

2019 Course Descriptions

Wildlife Rehabilitation - Permits & Regulation Changes

Daron Barnes

Daron will be addressing the ongoing Wildlife Resources Commission captivity rules rewrite process. A basic overview of the steps they took including; incorporating public comments, stakeholder's meetings, internal review, and presentation to the Commission. What they want to address with the rule rewrite. Where they are in the rewriting process and what comes next. Daron will also address some related topics: Human Wildlife Interaction (HWI), the role of rehabilitation in HWI, and how the regulation process works.

Turtles of North Carolina: An Overview

Jeffrey Beane

North Carolina is home to at least 21 native turtle species, plus at least two established, nonnative taxa (one species, one subspecies). This represents high regional diversity, considering that the total number of turtle species worldwide is only around 300. Turtles turn up relatively frequently as candidates for rehabilitation. Due to their life histories and ecological roles, they are, from an environmental perspective, among the animals for which rehabilitation resource expenditures might be considered most justifiable. This presentation will include a brief overview of turtle biology, but it will focus primarily on identification and natural history of North Carolina species.

(Beginner Track, General, Vet Tech CE, Vet CE)

Anything and Everything Squirrel

Linda Bergman

From orphaned pinkie to hefty, fast and furious release, and any ailments or injury in between or beyond; this session gives the squirrel its due. Routine or unusual calls received by you or your center regarding our friend and potential victim or trouble maker, the squirrel, will be discussed. This interactive class will help us stock our rehab knowledge toolbox with "who they are and what to do's" in any squirrel situation such as infant care, adult ailments or injury, caging, nesting, removal and more. The squirrel . . . some people can't live with them, and most wildlife rehabilitators can't live without them.

(Beginner Track, General, Vet Tech CE)

Hummingbirds Wintering in NC

Susan Campbell

Although it is still not common knowledge, some hummingbirds overwinter in North Carolina. Many are coastal Ruby-throateds however Western species can be found across the state. Susan has been studying these birds for two decades and will share her findings. Patterns of distribution, identification, wintering ecology and feeding tips will be discussed.

(Beginner Track, General, Vet Tech CE)

Training & Operant Conditioning Lecture and lab

Alison Castillo

The use of positive reinforcement and training is critical to helping wildlife ambassadors adjust to a life in captivity. This session will cover the basics of operant conditioning, as well as addressing some common animal behavior challenges. Would you like resident/education birds and mammals to willingly participate in their own care and outreach? Would you like to build a positive relationship with resident animals based on trust? Would you like to enrich animal's lives through activities that engage natural behaviors and improve psychological well-being? Operant Conditioning is a form of training that shapes naturally occurring behaviors allowing animals to be partners in all aspects of captive management and educational outreach. Please join me during a lecture to learn the principles of positive reinforcement training, and later, a lab where we will practice operant conditioning techniques and have a lot of fun.

(Beginner Track, General, Vet Tech CE)

Is it a Bird, Mammal, or Reptile I Hear?

Jean Chamberlain

Do you know the songs, calls and other sounds made by the wildlife around you? Jean will challenge you to identify common wildlife sounds.

(Beginner Track, General)

Cage Building Lab

KT Childress

Come build your own personal and versatile critter cage. We will teach basic cage-building skills. You'll go home with your very own wire cage that will be highly suitable for your next group of squirrels possums, bunnies or whatever you prefer. Cages will be approximately 2'x2'x2'.

(Beginner Track, General)

Tree Nest Box Building Lab

Have you ever wanted to learn to build a nest box out of wood? Do you have some experience being crafty on any level? Come have fun and learn how to build your very own elegant, durable, single-family residence for squirrels. Your custom tree box will measure approximately 16 inches high 12 inches wide and 10 inches deep, and even include its own protective balcony!

Starvation and Nutritional Support

Dr. Ernesto Dominguez

(Beginner Track, General, Vet Tech CE, Vet CE)

Critical and Intensive Care

Dr. Ernesto Dominguez

(Beginner Track, General, Vet Tech CE, Vet CE)

Release Criteria for Birds

Maureen Eiger

We spend hours raising nestlings and fledgling birds, but do we shortchange our efforts when it is time for them to be released? Learn what key behaviors or physical signs to look for, so you know that bird is ready for release. Learn which bird species can be released as singles or which species need a flock.

What about releases close to migration time, what do you do? Learn how to make sure that your rehabbed birds get the best chance at survival when they are released in back into the wild.

(Beginner Track, General, Vet Tech CE)

Baby Songbird ID

Maureen Eiger

We spend hours raising nestlings and fledgling birds, but do we shortchange our efforts when it is time for them to be released? Learn what key behaviors or physical signs to look for, so you know that bird is ready for release. Learn which bird species can be released as singles or which species need a flock.

What about releases close to migration time, what do you do? Learn how to make sure that your rehabbed birds get the best chance at survival when they are released in back into the wild.

(Beginner Track, General, Vet Tech CE)

Band Returns at CRC

Mathias Engelmann

This presentation will summarize band returns at Carolina Raptor Center from 1980 through 2017. Of the more than 7200 raptors that have been banded during that period, over 570 have been reported or recovered again. We'll discuss preliminary results, trends among species, and some of the more interesting cases.

