

**Captive Wildlife Regulations – Wildlife Rehabilitation
Summary of Additions and/or Changes**

Effective Date: August 27, 2009

This rule can be viewed at <https://www.flrules.org/Default.asp> by searching the rule number.

68A-9.006 Wildlife Rehabilitation Permit.

- Clarifies that a federal permit from the United States Fish and Wildlife Service is required if possessing migratory birds for rehabilitation purposes.
- Clarifies that a wildlife rehabilitation permit is not required for the care or treatment of exotic or non-native wildlife. A license or permit authorizing possession is required for possession of exotic or non-native wildlife. Exotic or non-native wildlife cannot be caged with sick or injured native wildlife.
- Exotic or non-native wildlife or domestic animals may be used to foster orphaned native wildlife.
- All wildlife held for rehabilitation purposes must be released, transferred, or euthanized after 180 days, unless a licensed veterinarian has certified that a longer time period is necessary in the interest of the health and welfare of the wildlife. In these instances, medical records must be kept at the facility and made available for inspection by Florida Fish and Wildlife Conservation Commission (FWC) personnel.
- Wildlife diagnosed as “physically impaired,” must be evaluated by an independent rehabilitator or veterinarian and FWC staff before it is considered non-releasable.
- Fully recovered American alligators or American crocodiles may not be released to the wild. These specimens must be placed with a properly licensed exhibition, educational, or breeding facility.