



A Word About Wildlife Rehabilitation

Wild animals that have become sick, injured, or orphaned sometimes are found by caring people. They want to do something to help, but they don't know what to do. It is important for adults and children to know that keeping a wild animal is not only difficult, it is illegal without special permits and training. A limited number of people have state and federal permits to care for birds and mammals as licensed wildlife rehabilitators.

Wildlife rehabilitators must have state and federal permits in order to perform rehabilitation work. They must keep records of the animals with which they work and submit annual reports to state and federal officials. Wildlife rehabilitators want to help animals. Their first concern is the well-being of the animal. They want to learn about the animals' behavior and biology because wild animals are very different from domestic animals in many ways. Many wildlife rehabilitators want to educate the public about injured wild animals and will visit your classroom to present programs.

If a sick, injured, or orphaned wild bird is found, it is very important that it be handled in a safe manner for the protection of both the person and the bird. Birds like hawks and owls will try to protect themselves with their talons. Other birds like cardinals will bite with their beaks, and waterbirds like herons will strike with their long beaks. All of these birds can seriously injure people. Don't attempt to handle such a bird without considering the risks.

Here are a few rules to follow when determining what to do to help wild animals:

- If you find a baby bird on the ground, it is most likely that the bird has not been abandoned. Close supervision may keep its parents away from the nest site, so observe from a distance. If the nest site has been disturbed, replace the birds and the nest itself or put the bird in a safe place near the nest. It is not true that the parents will not take the young back if it has been touched by humans.
- If you find a bird and it looks injured - bloody, broken wing, injured eye - leave it alone. Let nature take its course.
- Do not try to feed or handle the bird. Call a conservation officer or a licensed wildlife rehabilitator in your area.
- If you must handle the animal, do so with extreme caution. Always protect yourself! Wear heavy leather gloves. Wrap the animal in a towel, jacket, or rug. This will calm the bird. Place it in a carton or box that is a little bigger than the bird, with shredded newspapers or an old towel on the bottom. Make sure the box has ventilation holes and a lid. Put the box in a warm (room temperature), dark, quiet, and safe place, and call your conservation officer for advice.
- Although your intentions may be good, it is illegal for you to keep such an animal without the proper permits!



• If you think you want to use live animals for education, they must first be determined to be unreleasable by a licensed wildlife rehabilitator. You must obtain an educational permit from both the state and federal governments. It is also necessary for any school, university, college, county conservation board, or other organization engaged in natural resource education using mounted specimens to have a salvage permit. These permits are described below, but contact both agencies for more details.

According to Chapter 481A.65 of the Iowa Code, there are three types of permits:

1. Education project permit: To possess live state-protected birds, mammals, amphibians, reptiles, fish, or invertebrates for educational or zoological displays

2. Scientific collector's license: To take, for scientific purpose only, any birds, nests, eggs, mammals, amphibians, reptiles, fish, invertebrates, plants, or parts thereof which are protected by state regulations

3. Wildlife salvage permit: To possess any state-protected birds, mammals, amphibians, reptiles, fish, or invertebrates which have died as a result of natural causes or accidents, or specimens which have been donated by the Iowa Department of Natural Resources

Questions regarding these permits and licenses may be directed to:

License Bureau
Iowa Department of Natural Resources
Wallace Building
Des Moines, IA 50319-0034
515/281-5145

U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service
Law Enforcement, District #3
Federal Building Ft. Snelling
P.O. Box 45
St. Paul, MN 55111
612/725-3776

Federal special purpose permits are required for possession of any birds, their parts, nests, or eggs as protected by the Migratory Bird Treaty Act.

Whether a school or individual should have these types of permits requires some thought. Keeping a collection and caring for animals takes time, money, and a lot of responsibility.

If your students are interested in helping birds and other wildlife, contact your local wildlife rehabilitator. Many rehabilitation groups offer Adopt-An-Animal programs and can use extra assistance.



There are many wildlife rehabilitators in the state: this is only a partial list.

Beth Brown
RR 5, Box 217
Osceola, IA 50213
515/342-2783

McBride Raptor Center
University of Iowa
E216 Field House
Iowa City, IA 52242
319/355-9293

Linda Nebbe
6101 S. Union Rd.
Waterloo, IA 50701

Kay Neumann
25494 320th St
Dedham, IA 51440
712/683-5555

Orphaned & Injured
Wildlife Inc.
Linda Hinshaw
RFD Box 5650
Spirit Lake, IA 51360
712/336-3827

Wildlife Care Clinic
College of Vet. Med.
Iowa State University
Ames, IA 50011
515/294-4900

Marlene Warren Ehresman
3123 Story St.
Ames, IA 50014-3504
515/296-2995

The Raptor Center
University of Minnesota
1920 Fitch Ave
St. Paul, MN 55108
612/624-4745

Iowa Falconers Association
25494 320th St.
Dedham, IA 51440
712/683-5555

Stephanie Romey
822 Ashmore Circle
West Des Moines, IA 50265
515/223-9475

COOPER'S HAWK