(General)

Working with Vets

Nina Fischesser

When starting out as a wildlife rehabilitator one must have the help of one or more veterinarians to assist in our very important work. This lecture aims to help new rehabilitators who are seeking to build relationships with veterinarians in their community. Areas covered are: approaching the vet, keeping the relationship healthy, working with the technicians, communication, financial agreements, and more.

(Beginner Track, General, Vet Tech CE)

Basic Medical Terminology for Beginners

Nina Fischesser

Have you ever been to pick up an animal from a veterinarian and feel like you are hearing a different language as they go through the patient's condition and prognosis (likely outcome or

future for patient)? Well, medical terminology for many new, or non-medical rehabilitators is like learning a new language.

This lecture aims to teach some of the more common terminology, used in medically caring for wildlife in the rehabilitation and veterinary settings. Sound boring? Not at all! We'll have some fun too

(Beginner Track, General, Vet Tech CE)

Wildlife Fecal Lab

Dr. James Flowers

The fecal lab will be a hands-on, wet lab. Diagnostic techniques (Passive Fecal floatation, Centrifugal Flootation and Fecal Sedimentation) will be discussed and demonstrated. Participants will have the opportunity to practice these techniques and analyze the results. Wild animal feces will be provided for analysis, or participants may bring wildlife fecals for analysis. Participants should be aware of the zoonotic potentials of pathogens from wildlife feces, and should follow suggested personal protection advice. (gloves, lab coats, etc.)

Rehabilitating Opossums

Melisse Hopping

This presentation covers species background, lifecycle, physiology, assessment and the care of orphaned opossums from intake to release, including feeding and housing.

(Beginner Track, General, Vet Tech CE)

Zoonosis/Sanitation/keeping it clean

Melisse Hopping

This presentation covers the causes, modes of transmission, description of common zoonoses, symptoms of infection, and most of all, prevention.

(Beginner Track, General, Vet Tech CE)

Handling Wildlife Calls

Carla Johnson

'My dog has brought me a baby bird.' 'I don't think the mother rabbit is feeding the young in the nest in my back yard.' 'There's a bat in my chimney.' Carla covers many of the calls frequently received by rehabilitators and vet offices.

(Beginner Track, General, Vet Tech CE)

Rehabilitating Wild Rabbits

Kara Kroshl

Welcome to the lecture of Rehabilitating Wild Rabbits! This lecture will pertain facts of the different

kinds of wild rabbits in North Carolina. The presenter will be giving a step by step process of how to rehabilitate wild rabbits while also giving tips on how to make it more efficient. She will be relaying her personal experience with rabbit therapy and will state her hopes for the future outcomes of her work.
(Beginner Track, General, Vet Tech CE)

Turtle Shell Repair Lab

Dr. Gregory Lewbart

This lab covers different shell repair techniques using shell models.
(Vet CE, Vet Tech CE, Turtle Rehabilitators)

Introduction to Rehabilitation

Kathy Lillard

This session is the first session of the beginner track. It covers what it means to be a wildlife rehabilitator, the rules and regulations covering rehabilitation, and the general principles for raising baby mammals.

What's New with USDA Animal Care? A Regulatory Update

Dr. Mary Ann McBride

Mammal Necropsy lab

Dr. Amber McNamara

A necropsy examination can be a valuable and informative tool for the wildlife rehabilitator, illustrating normal and abnormal anatomy, the extent of an injury or disease process, and in some cases the cause of death. This lab will cover the basic components of how to complete a necropsy examination in mammals, including recognizing normal mammal anatomy and how to take samples for lab submission.

(Advanced Mammal Rehabilitators, Vet Tech CE, Vet CE)

Medication for Wildlife

Dr. Amber McNamara

Fracture assessment can be overwhelming for new (and sometimes veteran!) wildlife rehabilitators. This lecture will deconstruct the fracture assessment process -- considering numerous factors such as the species' stress level in captivity, location of the fracture, concurrent disease, and capabilities of the facility -- to help rehabilitators develop a more accurate assessment and prognosis.

(Advanced Rehabilitators, Vet Tech CE, Vet CE)

Opossum Medication Dosing Chart

Lea Murray, RVT

The Opossum Medication Class will cover a brief overview of the commonly used medications in opossums, our newest medications and what they are being used for and a complete explanation and tutorial of my medication dosing chart that I have made as an at a glance tool for anyone caring for opossums. The chart contains four measurements of weights, commonly used medications, concentrations used in opossums and the dose per weight.

(General, Vet Tech CE)

Parasitology in Opossums

Lea Murray, RVT

The parasitology class will be discussing the most common parasites that we see in the Didelphis Virginiana, the life cycle and treatment of these parasites.

(General, Vet Tech CE)

Avian Physical Exam Lab

Betty O'Leary

This lab covers the basics of avian external anatomy and examination. Student are supplied with bird cadavers and an examination form to practice during the class.

