

Chapter NR 19
MISCELLANEOUS FUR, FISH, GAME AND OUTDOOR RECREATION
Subchapter II — Wildlife Rehabilitation

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Subchapter II — Wildlife Rehabilitation

NR 19.70 Purpose. This subchapter is adopted to establish consistent standards for the rehabilitation of wildlife in Wisconsin. The intent is to ensure all persons engaged in wildlife rehabilitation are qualified and provide humane care and housing for wildlife being rehabilitated.

History: CR 03-029: cr. Register December 2003 No. 576, eff. 1-1-04.

NR 19.71 Definitions. In this subchapter:

- (1) “Advanced license” means a wildlife rehabilitation license issued by the department to a person qualifying under s. NR 19.73 (1) and (3).
- (1m) “Basic care” means feeding, watering, and cleaning to provide for an animal’s basic needs, and does not include tasks such as performing admittance exams and triage, or euthanasia.
- (2) “Basic license” means a wildlife rehabilitation license issued by the department to a person qualifying under s. NR 19.73 (1) and (2).
- (2m) “Cage” means any structure in which animals are confined for rehabilitation purposes.
- (3) “Department” means the department of natural resources.
- (3m) “Direct supervision” means the actual presence of the licensee or consulting veterinarian.
- (4) “Euthanasia” means the humane killing of a wild animal in accordance with the current American veterinary medical association standards contained in the most recent report of the AVMA Panel on Euthanasia.
Note: Reports of the AVMA Panel on Euthanasia are available for inspection at the offices of the Secretary of State, 30 W. Mifflin Street, Madison, WI, the Legislative Reference Bureau, One E. Main Street, Madison, WI, or the department.
- (5) “Facilities” means any equipment, housing or shelter used for wildlife rehabilitation.
- (6) “Federal permit” means a special purpose permit issued under 50 CFR Part 13 and 50 CFR 21.27 by the United States fish and wildlife service for the rehabilitation of migratory birds and federally endangered or threatened species.
- (6m) “Indirect supervision” means written or verbal instructions for treatment of an animal provided by a licensee or consulting veterinarian that need not be present.
- (7) “Protective device” means a device that is designed to prevent the escape of an animal at the entrance of a primary enclosure.
- (8) “Sponsor” means an advanced licensee who has volunteered to mentor a basic licensee.
- (9) “Sponsorship agreement” means a document that establishes an advanced licensee as a sponsor for a basic licensee.
- (9m) “Subpermittee” means any person subject to the conditions and limits established in s. NR 19.73 (3)(e) and who is working in a limited capacity under the supervision of an advanced licensee on wildlife rehabilitation activities.

- (10) “Volunteer” means any person at a licensee’s facility who is contributing to the activities of the facility or who is under the direction of and is known to the licensee.
- (11) “Wildlife” means “wild animal” as defined in s. 169.01 (37), Stats.
- (12) “Wildlife rehabilitation” means “rehabilitate” as defined in s. 169.01 (30m), Stats.
- (13) “Wildlife rehabilitation advisory council” means a group of volunteers appointed by the secretary or secretary’s designee to advise and provide recommendations about wildlife rehabilitation, wildlife health, and captive wildlife to the department.
- (14) “Wildlife rehabilitator” means a person authorized to capture, receive, temporarily possess, transport or transfer orphaned, sick or injured wildlife for the purpose of wildlife rehabilitation under a valid license issued pursuant to this subchapter.

History: CR 03–029: cr. Register December 2003 No. 576, eff. 1–1–04; CR 09–024: am. (10) Register May 2010 No. 653, eff. 6–1–10; CR 15–054: cr. (1m), (2m), (3m), am. (4), cr. (6m), (9m), r. and recr. (10), am. (13) Register July 2018 No. 751, eff. 8–1–18; correction in numbering in (9m) made under s. 13.92 (4) (b) 7., Stats., Register July 2018 No. 751.

NR 19.72 General wildlife rehabilitation provisions.

