

BASICS

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- Those who wish to pet and baby wild animals love them. But, those who respect their natures and wish them to live normal lives, love them more.

- -Edwin Way Teale

Goals

- To care for wildlife without taming/imprinting
- To preserve function
- To treat wildlife so they can be released and fend for themselves, breed and have babies
- To end suffering if animal can't recover to a normal or adaptive life
- Above all else, to do no harm

Goals

- To care for wildlife without taming/imprinting

Imprinting

- A physiologic hard-wiring of the brain that occurs during a specific window of time in an animal's early development
- Responsible for creation of species self-recognition
- Provides for preferences for mate selection when sexually mature
- Irreversible
- Can be dangerous to people (bucks, carnivores, raptors)
- Always dangerous to animal

Goals

- To care for wildlife without taming/imprinting
- To preserve/restore function

Preserve Function

- Fractures must mend so that limb is functional
- Wounds must heal so that movement is not restricted and injury won't recur
- Proper caging must be supplied so that iatrogenic problems do not occur
- Exercise must be initiated at proper moment so that injuries aren't worsened, but atrophy is prevented

Goals

- To care for wildlife without taming/imprinting
- To preserve function
- To treat wildlife so they can be released and fend for themselves, find food, create territory, find mates, breed, have babies, and live happily ever after

Goals

- To care for wildlife without taming/imprinting
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- Above all else, to do no harm

Legalities

- Licensing mandatory to keep and care for wildlife
- Must take exam or show proof of 1000 hours with licensed rehabilitator
- State Permit FL Fish & Wildlife Conservation Commission
- Federal Permit US Fish & Wildlife – Special Purpose Rehabilitation Permit
- FWRA membership!! CE
- Still, cannot keep native wildlife for more than the specified time without valid reason *and* special permission

Legalities

- Cannot keep permanently injured wildlife without a special purpose possession permit
 - Must be used for education at least 12 x per yr.
 - If you imprint an animal you cannot keep it even with the permit
- Animal must be euthanized if:
 - Missing the wing above the elbow
 - Missing leg below the intertarsal joint
- It is illegal to release non-native wildlife
 - third degree felony

Basic Equipment Needed

- Carriers and wire cages of various sizes

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Basic Equipment Needed

- Nets of various sizes

Basic Equipment Needed

- Scale
 - Big range in price
 - Good 4 LB scale about \$65 at Office Depot
 - Heavier weighing scale has larger increments
 - Smaller more sensitive

Basic Equipment Needed

- Leather gloves
 - Welding gloves are least expensive & good length
 - Leather work gloves are good but short so do not provide adequate forearm protection

Basic Equipment Needed

- Basic Instruments & medical supplies
 - Contact local hospitals to get throw-away forceps, hemostats, iris scissors, blunt probes, betadine, gauze, needles, syringes, saline, eye ointment, fluids
 - Make friends with Operating Room employees
 - once a pack's outer wrap is opened, it must be discarded even though never used and still sterile
 - ancillary items within a pack often more useful than main items

Basic Equipment Needed

- Veterinarian willing to work with you and learn with you
 - mandatory requirement for your permit
 - small animal vets don't automatically know how best to care for wildlife
 - often put prey species in sight of dogs and cats
 - often feed inappropriate diets
 - often spend hours amputating a limb, not knowing animal must be euthanized if above a certain point
 - can bribe to help with the items you get from your OR friend!

Basic Equipment Needed

- Resources
 - Monetary
 - lots of work involved in getting 501-C 3 status
 - once begun must know it will be constant outlay of \$\$
 - network with others for fundraising ideas
 - network with others for grant writing tips

Basic Equipment Needed

- References
 - Fantastic array of books now available for wildlife
 - absolute minimum
 - field guide to id species
 - handbook of birds to know natural history
 - exotic animal drug formulary to help you and vet properly dispense appropriate drugs in appropriate doses
 - a basic wildlife medicine rehab book on species you wish to care for

Basic Equipment Needed

- FWRA listserv & directory of fellow rehabilitators

Basic Equipment Needed

- Area set aside for animal care
 - not necessarily large
 - must be dedicated to wildlife only
 - quiet area away from home traffic and pets
 - easily disinfected- no carpet!
 - one room in house or shed without extreme temperatures

