

Eye Injuries: To Rehabilitate or Not

“Will this animal be able to 1) recover from this injury and 2) survive when released in the wild?”

things to consider when making these decisions:

the species and type of hunting/flying they do

maneuver between branches? Dodge obstacles? Soar on currents?

type and extent of eye injury

is it painful? Will be painful after recover? Could it lead to other problems? Is it one or both eyes? How much vision does it still have?

individual's age

will it heal quickly? Does it have a lot of years ahead of it? Does it know how to escape predators and have other survival skills?

Migration

Is it a species that migrates? Which eye is affected? Will it still be able to migrate?

proven hunting skills

does it have experience hunting and surviving in the wild?

social vs solitary behavior

does it need to watch out for itself? Can it rely on others to protect it? To find food?

type of prey or food

Does it rely on vision to find food? Must it be able to focus accurately to obtain food?

Habitat

Where does it live? How well does it need to see to get around in its natural setting? How well does it need to see to find/build a nest?

Mating

Does it need to see well to find and court a mate? Does it rely on color vision?

release location

Can you get it back to an area with which it is familiar?

other injuries

Does it have additional injuries that, when combined with some vision loss, will decrease its chance of survival in the wild?