- (1) The title to all wildlife and their offspring held under a wildlife rehabilitation license remains under the jurisdiction of the department as described in s. 169.02, Stats., and may not be sold, traded or bartered without the consent of the department.
- (2) The department may restrict wildlife rehabilitation of specific wildlife species, either statewide or in certain geographic areas to control the spread of disease, to protect public health or to prevent harmful environmental impacts.
- Note:** Deer rehabilitation information can be found at <http://dnr.wi.gov/> or will be available upon request at DNR Service Centers, by writing the Bureau of Wildlife Management, PO Box 7921, 101 S. Webster St., Madison, WI 53707–7921. The rehabilitation of skunks is prohibited under s. NR 1.18 (3) (c). The possession and rehabilitation of species which are listed as threatened or endangered as established in s. NR 27.03 requires authorization from the Bureau of Natural Heritage Conservation. Pursuant to ss. 169.085 and 169.11 (1) (b), Stats., the department does not allow rehabilitation of wolves or wolf–dog hybrids.
- (3) The department may restrict wildlife species authorized for rehabilitation based on the facilities and qualifications of the applicant or licensee.
- (4) A wildlife rehabilitation license does not authorize the capture, receipt, possession, transportation or transfer of wildlife for any purpose other than wildlife rehabilitation.

Note: Birds held under falconry licensing are private property, do not meet the definition of “wild animal” per s. 169.01 (30m), Stats., and thus care and treatment is not authorized per wildlife rehabilitation licensing authority.

- (5) This license does not exempt the licensee from local ordinances that apply to activities authorized by this license.
- (6) This license does not authorize the practice of veterinary medicine as defined in s. 89.02 (6), Stats.
- (7) The licensee shall display his or her license to department agents or other law enforcement agents upon request.
- (8) Any costs incurred by the licensee for wildlife rehabilitation activities shall be the responsibility of the licensee.
- (9) Unless specifically authorized by the department for educational purposes, no person may place wildlife being rehabilitated on public exhibit, in ways that may lead to inappropriate imprinting, socialization, habituation or stress.
- (10) Wildlife being rehabilitated may not be transported outside Wisconsin for release or any other purpose unless the licensee has verbal, or written, permission from the department and possesses a wildlife rehabilitation license pursuant to this subchapter.
- (11) No person may import or accept wildlife for rehabilitation from outside Wisconsin unless he or she has verbal, or written, permission from the department and possesses a wildlife rehabilitation license pursuant to this subchapter.

History: CR 03–029: cr. Register December 2003 No. 576, eff. 1–1–04; correction in (6) under s. 13.92 (4) (b) 7 Register December 2015 No. 719; correction in (6) made under s. 13.92 (4) (b) 7., Stats., Register July 2018 No. 751.

- NR 19.73 Licenses. (1) GENERAL RESTRICTIONS.** (a) *Requirements.* No person may rehabilitate wildlife unless he or she possesses a valid license pursuant to s. 169.24, Stats.
- (b) *Transferability.* A rehabilitation license is not transferable.
- (c) *Reporting.* The licensee shall notify the department within 7 days of any change of name, address, telephone number, associated federal permit status, substantial changes to facility, a decision to discontinue as a sponsor or wildlife rehabilitation activities before license expiration.
- (d) *Species.* The department shall list on the license the species authorized for rehabilitation by a basic or an advanced licensee.
- (e) *Species additions.* No person may have a species added to their license unless all of the following have occurred:
1. The licensee has submitted to the department a caging report as required under s. NR 19.76 (2m), pictures of pens and enclosures, and documentation indicating the licensee’s rehabilitation experience and knowledge with the new species. For migratory birds, experience and knowledge with the new species shall include at least 100 hours of hands–on experience gained within the previous two years and 25 of those hours may be fulfilled by participation in seminars or courses relating to

the new species. For species which are not migratory birds, the department may establish that less experience and knowledge is needed. The department may require that licensees demonstrate specific experience and knowledge of species that it determines to be sensitive or difficult to rehabilitate.

2. The department has reviewed and approved the addition.
3. An additional facility inspection to determine compliance with standards established under s. [NR 19.77](#) has been conducted if the department has determined such an inspection is necessary.
4. For a basic licensee modification, the licensee possesses a sponsorship agreement with an advanced licensee.

Note: The department is advised by the wildlife rehabilitation advisory council established under s. [NR 19.82 \(1\)](#) which develops recommendations for appropriate minimum requirements for experience and knowledge when adding new species to a license and the list of species sensitive or difficult to rehabilitate.

(2) BASIC LICENSE. (a) *Requirements.* An applicant for a basic license shall meet all of the following requirements:

1. Possess a signed sponsorship agreement stating an advanced licensee is willing to mentor the applicant's wildlife rehabilitation activities.