Basic Equipment Needed

- Record keeping system
 - Yearly form must be submitted for continued licensing
 - Identification system for each animal
 - birds can be banded with temporary plastic colored bands
 - can use colored cable ties with a drop of super glue so bands don't get too tight
 - mammals can clip small area of hair in different areas (usu. tails)
 - reptiles
 - turtles can place tape with sharpie marker number on shell

When an animal comes to you

- Get a history from rescuer
 - Always ask for their name, phone and address and address where animal found before anything else!
 - Rescuer often calling from cell phone, often lose connection
 - Can threaten with FWC if rescuer decides not to relinquish
 - Nanosecond attachment factor
 - May not relinquish if can't have as pet, or if prognosis is grave for release to wild
 - Where, when, how and what has been done/given
 - In many orphan cases, animal can be returned to parent
 - much better for animals
 - much less work for you!

When an animal comes to you

- Get a history from rescuer
 - People can't resist feeding animal no matter how badly injured
 - ensure if they say they "fed" an animal, if they actually forced the items down or if they just put in enclosure

When an animal comes to you

- Look in box and assess condition of animal
 - Make sure doors are closed, room is secure
 - If animal is quiet, try to get a better look at injuries
 - If thrashing around, be sure container is appropriate and clean and put in dark, warm environment until calm
 - may do more damage trying to restrain a flailing animal
 - broken bones' rough edges can saw through soft tissue
 - If rescuer has put food or water in carrier, remove

When an animal comes to you

- What you are looking for at first encounter
 - attitude-
 - alert, calm, defensive, comatose, dead
 - awareness of surroundings
 - blood on animal or in enclosure
 - abnormal smells emanating from box
 - gas, oil, other toxic spill
 - perfume (rescuer has been kissing animal! Or felt it smelled badly and doused it)
 - necrosis- fly strike has characteristic sweet-rotten smell
 - symmetry-
 - limbs held up or stood upon equally
 - pupils and eyes symmetrical
 - any abnormal angles to limbs
 - wounds/blood, disrupted fur or feathers
 - coat/feather condition

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Identify the Species

- It is very important to identify the species you are working with appropriately
 - Proper Housing
 - Diet
 - Medication anomalies & hazards
 - Handling
- Life stage and sex
 - Neonate, fledgling, milk/regurgitate vs. solid food
 - Lactating, pregnant, reproductive age with offspring left behind?
 - If so does male partake in rearing of offspring?
 - Weight fluctuation for time of year
- With birds beak shape, mouth color, feather color and egg color can help
- Natural History
 - Feeding methods, nesting and feeding behavior, proper environment

Identify the Species

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Restraint and Handling

- Knowledge of animal behavior and associated weapons
- Manual
 - Gloves
 - Towels
 - Carriers
 - Help
 - Foam blocks with Velcro
 - Pillowcases
 - Rabies pole/stiff leash
- Chemical - veterinarian
- Either way has its associated risks, must decide which is safest for animal, not which is more exciting for you!

What's this?

Calculate Fluid Replacement

- Has there been blood loss?
- Is the skin “tenting”? Do pinch test.
- Is the animal in shock? Do mucous membranes appear pale, white and or tacky?
- R.O.T. 30-60 ml/kg/24 hours, reptiles 15ml/kg/day
 - Saline or Normosol will be more bioavailable for young animals than LRS
- Never give any fluids with dextrose SQ
 - Will cause skin sloughing, can cause bacterial infection
- Please attend fluid therapy replacement workshop

What's this?

Prevent STRESS!!

- Stress- an external factor that causes internal, metabolic changes
- An animal can get the best care in the world, but if it is under constant stress, it will die.
 - Multi systemic effects
 - endogenous steroids released, suppresses immune system and delays healing
 - elevated blood pressure and respiratory rate
 - elevated metabolic rate (life threatening in starved animals)

Prevent STRESS!!

- An animal can get the best care in the world, but if it is under constant stress, it will die.
 - Multiple causes
 - manual restraint, PETTING, bandaging, caging
 - sight, sound or smell of predator
 - loud noises, talking to animal
 - extreme cold or heat
 - bright light for nocturnals

What's this?

Review part one

- goals
- licensing
- equipment
- handling
- identification
- initial care

What's this?

Stay tuned for part 2