
Finding Wildlife during an Investigation

It is illegal for anyone to keep indigenous wildlife in Vermont, even temporarily without special permits. Permits are not issued retrospectively.

When finding wildlife at a home during an investigation ask if the individual is a licensed Wildlife Rehabilitator and/or have a Scientific Collection Permit. If yes, ask to see their permit(s) issued from the Vermont Department of Fish and Wildlife.

A Wildlife Rehabilitation Permit and a Scientific Collection Permit will have the following information.

1. Permittee:
2. Principal Officer:
3. Effective Date: Expires:
4. Authorized Species:
5. Location where authorized activity may be conducted:
6. Conditions and Authorizations:
7. Reporting Requirements:
8. Issued By:

Starting in 2007 the Vermont Department of Fish and Wildlife has reissued new Wildlife Rehabilitation Permits. Permits are updated yearly.

Check to be sure the Permit is current.

Minimum Standards for Wildlife Rehabilitation, written by International Wildlife Rehabilitation Council and National Wildlife Rehabilitators Association, is enforced by the Vermont Department of Fish and Wildlife for licensed wildlife rehabilitators.

A copy of Minimum Standards can be obtained from the following:

- Vermont Department of Fish and Wildlife – call 802-241-3727
- www.iwrc-online.org click onto publications and than onto Minimum Standards.
- www.nwrawildlife.org click onto resources and than onto miscellaneous to view the Minimum Standards.

All Vermont licensed Wildlife Rehabilitators are to uphold the requirements written in the Minimum Standards.

When finding illegal wildlife at a home during an investigation:

- Document animals that are in illegal confinement.
- Record species, age, sex, condition of animals, where and how they are being housed.
- Document the individual's information that is housing the wildlife.
- Report findings to the Vermont Department of Fish and Wildlife at 802-241-3727 or the local Game Warden.

Receiving Wildlife calls and What to do

What to do when receiving calls from the general public stating that they have found a wild animal in need of assistant.

1. Refer the caller to an appropriate Wildlife Rehabilitator (see listing below).
2. Inform the caller **DO NOT** handle the animal especially, if it is a Rabies Vector Species.
3. Place the animal in a cardboard box with air holes and place the box in a quiet warm area.
4. Inform the caller **DO NOT FEED** the animal.
5. Inform caller that the wild animal is under stress. Do not handle the animal or allow children to play with.
6. Explain to caller that you can inform them of wildlife rehabilitators to call but they may need to call several phone numbers. When offering them phone numbers please offer them several people from the list that work with the species that the finder is calling about.

Rabies Vector Species (RVS)

The following are Rabies Vector Species (RVS) in Vermont:

- Raccoons
- Woodchucks
- Skunks
- Fox
- Bats – all bats that are handled or in a room with a sleeping human need to be euthanized and tested for rabies pre state law.

When coming into contact or receiving a call with a RVS contact the Rabies Hotlines at **1-800-4-RABIES**.

Do not handle the animal. If the Rabies hotline is closed call the local game warden. To find out the local game warden call the Vermont Department of Fish and Wildlife at 802-241-3727.

What is Wildlife Rehabilitation?

Wildlife rehabilitation is the process of providing aid to injured, orphaned, displaced or distressed wild animals in such a way that they may survive when released to their native habitats. The spectrum of activities ranges from direct care of wildlife to arranging suitable release sites. Wildlife rehabilitation also involves anticipating and helping to prevent problems with wildlife as well as humanely resolving human wildlife conflicts. Wildlife rehabilitation is part science, part education, part problem solving and part care-giving.

The practice of wildlife rehabilitation is restricted to individuals who have the appropriate state and federal licenses to do so. The following is a description of the various licenses required.

Vermont State Wildlife Rehabilitation Permit Required for care of all wild mammals, reptiles and birds in Vermont. There are no exceptions in Vermont law regarding

possession of wildlife. All wildlife are protected including English sparrows, starlings and pigeons.

Vermont State Game Animal Rehabilitation Permit Required for care of all deer, moose, bear and turkey. However, Vermont Fish and Wildlife officials have the authority to grant any rehabilitator permission to provide care to a game animal on a case by case basis.

For more information regarding wildlife rehabilitation contact:

Wild In Vermont, Inc.
P. O. Box 163
Underhill, Center, VT 05490
802-899-1027

National Wildlife Rehabilitation Association
2625 Clearwater Road, Suite 110
St. Cloud, MN 56301
320-230-9920
Email: NWRA@nwrwildlife.org
www.nwrwildlife.org

International Wildlife Rehabilitation Council
8080 Capwell Drive Suite 240
Oakland, CA 94621
510-383-9090
Fax 510-383-9094
office @iwrc-online.org www.iwrc-online.org

Who are Wildlife Rehabilitators?

Wildlife Rehabilitators are individuals in the community that volunteer their time, money and resources to help wildlife in need. Most wildlife rehabilitators in Vermont perform this service from where they live.

When referring the general public to a wildlife rehabilitator be sure that, that rehabilitator works with the species that is in question.

For a current listing of licensed rehabilitators, contact the Vermont Fish and Wildlife Department at 802-241-3727.