1m. Submit a completed license application that describes prior wildlife rehabilitation and animal care experience to the department.

2. Possess a signed consulting veterinarian agreement stating a veterinarian, licensed to practice in Wisconsin or state of residence, is willing to consult and assist with care and treatment of wildlife being rehabilitated.

3. Pass an examination meeting the requirements of s. [NR 19.75](#).

4. Allow an inspection of facilities to assure that the applicant's facilities meet the requirements of s. [NR 19.77](#).

(b) *Restrictions.* Basic licensees may not possess any of the following:

1. Federal migratory birds or federal or state endangered or threatened species unless authorized by appropriate federal and state permit.

2. Mammals belonging to the family cervidae (deer, elk, and moose) or other harmful wild animals designated under s. [169.11](#), Stats.

3. Species of bird belonging to the order ciconiformes (vultures, bitterns and herons), falconiformes (hawks, eagles, harriers, osprey, kites and falcons) with the exception of American kestrel, the order Strigiformes (all owls), with the exception of saw-whet and screech owls or the families gruidae (cranes) or gaviidae (loons).

(c) *Euthanasia.* Euthanasia may only be performed under direct supervision of the sponsoring advanced licensee or consulting veterinarian.

(d) *Volunteers.* Volunteers may assist basic licensees with the rehabilitation of wildlife if all of the following requirements are met:

1. Basic licensees have completed one full year of licensed wildlife rehabilitation before volunteers may be authorized to assist with wildlife rehabilitation activities.

2. All volunteer information including name, address, and telephone number has been provided to the department by the licensee.

3. The department is notified quarterly, by the licensee, of any changes to their list of volunteers and any changes in contact information of the licensee's volunteers.

4. Volunteers only provide basic care to species identified on the basic license.

5. Volunteers only operate at the facility of the licensee and under the direct supervision of the basic licensee.

6. Licensees accept responsibility for the actions and activities of volunteers and shall be responsible for any violations by volunteers in violation of this chapter or ch. [169](#), Stats.

(e) *Subpermittees.* A basic license holder shall not list subpermittees on the license holder's license.

(3) ADVANCED LICENSE. (a) *Requirements.* Applicants shall meet all of the following requirements:

1. Possess a basic evaluation form signed by the applicant's advanced licensee sponsor stating that the applicant has been a licensed basic rehabilitator for a minimum of 2 years and has satisfactorily engaged in the practice of wildlife rehabilitation.

1m. Submit a completed license application form that describes prior wildlife rehabilitation experience to the department.

2. Possess a signed consulting veterinarian form stating a veterinarian, licensed to practice in Wisconsin or licensee's state of residence, is willing to consult and assist with care and treatment of wildlife being rehabilitated.

2m. Pass an examination meeting the requirements of s. [NR 19.75](#).

3. Allow an inspection of facilities to assure that the applicant's facilities meet the requirements of s. [NR 19.77](#).

(b) *Restrictions.* Advanced licensees may not possess any of the following:

1. Species of wildlife not authorized by their license.

2. Federal migratory birds or federal or state endangered or threatened species unless authorized by the appropriate federal and state permit.

(c) *Euthanasia.* Euthanasia may be performed by the advanced licensee or consulting veterinarian.

Note: Injectable euthanasia requires a controlled substances special use authorization (SUA). Reference the State of Wisconsin Controlled Substances Board information.

(d) *Volunteers.* Volunteers may assist advanced licensees with the rehabilitation of wildlife if all of the following requirements are met:

1. All volunteer information including name, address, and telephone number has been provided to the department by the licensee.

2. The department is notified quarterly, by the licensee, of any changes to the licensee's list of volunteers and any changes in contact

information of their volunteers.

3. Volunteers only provide basic care to species identified on the advanced license.
4. Volunteers only operate at the facility of the licensee and under the direct or indirect supervision of the advanced licensee.
5. Licensees accept responsibility for the actions and activities of volunteers and shall be responsible for any violations by volunteers in violation of this chapter or ch. 169 Stats.

