



**THE HUMANE SOCIETY**  
OF THE UNITED STATES

## **So You Want to Be a Rehabber? Steps to Get Started in Wildlife Rehabilitation**

### ***Webinar Overview***

Obtaining training and appropriate support and resources -- as well as legal compliance are the main components of successful wildlife rehabilitation. Dr. Lynn Miller guides participants towards a truly professional approach to an essentially new field of compassionate care for the wildlife who has been impacted by humans and the world we all share. This presentation and included resources are designed to offer advice to a wide audience in North America

Dr. Miller can be reached at [lmiller@humanesociety.org](mailto:lmiller@humanesociety.org).

### **Considerations for Beginner Rehabilitators**

- ✓ Become trained and educated in the field through credentialed organizations
- ✓ Develop a working understanding of the laws governing rehabilitation in both your state and local ordinances
- ✓ Gain experience by volunteering at a rehabilitation center, apply for internships/externships
- ✓ Carefully consider funding and how you can/will fundraise
- ✓ Anticipate the need for partnering with a skilled veterinarian
- ✓ Be prepared to deal with the dangers and know how to protect yourself and those working with you. Use protective gloves, footwear and proper sanitation techniques. (See additional section)

## Key Training and Support Resources



### **INTERNATIONAL WILDLIFE REHABILITATION COUNCIL (IWRC)**

<http://theiwrc.org/>

Director – Kai Williams

[director@theiwrc.org](mailto:director@theiwrc.org) or 866-871-1869 ext. 1

Programs and Membership Coordinator –  
Julissa Favela

[julissa@theiwrc.org](mailto:julissa@theiwrc.org) or 866-871-1869 ext. 0

### **NATIONAL WILDLIFE REHABILITATORS ASSOCIATION (NWRA)**

<http://www.nrawildlife.org/>

Email: [NWRA@NWRWildlife.org](mailto:NWRA@NWRWildlife.org) or  
320-230-9920

## Additional Resources

- **The Humane Society of the United States (Externship Programs)**  
<http://www.humanesociety.org/about/employment/internships/extern-wildlife-cwc.html>
- **Minimal Standards for Wildlife Rehabilitation (3<sup>rd</sup> Edition 2000)**  
<http://www.nrawildlife.org/sites/default/files/MinimumStandards3rdEdition.pdf>
- **Federal Permitting Agencies**  
USA <http://www.fws.gov/permits/>  
Canada <http://www.ec.gc.ca/Nature/>
- **The Center for Disease Control (CDC)**  
Web site: <http://www.cdc.gov/>  
For zoonotic diseases: <http://www.cdc.gov/onehealth/zoonotic-diseases.html>

- **The Birds of North America (BNA)** is only the fourth comprehensive reference covering the life histories of North America's breeding birds. BNA Online contains image and video galleries showing plumages, behaviors, habitat, nests and eggs, and more  
<http://bna.birds.cornell.edu/bna/>
- **Wildlife Care Basics for Veterinary Hospitals** joint project of Humane Society Veterinary Medical Association and The Humane Society of the United States  
[http://www.hsvma.org/wildlife\\_care\\_basics\\_handbook?utm\\_source=mnews032213&utm\\_medium=email&utm\\_campaign=members](http://www.hsvma.org/wildlife_care_basics_handbook?utm_source=mnews032213&utm_medium=email&utm_campaign=members)  
<http://marketplace.animalsheltering.org/product/wildlife-care-basics>

### Some notes about safety

#### Injuries

- Protect yourself from injuries by using protective gloves, footwear and goggles.
- Use towels and blankets to protect you and the animal is a necessity

#### Zoonosis

Devastating illness can be spread from animal to animal. Know the transmission routes:

- Aerosols
- Direct contact
- Oral
- Fomites

Learn more about zoonosis:

- <http://www.cdc.gov/onehealth/zoonotic-diseases.html>

#### Vaccinations

- Rabies vaccination may be essential
- Tetanus

