

# Wildlife Rehabilitation Protocol—Disease Transmission

Facility/Rehabilitator Name: \_\_\_\_\_

This is only a recommendation of what your protocol should cover. Your facility may insert, change or delete any sections of this protocol to fit the mission of your rehabilitation facility, or submit an existent protocol in a different format. All protocols must be reviewed and approved by a consulting veterinarian.

## Control of Disease Transmission from Animal to Humans

- Staff and volunteers utilize separate clothes for work with wildlife.
- Clothing is cleaned and laundered after each use at the facility.
- Shoes and boots are kept clean of fecal matter, dirt, and cage litter and are not worn outside of the rehab facility.
- Disposable gloves and surgical masks are used during procedures such as cleaning contaminated animal quarters.
- Necropsy procedures include the use of surgical masks and disposable gloves, appropriate outer garments, and appropriate disinfectants.
- Lavatory facilities have accessible hand-washing sinks, suitable disinfecting washing agents, and are cleaned regularly.
- Eating, drinking and smoking are restricted to designated areas free of animal waste materials and the animals themselves.
- The supervisory staff is well informed on zoonoses and informs new staff, volunteers and other personnel of zoonotic concerns.
- Personal hygiene rules are adhered to by the supervisory staff at all times in order for them to serve as examples to other personnel.
- All personnel, including volunteers, with health concerns (asthma, diabetes, etc.), must obtain the consent of their physician before reporting to work at the facility.
- All personnel and volunteers have up-to-date tetanus vaccinations. In addition, all personnel and volunteers working with rabies-vector species are required to obtain pre-exposure rabies vaccinations.
- Carcasses and postmortem specimens are stored in a refrigerator separate from that used for the storage of food. All food is labeled as to preparation and expiration dates.

## Control of Diseases Transmissible from Animal to Animal

- Cages are designed for efficient cleaning. When possible, seamless, nonporous materials (such as stainless steel, fiberglass or plastic) are utilized for cage construction and food storage.
- Animal enclosures are kept sanitary by following a routine cleaning regimen in which responsibilities are clearly defined and assigned to personnel.
- Cages are cleaned of feces, urine, and food scraps daily to prevent odor, parasite re-infection, and insect overpopulation.
- Artificial nests used for nestling songbirds are changed frequently throughout the day.
- Disturbance of animals is minimized to reduce stress.



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## Control of Diseases Transmissible from Animal to Animal (cont.)

- All floors of indoor avian cages are lined with newspaper, paper toweling or other materials that can be removed for easy disposal of waste products (urine, feces, food scraps).
- Caging for aquatic herptiles is cleaned primarily through the use of proper water filtration systems.
- Indoor facilities have efficient ventilation and air movement to minimize the re-circulation of air.
- Protocols for regular cleaning and sanitization are established and followed (**please provide copy of regimen**).
- All cages are properly disinfected between patients. Before a newly admitted patient is housed in a cage/enclosure previously used by another animal, the cage is thoroughly cleaned and disinfected and all bedding material is changed.
- Animals confirmed or suspected of having a contagious disease are kept isolated from all uninfected animals.
- All new admissions are housed separately from animals currently in care.
- Animals that are admitted together (littermates or nestmates) are housed together during the arrival period.
- A routine examination for parasites is performed on new arrivals, with re-examination at intervals throughout the rehabilitation process.
- Bowls, feeding utensils, medical equipment, and linens used for handling animals or animal bedding, and gloves worn while handling wildlife are cleaned or replaced daily and disinfected between uses on different animals.
- Water bowls are cleaned daily to keep them clear of algae, leaves, feces and other debris.
- Food supplies and animal diets are prepared and stored under sanitary conditions that prevent pest infestation and microbial contamination.

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Rehabilitator Signature

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Date

\_\_\_\_\_  
Consulting Veterinarian Signature

\_\_\_\_\_  
Date