(e) *Subpermittees*. Subpermittees may be authorized to assist with the rehabilitation of wildlife in a limited capacity under the authority of an advanced licensee's license and subject to the restrictions of basic licensees under sub. (2) if all of the following requirements are met:

1. Subpermittees may only admit animals directly from the advanced licensee.
2. No subpermittee may perform euthanasia or advanced medical treatments or procedures.
3. All subpermittee information including name, address, and telephone number has been provided to the department.
4. Advanced licensees notify the department quarterly of any changes to their lists of subpermittees and any changes in contact information of their subpermittees.
5. Subpermittees are listed on all of the advanced licensee's permits and licenses by the species for which the subpermittees provide rehabilitation care.
6. Subpermittees operating at a location other than the advanced licensee's facility retain a copy of the advanced licensee's license, which shall be provided to a department agent upon request.
7. Advanced licensees accept responsibility for the actions and activities of their subpermittees and shall be responsible for any violations incurred of this subchapter or ch. 169, Stats.
8. Advanced licensees that utilize subpermittees who operate at a location other than the advanced licensee's facility shall be responsible for establishing that subpermittees' facilities meet the standards established in s. NR 19.77.
9. Subpermittees operating at locations other than the advanced licensee's facility submit, to both the advanced licensee and the department, caging reports and pictures of every rehabilitation pen and enclosure at their locations.
10. Subpermittees who operate at a location other than the advanced licensee's facility are located no more than 60 miles from the main facility of the advanced licensee.

History: CR 03-029: cr. Register December 2003 No. 576, eff. 1-1-04; CR 08-021: am. (3) (a) (intro.), r. (3) (e) Register November 2008 No. 635, eff. 12-1-08; CR 09-024: renum. (3) (a) 4. to be (3) (a) 3. Register May 2010 No. 653, eff. 6-1-10; CR 15-054: cr. (1) (d), (e), (2) (a) 1m., r. and recr. (2) (d), cr. (2) (e), cr. (3) (a) 1m., 2m., r. and recr. (3) (d), cr. (3) (e) Register July 2018 No. 751, eff. 8-1-18; correction in (3) (e) 6. made under s. 35.17, Stats., Register July 2018 No. 751.

NR 19.74 Application. (1) GENERAL. A person desiring to rehabilitate wildlife in Wisconsin shall submit all of the following information required by the department on an application form supplied by the department:

- (a) A signed consulting veterinarian agreement from a veterinarian who is willing to consult with the applicant and assist the applicant with care and treatment of wild animals being rehabilitated and who is in compliance with the Animal Medicinal Drug Use Clarification Act of 1994.
- (b) For basic licenses, a signed sponsorship agreement from an advanced licensee who has agreed to sponsor the basic applicant.
- (c) For an advanced license applicant, a signed evaluation form from the advanced sponsor and consulting veterinarian which indicates compliance with s. NR 19.73 (3).
- (d) Certification that the applicant has read and understands this subchapter and the code of ethics and that the applicant agrees to comply with all provisions of this subchapter and the code of ethics.
- (e) Written assurance from the applicant that the facility is in compliance with local ordinances and zoning regulations.

(2) OUTSTATE. The department may issue the appropriate rehabilitation license to an individual possessing a valid rehabilitators license or permit from another state or province, provided that the minimum requirements of the basic or advanced rehabilitators licenses described in this subchapter are met. Applicants shall satisfy all of the following criteria:

- (a) Pass an examination meeting the requirements of s. NR 19.75.
- (b) Possess a signed consulting veterinarian agreement from a veterinarian who is willing to consult with the applicant and assist the applicant with care and treatment of wildlife being rehabilitated.
- (c) Possess a signed letter of recommendation from a consulting veterinarian and a currently licensed rehabilitator, previous or current sponsor, current employer, or other individual which indicates compliance with s. NR 19.73 (2) or (3). A letter of recommendation shall include and reference specific training and experiences comparable to information on a basic level evaluation form.
- (d) Sign a certification that the applicant has read and understands this subchapter and that the applicant agrees to comply with all provisions of this subchapter.
- (e) Allow an inspection of facilities to assure that the applicant's facilities meet the requirements of s. NR 19.77.

(3) LICENSE RENEWAL. An applicant for renewal of any rehabilitation license shall submit proof of having obtained at least one continuing education credit during the preceding license period. Qualifying continuing education credits are:

- (a) National Wildlife Rehabilitators Association, International Wildlife Rehabilitation Council, or Wisconsin Wildlife Rehabilitator's Association workshops, classes, or conferences.
- (b) Participation in a research project, coursework, specialized rehabilitation care, or other activities, workshops, classes, or conferences which have been approved by the department.

