


Important Perspectives as a Wildlife Rehabilitator

Wildlife Rehabilitation requires significant resources. Some rehabilitators receive funding from organizations and governments, but many resource their entire operations independently. Having a realistic expectation of the resources required helps to fully appreciate the rewards of wildlife rehabilitation.

Financial Most rehabilitators pay for food, housing, medicines, transportation, and professional development from their own pockets, unless they can solicit donations. Many rehabilitators form nonprofit corporations, which make it easier to collect donations. If you decide to seek funding beyond personal and small individual donations, contact an attorney or some other expert in nonprofit law. Help from a lawyer and accountant well versed in nonprofit organizations is critical. You may need to incorporate within your state, have a board of directors and bylaws, then seek nonprofit tax exempt status from the Internal Revenue Service. Often annual reports must be filed with the Secretary of State and Attorney General, as well as with the IRS.

 It also takes a lot of time to rehabilitate correctly! For example, baby birds must be fed every 15-30 minutes during daylight hours, 14 hours a day! **Time**

Insurance Insurance is necessary and available through NWRA. If people are bringing wild animals to you, be sure you have adequate liability insurance. Your homeowner's policy probably does not cover rehabilitation. If you have others assisting you, regardless of their relationship, be sure you are covered and they are covered. Check your health and hospitalization policy, too.

