



⊠ North Carolina Wildlife Resources Commission ⊠

Richard B. Hamilton, Executive Director

Policy on Treatment and Euthanasia of Wildlife by Licensed Veterinarians July 6, 2006

The North Carolina Veterinary Practice Act, Chapter 90, Article 11 of the General Statutes of North Carolina, defines *veterinarian* as “a person who has received a doctor's degree in veterinary medicine from an accredited school of veterinary medicine and who is licensed by the Board to practice veterinary medicine.” The *practice of veterinary medicine* is defined as “to diagnose, treat, correct, change, relieve, or prevent animal disease, deformity, defect, injury, or other physical or mental conditions; including the prescription or administration of any drug, medicine, biologic, apparatus, application, anesthetic, or other therapeutic or diagnostic substance or technique on any animal.” The Practice Act defines *animal* as “any animal, mammal other than man and includes birds, fish, and reptiles, wild or domestic, living or dead.”

Pursuant to these definitions, any veterinarian licensed by the North Carolina Veterinary Medical Board may treat or euthanize any wild animal without obtaining a permit from the North Carolina Wildlife Resources Commission (NCWRC). Licensed veterinarians may not possess the animal longer than 24 hours unless that animal is under the direct supervision of a licensed wildlife rehabilitator. This policy pertains to the treatment and euthanasia of all wildlife species including white-tailed deer.

However, the NCWRC has special requirements to treat/euthanize certain animals. Veterinarians treating or euthanizing an endangered, threatened, or special concern species must contact the NCWRC at 1-800-662-7137 within 24 hours. A list of these species can be found in the North Carolina Administrative Code under Title 15A, Subchapter 10I. Veterinarians should obtain consent from his/her local NCWRC district technical guidance biologist before treating or euthanizing black bears. Contact information may be obtained by calling the NCWRC at 1-800-662-7137. Rabies vector species (foxes, skunks, raccoons, and bats) should be euthanized and tested for rabies as they are a human safety concern and rehabilitation permits will not be issued for these species.

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