Note: Wildlife rehabilitation application, evaluation form, sponsorship agreement, veterinary agreements, and the code of ethics will be available at <http://dnr.wi.gov/> or upon request at DNR Service Centers, by writing the Bureau of Wildlife Management, PO Box 7921, 101 S. Webster St., Madison, WI 53707-7921 or by calling 1-888-936-7463.

History: CR 03-029: cr. Register December 2003 No. 576, eff. 1-1-04; CR 15-054: am. (1) (a), (b), (d), cr. (1) (e), renum. (2) to (2) (intro.) and am., cr. (2) (a) to (e), (3) Register July 2018 No. 751, eff. 8-1-18; (1) (title) and (2) (title) created under s. 13.92 (4) (b) 2., Stats., Register July 2018 No. 751.

NR 19.75 Examination. (1) A person desiring a basic or an advanced license to rehabilitate wildlife in Wisconsin shall take a written examination, provided and administered by the department, and score 80% or greater.

(2) The examination shall be prepared or recommended by the wildlife rehabilitation advisory council, subject to the approval of the department, and administered by a representative of the department.

(3) An applicant failing to correctly answer at least 80 percent of the questions on the examination described in this section may not be issued a license but may repeat the exam 30 days after the examination was completed.

(4) The department shall provide an examination study guide and other information regarding wildlife rehabilitation to each applicant upon request.

Note: The wildlife rehabilitation study guide will be available at <http://dnr.wi.gov/> or upon request at DNR Service Centers, by writing the Bureau of Wildlife Management, PO Box 7921, 101 S. Webster St., Madison, WI 53707-7921 or by calling 1-888-936-7463.

History: CR 03-029: cr. Register December 2003 No. 576, eff. 1-1-04; CR 15-054: am. (1), (2) Register July 2018 No. 751, eff. 8-1-18.

NR 19.76 Facility inspection. (1) By accepting a license under this section a licensee consents to the facility inspection requirements established in s. 169.37, Stats., by the department and its agents.

(2) An applicant for a license under this section shall allow inspection of the applicant's facilities.

(2m) Before an inspection, the applicant must complete and submit to the department a caging report which includes pictures of each cage or enclosure at the applicant's facility.

Note: Wildlife rehabilitation caging report is available at <http://dnr.wi.gov/> or upon request at DNR Service Centers, by writing the Bureau of Wildlife Management, PO Box 7921, 101 S. Webster St., Madison, WI 53707-7921 or by calling 1-888-936-7463.

(3) Following an inspection, the department may do any of the following:

a. Remove any wildlife if it is in the best interest of the animals until the facility complies with the standards established in s. NR 19.77.

b. Deny the licensee or applicant the privilege to rehabilitate certain species until licensee or applicant can prove that the rehabilitation facilities are in compliance with this subchapter.

c. Suspend a rehabilitation license for 30 days to allow a licensee's facilities to be brought into compliance.

d. Allow a licensee under this subchapter a specified period of time to comply with s. NR 19.77 without revocation or suspension of license privileges designated in this subchapter.

History: CR 03-029: cr. Register December 2003 No. 576, eff. 1-1-04; CR 15-054: cr. (2m) Register July 2018 No. 751, eff. 8-1-18.

NR 19.77 Facility standards. (1) GENERAL OPERATING STANDARDS. Prior to engaging in wildlife rehabilitation activities, protocols for disease prevention and transmission, euthanasia, pharmaceutical use, pest control, carcass and biological waste disposal and adequate veterinary care shall be established by the licensee and reviewed and signed by licensee's consulting veterinarian. Wildlife being rehabilitated shall be subject to all of the following conditions:

(a) If suspected of having an infectious disease, be quarantined in areas designated for that purpose.

(b) Be kept separated from human living quarters and activities.

(c) Have no contact with captive wildlife licensed under ch. 169, Stats., with the exception of other wildlife held under a rehabilitation license.

(d) Have no contact with the general public unless specifically authorized by the department for educational purposes.

(e) Be kept in enclosures at all times, and have contact with the licensee or designated volunteers only to the extent necessary to provide adequate care and treatment.

(f) Not be tamed, used as pets, held with domestic animals or habituated to humans.

(g) Be of compatible species when housed together, and not pose a threat to health or well-being of other wildlife in the same enclosure.

