

68A-9.006 Wildlife Rehabilitation Permit

(1) – (4) NO CHANGE

(5) Standards for Wildlife Rehabilitation.

(a) –(e) NO CHANGE

(f) Wildlife shall be cared for at the facility listed in the wildlife rehabilitator permit, except under the following circumstances:

1. The volume of wildlife needing care is beyond the capacity of the permittee's facilities; or

2. When continuous care of wildlife is required; or

3. Insufficient space is available for volunteers to work with the number of wildlife requiring treatment; or

4. When a raptor has been temporarily given to a General or Master Falconer in order to condition the raptor in preparation for its release to the wild.

Under these conditions, volunteer workers may care for specimens off-premise on a temporary basis. Each permittee is authorized to have up to ten (10) volunteers to aid in the off-premise rehabilitation of wildlife. A current listing of the name and address of off-premise volunteers shall be kept by the permittee. Upon submission of biannual permit renewal information to the Commission, permittees shall submit a listing of all off-premise volunteers who have assisted the facility during the permit period. Volunteers keeping migratory birds off-premise shall record their daily work time in a log book on a daily basis. Those volunteers who care for native mammals only are not required to record daily work time. All volunteers are responsible for maintaining a log of the animals cared for off-premise, to include a record of treatment, condition, and disposition. Volunteers shall possess a copy of the rehabilitation permit when temporarily possessing wildlife off-premise. The permittee shall be fully responsible for the volunteer's treatment and possession of the wildlife.

(g) Permittees may Transfer Raptors to a General or Master Falconer.

(1.) A permittee may temporarily transfer raptors to an individual who holds a valid General or Master Falconry permit for the falconer to assist in conditioning the raptors for release to the wild. For falconers assisting the permittee:

(a.) The permittee must provide the falconer with a letter or form that identifies the bird and explains that the falconer is assisting in its rehabilitation.

(b.) The falconer does not need to meet the rehabilitator facility standards. The falconer must meet the facility standards of a falconer.

(c.) The falconer does not have to add the raptor possessed for rehabilitation purposes to his/her falconry permit; it will remain under the permit of the permittee.

(d.) Upon coordination with the permittee, the falconer must release all releaseable raptors to the wild or return them to the permittee for release within the 180-day timeframe in which the permittee is authorized to possess the birds, unless the Commission authorizes the falconer to retain and condition a bird for longer than 180 days, or unless the permittee transfers the bird to the falconer to hold under his/her falconry permit. The transfer would require the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service's Migratory Bird Acquisition and Disposition Report, 3-186A (rev. 9/2010), herein incorporated by reference, to be submitted within

(2.) Permittees may transfer raptors to a General or Master Falconer in order to add the raptor to the falconer's permit.

(a.) The falconer may acquire a raptor of any age of a species that he/she is permitted to possess directly from a rehabilitator. Transfer to the falconer is at the discretion of the rehabilitator.

(b.) Within 10 days of the transfer, the falconer must report it to the Commission.

(c.) If the falconer acquires a bird from a rehabilitator, it will count as one of the raptors the falconer is authorized to take from the wild that year.

(gh) All wildlife shall be kept in accordance with general requirements governing captive wildlife, pens and caging set forth in Rules 68A-6.004, 68A-6.0041, and 68A-6.0023, and 68A-9.005, F.A.C.

(hi) Wildlife shall be maintained in humane conditions and within compatible groups, provided with appropriate food, and kept in sanitary manner to provide optimum conditions for recovery. Cages or enclosures housing wildlife shall be constructed so as to prevent escape and protect the caged animal from injury. Such cages or enclosures shall be free of sharp edges, projections, or objects detrimental to the animal(s) safety, or, objects that impede the movement of the animal(s).

(ij) Permittees shall not refuse to accept wildlife in need of care, except when:

1. The permittee does not have appropriate space or facilities; or

2. The permittee lacks experience or expertise with the species of wildlife so as to present a danger to the wildlife, the permittee

or the public. However, the permittee shall provide referrals to the nearest rehabilitator where appropriate care may be provided.

(~~jk~~) Permittees receiving any species classified as state endangered shall notify the Tallahassee office of the Commission's Division of Law Enforcement within seventy-two (72) hours of the receipt of the wildlife.

(~~kl~~) Permittees or their volunteers shall not require a fee associated with wildlife rehabilitation services, nor shall permittees or their volunteers require fees for rehabilitation services, including the pick-up, delivery, or acceptance, of sick, injured, orphaned or otherwise impaired wildlife. This limitation shall not apply to professional fees charged by a licensed veterinarian.

(~~lm~~) Permittees or their volunteers shall not represent themselves as agents of the Commission. Permittees or their volunteers shall not enter upon the property of another for the purpose of taking possession of wildlife unless authorized by the owner, lessee, or custodian of the property.

(~~mn~~) A permit is valid when issued and expires December 31, of the second calendar year after issuance, unless otherwise specified for migratory birds by the United States Fish and Wildlife Service.

(6) Under certain emergency conditions, such as oil spills, hurricanes, floods, and other natural or manmade disasters, the Commission may impose additional restrictions or provide for permit exemptions as may be necessary to safeguard affected wildlife such as, but not limited to, the coordination and direction of rehabilitation permittees and their facilities, the assignment of zones for implementing rehabilitative services, and the authorization of additional volunteers to aid in the capture and treatment of wildlife.

(7) The permit may be subject to revocation, suspension, or non-renewal in accordance with Rule 68A-5.004, F.A.C.

Rulemaking Authority Art. IV, Sec. 9, Fla. Const. Law Implemented Art. IV, Sec. 9, Fla. Const. History—New 11-6-94, Formerly 39-9.006, Amended 8-27-09.