(General, Vet Tech CE)

The Importance of Conspecifics when Raising Songbirds

Toni O'Neil

How do you make sure your tiny nestlings grow up to be fully functional as you care for them? How do you prepare fledglings for release? What are the steps you can take to ensure that they develop properly, learn to feed themselves, recognize calls, and socialize correctly? How can imprinting be avoided but habituation be utilized while in captivity? This session will focus on answering these questions and more to help you successfully raise baby birds.

Updates on Avian and Small Mammal Analgesia

Dr. Olivia Petritz

(Vet CE, Vet Tech CE, General)

One of the basic treatments we can provide as veterinarians and wildlife caretakers is the provision of analgesia to relieve pain and suffering. Avian, exotic, and wildlife analgesia is an area of active research, and there are numerous new published studies. The purpose of this lecture is to distill down this recent research into clinically applicable information which can be extrapolated to common wildlife bird and small mammalian species.

How to Deal with Human-caused Problems

Mary Ellen Rogers

This program will focus on the interactions between humans and birds that can result in injuries requiring rehabilitation or loss of natural instincts. Being hit by cars and boats, recreational fishing injuries caused by hooks and lines as well as commercial fishing boats dragging nets for hours will be discussed. Well intentioned but inexperienced rescuers often cause more damage to bone structure, feet and feathers due to inappropriate housing and food. Imprinting vs habituation, cat caught birds, and window strikes commonly injure wildlife. Deliberately shot, poisoned or trapped birds are serious crimes. Tree cutters often cause nests to fall, leaving orphans to raise.

(General, Vet Tech CE)

Migrating Waterbirds and Wading Birds

Mary Ellen Rogers

Migrating species such as loons and gannets are discussed as well as wading birds like herons, egrets, woodstorks, rails, and bitterns. All are normally resilient and resourceful birds with few problems. They have parasites and diseases, of course, but the main issues we have to face are related to injuries inflicted by alligators and snapping turtles. How to treat these fragile species and release them are challenges to the rehabber.

(General, Vet Tech CE)

Tales of a Fancy Scientist: My Unexpected Journey into Science

Dr. Stephanie Schuttler

In, "Tales of a Fancy Scientist: My Unexpected Journey into Science," Dr. Schuttler will talk about how she eventually became a scientist studying animals throughout the world. She'll take you through her research studying forest elephants in Central Africa to the raccoons and coyotes that live in your backyard. She'll also talk about how you can help contribute to her research understanding how animals are living alongside us in human-developed landscapes. <https://stephanieschuttler.com>

(Keynote address)

Large Bird Bandaging Lab

David Scott, DVM

This lab will focus on learning to properly place the most common bandages and splints used in large bird species including raptors. Using cadavers, each student will learn how to place a figure-8 wrap with and without a body wrap, as well as to place splints for fractures of the lower leg (tibiotalarsus, tarsometatarsus and digits). Guidelines for when to use each wrap and splint will be covered.

(Vet CE, Vet Tech CE, Avian Rehabilitators)

Raptor Case Studies

David Scott, DVM

This will be an interactive session covering a wide range of interesting or clinically important cases involving birds of prey. The session will include complex medical and orthopedics cases. Audience

participation will be encouraged. Come with all those case management questions that you have been wanting to get answered!

(Vet CE, Vet Tech CE, Avian Rehabilitators)

Emergency Reptile Care

Dr. Greg Scott

(Reptile Rehabilitators, Vet Tech CE, Vet CE)

Creance Raptors on a leash Lecture and Lab

Dr. Joni Shimp

Creance flight conditioning is an important part of raptor rehabilitation. Learn the physiology of creance, why it's important, the equipment used, the risks associated with, and the common errors to avoid.

Learning the correct way to place equipment and handle the creance line will be performed using cadaver birds, and then full flight demonstration on current rehabilitated birds will be demonstrated with evaluation of flight dynamics.

(Vet Tech CE, Avian Rehabilitators)

Making Ed Bird Equipment Lab

Scott Shimp

Fluid Therapy Lecture

Susan Jones

Fluid therapy is one of the most basic initial supportive treatments which can make the difference between life and death for wildlife patients. Program participants learn to responsibly and effectively evaluate: administration of fluids, types of fluids, routes and volume of fluid administration and monitoring the effects of fluid therapy.

(Beginner Track, General, Vet Tech CE)

Fluid therapy Lab

Susan Jones

Subcutaneous injections are a common route for rehabilitators to give many medications and fluid therapy to the animals in their care. Here's your chance to learn the techniques, common locations, and gain some practice for subcutaneous injections of wild birds and mammals. The lab is part of the beginner track, is appropriate for intermediate rehabilitators who want to learn the technique and is approved for Vet Tech CE.

(Beginners, General, Vet Tech CE)

Mammal Physical Exam Lab

Nicole Himebaugh

This lab teaches the basics of a physical exam for small mammals. Students are provided a dead specimen for hands-on practice. The lab is part of the beginner track and is approved for Vet Tech CE.

(Beginner Track, General, Vet Tech CE)

Understanding Rabies in NC; Prevention, Control and Epidemiology

Dr. Carl Williams