(h) Be raised with other wild animals of the same species held under the authority of a rehabilitation license whenever appropriate and possible, to ensure proper species orientation.

(2) ENCLOSURE SIZE AND CONSTRUCTION. (a) Enclosures shall be structurally sound, of sufficient strength for species involved, and maintained in good repair to prevent escape or injury to wildlife being rehabilitated. All structures built after July 1, 2016 shall be in compliance with the Minimum Standards of the National Wildlife Rehabilitation Association and International Wildlife Rehabilitation Council except that, if enclosures are structurally sound, of sufficient strength for species involved, and maintained in good repair to prevent escape or injury, the department may determine standards have been met which fulfill the requirements of this paragraph.

Note: National Wildlife Rehabilitators Association and International Wildlife Rehabilitation Council minimum standards for enclosures are available at <http://dnr.wi.gov/> or upon request at DNR Service Centers, by writing the Bureau of Wildlife Management, PO Box 7921, 101 S. Webster St., Madison, WI 53707-7921 or by calling 1-888-936-7463.

- (b) Enclosures shall be constructed to allow sufficient space for individual posture and social movements, unless medical treatment necessitates restricted mobility.
 - (c) All outdoor wildlife enclosures shall have protective devices at entrances and exits to prevent escapes.
 - (d) Enclosures shall be secured when unattended.
 - (e) No exposed sharp objects, ponds with steeply sloped banks, toxic paints or sealants, poisonous vegetation or other hazardous items may be used in the construction of enclosures.
 - (f) Enclosures shall have visual barriers to restrict wildlife's view of humans, domestic animals, and other species being rehabilitated to reduce inappropriate imprinting, socialization, habituation or stress.
- (3) ENVIRONMENTAL CONDITIONS.** (a) Ambient temperatures shall be sufficient for species involved.
- (b) Adequate ventilation by means of windows, doors, vents, fans or air conditioning shall be provided to protect wildlife health and to minimize drafts, odors and condensation.
 - (c) Adequate lighting shall be provided by artificial or natural means and cycled for appropriate photoperiod for species involved.
 - (d) Adequate shade, weatherproof shelters, nest boxes, perches and dens shall be provided to protect wildlife from inclement weather and direct sun.
 - (e) Wildlife being rehabilitated shall be gradually acclimated before being exposed to extreme outdoor conditions.
- (4) FOOD.** (a) Adequate feeding schedules shall be maintained for species involved unless medical treatment necessitates restricted food intake.
- (b) All food shall be palatable, free of contamination, and of sufficient quantity and nutritive value.
 - (c) Wildlife's diets shall be supplemented with vitamins and minerals when necessary for species involved.
 - (d) Food receptacles shall be appropriately sized, easily accessible, kept sanitary and safe.
- (5) WATER.** (a) Fresh uncontaminated water for drinking shall be provided at all times unless medical treatment necessitates restricted water intake.
- (b) Water, separate from drinking water, shall be provided for species requiring bathing, swimming or misting unless medical treatment necessitates restricted water exposure.
 - (c) Water receptacles shall be appropriately sized, easily accessible, kept sanitary and safe.
- (6) SANITATION.** (a) Removal and disposal of wildlife food wastes, feces and urine, bedding, carcasses, trash, garbage, and debris from the enclosure and premises shall be performed frequently to maintain sanitary conditions and protect wildlife and human health.
- (b) Cages, rooms, hard surfaced pens, kennels, runs, equipment, and food and water receptacles shall be sanitized between each wildlife use to prevent disease transmission.
 - (c) Excess water shall be drained from enclosures and may not drain into neighboring enclosures.
 - (d) Wildlife in enclosures shall be protected from contact with cleaning activities and chemicals.

History: CR 03-029: cr. Register December 2003 No. 576, eff. 1-1-04; CR 08-021: am. (2) (f) Register November 2008 No. 635, eff. 12-1-08; CR 15-054: am. (2) (a) Register July 2018 No. 751, eff. 8-1-18.

