

CODE OF ETHICS

NOV 2022

1. A wildlife carer/rescuer should strive to achieve high standards of animal care through training and knowledge. Continuing efforts must be made to keep informed of current rehabilitation information, methods, and regulations by attending ongoing training.
2. A wildlife carer/rescuer should be responsible, conscientious, and dedicated. They should work continuously toward improving the quality of care given to native animals undergoing rehabilitation.
3. A wildlife carer/rescuer must abide by local, state, and federal laws concerning wildlife, wildlife rehabilitation and associated activities.
4. A wildlife carer/rescuer should establish safe working habits and conditions always abiding by current health and safety practices.
5. A wildlife carer/rescuer should acknowledge their limitations and enlist the assistance of a veterinarian and other trained professionals when appropriate.
6. A wildlife carer/rescuer should respect other volunteers and persons in related fields, sharing skills and knowledge in the spirit of co-operation for the welfare of wildlife.
7. A wildlife carer/rescuer should place optimum animal care above personal gain and emotions.
8. A wildlife carer/rescuer should strive to provide professional and humane care in all phases of wildlife rehabilitation, protecting the welfare, respecting the wildness, and maintaining the dignity of each animal in life and in death. Releasable animals should be maintained in a wild condition and released as soon as appropriate. Non-releasable animals have a right to euthanasia.
9. A wildlife carer/rescuer should, when dealing with the public, friends, or family, always encourage other people to consider joining a wildlife group. The goal should always be to promote positive messages and give advice that supports the welfare of wildlife.
10. A wildlife carer/rescuer should consider the suitable habitat for wildlife when choosing a release site and when gathering food for animals during rehabilitation ensuring they are mindful of not over-populating an area or removing too much flora from one area which can have a negative impact with the existing wildlife in the area.
11. A wildlife carer/rescuer should conduct all business, activities, and communications in a professional manner, with honesty, integrity, compassion, and commitment, realising that an individual's conduct reflects on the entire field of wildlife rehabilitation.

Adapted from: WRQ Wildlife Carer Code of Ethics

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