

## The Licensing Process

Only properly licensed individuals are legally permitted to rehabilitate and provide care to injured and/or orphaned wildlife in Rhode Island. The Rhode Island “Rules and Regulations Governing Wildlife Rehabilitation” which include the regulations governing licensure can be found here:

<https://rules.sos.ri.gov/regulations/part/250-60-00-1>

In Rhode Island, there are two classifications for people licensed to care for wild animals - Sub-permittees and Rehabilitators:

### **Sub-Permittee License**

The Sub-Permittee license allows the holder to raise certain healthy baby animals only. Species permitted include all mammals and baby birds (rehabilitation of birds requires an additional Federal Migratory Bird Permit). Sub-permittees are **strictly prohibited from raising Raptors and RVS mammals**. This license is a limited license and requires the Sub-permittee to work under the license, sponsorship and tutelage of a fully licensed Rehabilitator – it is important to note that the Sub-permittee is only licensed to care for those species that their sponsoring rehabilitator is licensed to care for. In addition, Sub-permittees are not permitted to take animals directly from the public and are not permitted to publicize their contact information for such purposes. Sub-Permittees are only allowed to intake animals from their sponsor, The Wildlife Clinic or another fully licensed rehabilitator only.

The formal requirements that must be met to obtain a Sub-permittee license are:

1. Sub-permittee Training Course (6 hours) – Course is offered by WRARI
2. 25 hours of hands-on training (Can be done at The Wildlife Clinic or with a licensed rehabilitator)
3. Must take and pass an open-book examination administered by R.I.D.E.M.
4. Sponsorship by The Wildlife Clinic or a licensed rehabilitator
5. Documented Support of a Veterinarian (Generally provided by WRARI veterinarians if individual anticipates working with WRARI and is sponsored by a WRARI rehabber)
6. Home-visit
  - Only needed if you intend to care for animals in your home, this is not needed if you intend to volunteer at the Wildlife Clinic only.
  - Conducted by your Sponsor
  - Must have a separate space to perform rehabilitation that is temperature controlled, includes a sink, and a way to keep pets and people away from your wild charges – most sub-permittees use their basement or a separate bathroom. If you intend to care for animals until release, you must also have additional outdoor caging that meets the criteria outlined in the NWRA “Minimum Standards” 4<sup>th</sup> edition.

Each year, the sponsoring rehabilitator renews each of their Sub-permittees licenses with the R.I.D.E.M. This classification is intended for temporary use only because each Rehabilitator is

permitted to have only a limited number of Sub-permittees working under their license and we do encourage sub-permittees to pursue their full rehabilitator's license.

### **Rehabilitator's License**

Fully licensed Wildlife Rehabilitators are permitted to intake adult and baby, healthy and injured animals, although most species of birds require an additional Federal Migratory Bird Permit. Rehabilitators are allowed to intake directly from the public and to publicize their information for this purpose. Upon completion of the formal legal requirements, individuals seeking this license are classified as "Level 1" rehabilitators for their first year. This means that these individuals must work as "apprentices" under the sponsorship and tutelage of a "Level 2" rehabilitator for their first year. Additionally, as with Sub-permittees, Level 1 rehabilitators are limited to caring for only those same species that their Sponsoring Rehabilitator is legally permitted to rehabilitate. Upon satisfactory completion of their first year, "Level 1" rehabilitators can apply to become "Level 2" rehabilitators – at which time said individuals would be considered fully licensed rehabilitators.

The formal requirements that must be met to obtain Rehabilitator's License are:

1. "Basic Wildlife Rehabilitation Course" – Offered by the International Wildlife Rehabilitation Council (IWRC) (For more information go to [www.theiwrc.org](http://www.theiwrc.org))
2. Must take and pass an open-book examination administered by R.I.D.E.M.
3. Home Inspection
  - Conducted by R.I.D.E.M.
  - Must meet requirement outlined in the Rhode Island "Rules and Regulations Governing Wildlife Rehabilitation"
4. Sponsorship of a Level 2 rehabilitator
5. Documented support of a Veterinarian

### **Additional Notes**

Level 1 rehabilitators, so long as they meet all other requirements, may rehabilitate Raptor species so long as such is permitted for their Sponsoring Rehabilitator.

Only Level 2X rehabilitators are permitted to rehabilitate RVS mammals, which includes skunks, red & grey foxes, raccoons, woodchucks and bats. To obtain this level of licensure, an individual must have their Rabies vaccinations. Only apparently healthy animals, less than 10 weeks of age, are candidates for rehabilitation, with the exception that rehabilitation of bats of any age is permissible.

Neither sub-permittees nor rehabilitators are permitted to charge a fee for their services.