NR 19.78 Care and treatment of wildlife. (1) Any orphaned, sick or injured wildlife, except endangered or threatened species, that the licensee determines is not capable of being rehabilitated or having a reasonable chance of survival in the wild shall be treated under one of the following options:

- (a) Euthanized.
 - (b) Turned over to the department.
 - (c) Disposed of as directed by the department.
 - (d) Retained for the purpose of long-term care at the direction of the department.
- (2)** A licensee shall notify the department within 48 hours of receipt of federal or state endangered or threatened species.
- (3)** State endangered or threatened species may be euthanized and disposed of only under direction of the department.
- (4)** Federally endangered or threatened migratory birds may only be euthanized and disposed of under the direction of the migratory bird permit office, United States fish and wildlife service, and the department.
- (5)** Federally endangered or threatened mammals shall only be euthanized and disposed of under direction of the endangered species permit office of the United States fish and wildlife service and the department.
- (6)** No licensee may keep any orphaned, sick or injured migratory bird for the purpose of rehabilitation, including birds not ready for release prior to the onset of cold weather, longer than 180 days unless an extension is granted by the migratory bird permit office

of the United States fish and wildlife service, and the department for each individual case.

- (7) No licensee may keep any orphaned, sick or injured wild- life for the purpose of rehabilitation, including wildlife not ready for release prior to the onset of cold weather, longer than 180 days unless an extension is granted by the department for each individual case.
- (8) When the licensee determines that the injured or sick wild- life have sufficiently recovered, or orphaned wildlife has matured to an age where there is reasonable chance for survival in the wild, wildlife shall be released at an appropriate location with land-owner permission unless otherwise authorized by the department.
- (9) For the purpose of responding to an oil spill, a currently licensed rehabilitator from another state may, under the approval of the secretary or their designee, temporarily assist in Wisconsin with the rehabilitation of wildlife affected by an oil spill in this state subject to conditions established by the department.
- (10) A licensee shall quarantine all animals reported under s. NR 19.79 (2) and animals shall be handled as directed by the department, including conducting rabies testing at the direction and in the presence of the department or its agents.
- (11) If a licensee's relationship with a consulting veterinarian under s. NR 19.74 (1) (a) is terminated, the licensee may not admit new patients until a new consulting veterinarian is obtained. The licensee shall establish a new relationship with a consulting veterinarian and notify the department within 10 business days.
- (12) In the event that the department makes a determination which directs what the disposition of a wild animal shall be, no person may fail to comply.

History: CR 03-029: cr. Register December 2003 No. 576, eff. 1-1-04; CR 08-021: am. (2) Register November 2008 No. 635, eff. 12-1-08; CR 09-024: am. (4) Register May 2010 No. 653, eff. 6-1-10; CR 15-054: cr. (9) to (12) Register July 2018 No. 751, eff. 8-1-18; correction in (10), (11) made under s. 35.17, Stats., Register July 2018 No. 751.

NR 19.79 Infectious disease reporting and response. (1) A licensee or consulting veterinarian shall report animal diseases as required by s. ATCP 10.03 if diagnosed in wildlife being rehabilitated and to the department's wildlife health program.

(2) If a licensee knows or reasonably suspects that a rabies- vector species mammal in their care may have or has been exposed to rabies, or that a human or domestic animal has been bitten or scratched by a possible rabies-vector species in the licensee's possession, the licensee shall make reports required under sub. (1), quarantine the animal, and handle the animal as directed by their local or county public health department of the Wisconsin State Laboratory of Hygiene, which may include sub- mitting the animal for rabies testing by the Wisconsin State Laboratory of Hygiene.

Note: The wildlife health program may be contacted by calling 1-888-936-7463.

History: CR 03-029: cr. Register December 2003 No. 576, eff. 1-1-04; CR 15-054: renum. NR 19.79 to (1) and am., cr. (2) Register July 2018 No. 751, eff. 8-1-18; correction in (2) made under s. 13.92 (4) (b) 7., Stats., Register July 2018 No. 751.

NR 19.80 Record keeping and reporting. (1) A wildlife rehabilitation license may not be renewed until the licensee has submitted an annual report in accordance with s. 169.36 (10), Stats., and any additional required records that the department has specifically requested.

