector should be transported to the state lab for testing within 24 hours or the next business day by the permitted rehabilitator. Any fees associated with rabies testing are the responsibility of the rehabilitator.
- D. It should be noted that home owner's insurance may not cover wildlife rehabilitation activity and rehabilitators are encouraged to buy supplemental insurance for such activities.

#### **VI. Release of Animals**

- A. Allowing for suitable weather conditions and transport to appropriate habitat, animals must be released within 7 days of when the following conditions are achieved:
  - 1. An orphaned animal has matured to the point that it has a reasonable chance of survival in the wild.
  - 2. An injured or sick animal has sufficiently recovered.
- B. Under this permit, any wild animal requiring more than 6 months of rehabilitative care will be euthanized unless: 1) a licensed Alabama veterinarian submits a

written recommendation that the animal should be kept alive, including an analysis of why the wild animal is not expected to experience the injuries and/or ailments that typically occur in animals with these injuries and a commitment (from the veterinarian) to provide medical care for the wild animal for the duration of its life, including complete examinations at least once a year, and 2) direct and specific permission is granted by the WFF.

- C. Wild animals are to be released in suitable habitat in their county of origin within 10 miles of their capture site.
- D. Rehabilitators with permits to accept rabies vector species must release rehabilitated individuals within 10 miles of their capture site in their County of origin and not across rivers or other bodies of water.
- E. Landowner permission must be obtained for onsite release. Wild animals may not be released on public land.

## **VII. Disposition of Non-releasable Animals**

- A. Any wild animal that is deemed likely non-releasable upon intake shall be immediately euthanized or upon approval from WFF, may be transferred to properly permitted individuals and facilities. The wild animal should be euthanized in accordance with techniques outlined in *Minimum Standards for Wildlife Rehabilitation; 3<sup>rd</sup> & 4<sup>th</sup> Editions*
- B. At any point in the rehabilitation process, a wild animal may be euthanized in accordance with the techniques outlined in *Minimum Standards for Wildlife Rehabilitation; 3<sup>rd</sup> & 4<sup>th</sup> Editions*.
- C. Captivity permits to hold wild animals as personal pets will not be issued.
- D. Captivity permits for Special Purpose/Education with the intent of education or exhibition will be considered on a case-by-case basis and the WFF will retain all rights to the animal. USDA licenses are also required for permanent captives used in educational presentations.

## **VIII. Special Considerations**

- A. An Alabama Wildlife Rehabilitator may not rehabilitate and release venomous reptiles (exceptions may be granted for threatened or endangered venomous reptiles) or wild pigs. Wild pigs must be euthanized. Contact the nearest Wildlife and Freshwater Fisheries office to discuss disposition of venomous reptiles.
- B. The WFF must be notified immediately upon intake of any injured, ill or orphaned Black Bear, Mountain Lion, American Alligator, Manatee or Cetacean. The WFF will take custody of and make arrangements for disposition of these species. Rehabilitators must contact their local district WFF office to discuss and allow for disposition of Black Bears, Mountain Lions, American Alligators, Manatees and Cetaceans.
- C. Any animal suspected of rabies should be euthanized, bagged and refrigerated for transfer to a state lab for testing. The suspected rabies vector should be transported to the state lab for testing within 24 hours or the next business day. Rehabilitator is responsible for transport. In the case of suspected rabies exposure, the animal should not be euthanized by gunshot or any other means that damages the brain. It is critical the head be kept intact for testing.

- D. Wildlife Rehabilitators may not rehabilitate wild animals that originated in any other state and may not transport wild animals across state lines for any reason.

**Revocation**

- A. The WFF may revoke a rehabilitation permit at its discretion for material breach including, but not limited to:
  - 1. Violation of the procedures, terms and standards set forth as conditions of this permit.
  - 2. Violation of any State or Federal wildlife law or regulation.
- B. The Department may confiscate animals and handle animal disposition at their discretion.
- C. If a permit is revoked for material breach it will not be reissued for a minimum period of two years from the date of revocation.

## INTAKE & DISPOSITION FORM

Attached you will find an INTAKE/DISPOSITION FORM that is now required documentation of your wildlife rehabilitation activities. You may reproduce the form to provide as many copies as you need. Forms must be submitted to this office by January 15 each year regardless of whether or not you choose to renew your Wildlife Rehabilitation Permit. Completed forms will not be returned to you and it is recommended that you make a copy of finalized documents if you wish to retain them for your files. Originals must be sent by mail to your corresponding District Wildlife Supervisor listed below. Please note that there will be no reminders sent regarding due date and completed forms should reflect all rehab animals in your possession for any period of time.