- (2)** An advanced licensee and a basic licensee shall provide a copy of the records required to be maintained for that license to the department quarterly as follows:
- (a) Quarterly submission of records shall be provided to the department by April 30th, July 31st, October 31st and January 31st each year, and shall consist of a copy of all required records maintained during the 3 previous months.
- (b) Records to be included in the quarterly report shall consist of complete records of all transactions or activity involving any wild animals of the following families:
1. Canidae (coyotes, foxes, wolves).
 2. Ursidae (bears).
 3. Mustelidae (badger, mink, otter, skunk, fisher, marten, wolverine, weasel).
 4. Felidae (bobcat, lynx, cougars).
 5. Cervidae (elk, deer, moose).
 6. Suidae (pure wild strains of swine commonly known by the name European, Eurasian, Russian or hybrids with domestic strains and animals which are confined but which exhibit characteristics of being in an untamed state, and as established in s. NR 16.11).
 7. Anatidae (mute swans).
 8. Canidae (Hybrids of the species *Canis lupus*, *C. lycaon*, or *C. rufus* commonly known as wolves and the species *Canis familiaris*, domestic dogs, and subsequent generations from such matings as established in s. NR 16.11).

Note: The department may restrict the rehabilitation of species when necessary to control the spread of disease, to protect public health, or to prevent harmful environmental impacts. Pursuant to ss. 169.085 and 169.11 (1) (b) Stats., the department does not allow rehabilitation of wolves or wolf-dog hybrids.

History: CR 03-029: cr. Register December 2003 No. 576, eff. 1-1-04; corrections made to (2) under s. 13.93 (2m) (b) 1., Stats., Register December 2003 No. 576; CR 15-054: am. (2) (b) 3., cr. (2) (b) 5. to 8. Register July 2018 No. 751, eff. 8-1-18; correction in (2) (b) 6., 8. made under s. 35.17, Stats., Register July 2018 No. 751.

NR 19.81 Qualifications of sponsors. Advanced licensees may elect to sponsor and provide consultation and advice to basic licensees. Potential sponsors will be reviewed by the wildlife rehabilitation advisory council and the department. A person desiring to be an advanced sponsor shall do all of the following:

- (1) Submit a request to the wildlife rehabilitation program manager requesting designation as a sponsor.
- (2) Submit to the wildlife rehabilitation program manager, documentation of experience rehabilitating those wildlife species which the basic licensee is authorized to possess.
- (3) Be actively rehabilitating the species the basic licensee is authorized for, or have a facility prepared to rehabilitate the species in compliance with s. NR 19.77.

Note: Contact information for the wildlife rehabilitation program manager may be obtained by calling 1-888-936-7463.

History: CR 03-029: cr. Register December 2003 No. 576, eff. 1-1-04; CR 15-054: am. (intro.), (1), (2), cr. (3) Register July 2018 No. 751, eff. 8-1-18; correction in (3) made under s. 35.17, Stats., Register July 2018 No. 751.

NR 19.82 Wildlife rehabilitation advisory council.

- (1) The secretary shall appoint persons experienced with wildlife biology, rehabilitation, law enforcement, and veterinary medicine to the wildlife rehabilitation advisory council.
- (2) The wildlife rehabilitation advisory council shall assist the department with development of wildlife rehabilitation examinations, facility inspections, and recommendations which may be used in department decision making as it pertains to wildlife rehabilitation, wildlife health, or captive wildlife activities.

History: CR 03-029: cr. Register December 2003 No. 576, eff. 1-1-04; CR 15-054: am. Register July 2018 No. 751, eff. 8-1-18; correction in (1) made under s. 35.17, Stats., Register July 2018 No. 751.

NR 19.83 Additional conditions. (1) Any license issued after January 1, 2004, is subject to requirements of this subchapter.

(2) On January 1, 2004, all existing Wisconsin wildlife rehabilitation permittees will be granted a provisional license for 2 years. After 2 years from the effective date of the provisional license, these provisional licensees may apply for a license pursuant to this subchapter.

(3) An individual applying for a license pursuant to s. NR 19.73 (2) and (3) shall take the examination and meet the requirements established in s. NR 19.75.

History: CR 03-029: cr. Register December 2003 No. 576, eff. 1-1-04.

NR 19.84 Modifications. The department may amend or add conditions to licenses issued under this subchapter at any time if there is a risk to public or animal health and human or animal welfare or there is a risk to the health and welfare of the environment.

History: CR 03-029: cr. Register December 2003 No. 576, eff. 1-1-04; CR 15-054: am. Register July 2018 No. 751, eff. 8-1-18.

NR 19.85 Disclaimer. The number of licenses issued under this subchapter may be restricted by the department based on the need for wildlife rehabilitation. Possession and care of any wildlife under this subchapter does not create a property right to the wildlife for the licensee.

History: CR 03-029: cr. Register December 2003 No. 576, eff. 1-1-04.