### INSTRUCTIONS FOR COMPLETING INTAKE & DISPOSITION FORM

- Each copy of the form must have your name and phone number
- Complete a line for each animal accepted into your possession
- Date recorded is to be the date said animals came into your possession
- Species name need only be common name (deer, rabbit, etc...)
- Presenting Issue examples: orphaned, hit by car, cat attack, unknown, etc
- County of Origin specifies the county where the animal was originally found
- Record each release date for each individual animal
- GPS coordinates or street address is REQUIRED information for location of raccoon, bat, fox, skunk, and canid releases (all rabies vectors)
- Forms are due in your corresponding District Office by January 15 of each year.

Although the intention of this form is to represent the animals actually in your care, you may use the form to record the inquiries that you receive regarding animals that do not end up in your charge. This information is not required from you, but you may choose to use these forms to record information about rehab calls from the public even if it does not result in animal intake. For example: you may get a call about an “orphaned deer” and instruct the caller to place the animal back where it was found, or you may refer a caller to a rehabber closer to them. The result is no animal intake, but you may record this information on this form if you choose.



# Alabama Division of Wildlife and Freshwater Fisheries

## Rehabilitation Permit Intake and Disposition Report

January 1 thru December 31, 20\_\_\_\_\_

Name of Organization \_\_\_\_\_ Individual's Name \_\_\_\_\_

Phone Number: \_\_\_\_\_

Intake Date MM/DD/YY	Species Accepted	Presenting Issue	County of Origin	Disposition (✓)					County of Release	Date of Release	GPS Coordinates or Street Address of Release Site
				D. O. A.	Died	Euthanized	Released	Being held			

Return by January 15 to: District Wildlife Supervisor  
 Please attach document to a Wildlife Rehabilitation Permit and Application for renewal purposes



# Alabama Wildlife and Freshwater Fisheries District Offices

District I Wildlife Supervisor  
21453 Harris Station Road  
Tanner, AL 35671  
Phone: 256-353-2634

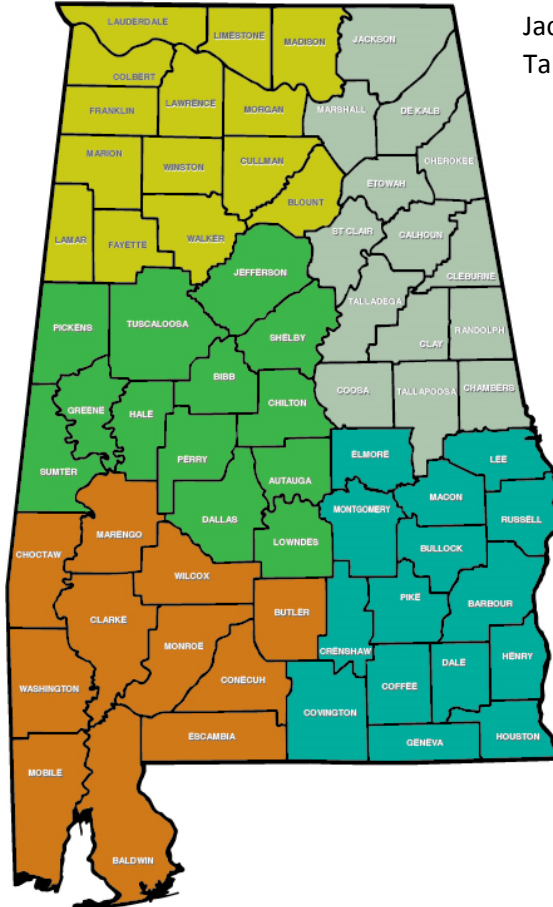
Counties: Blount, Colbert, Cullman,  
Fayette, Franklin, Lamar, Lauderdale,  
Lawrence, Limestone, Madison,  
Marion, Morgan, Walker, Winston

District III Wildlife Supervisor  
8211 McFarland Blvd  
PO Box 305  
Northport, AL 35476  
Phone: 256-339-5716

Counties: Autauga, Bibb,  
Chilton, Dallas, Greene, Hale,  
Jefferson, Lowndes, Perry,  
Pickens, Shelby, Sumter,  
Tuscaloosa

District V Wildlife Supervisor  
30571 Five Rivers Blvd  
Spanish Fort, AL 36527  
Phone: 251-626-5474

Counties: Baldwin, Butler,  
Choctaw, Clarke, Conecuh,  
Escambia, Marengo, Mobile,  
Monroe, Washington, Wilcox



District II Wildlife Supervisor  
4101 Hwy 21 North  
Jacksonville, AL 36265  
Phone: 256-435-5422

Counties: Calhoun, Chambers, Cherokee,  
Clay, Cleburne, Coosa, Dekalb, Etowah,  
Jackson, Marshall, Randolph, St. Clair,  
Talladega, Tallapoosa

District IV Wildlife Supervisor  
3520 Plaza Drive  
Enterprise, AL 36330  
Phone: 334-347-1298

Counties: Barbour, Bullock,  
Coffee, Covington, Crenshaw,  
Dale, Elmore, Geneva, Henry,  
Houston, Lee, Macon, Lee,  
Montgomery, Pike, Russell