

Wildlife Rehabilitators of North Carolina

ETHICS CASE STUDIES*Deciding Right from Wrong***Case Study # 14**

The wildlife rehabilitator loves working with birds; she worked so hard to get a Federal Permit. So far she has 2 robins, a cardinal, 3 mocking birds and a yellow bird in rehabilitation. She takes a photo, for her records, of each bird at admission and just before release. There is not much information on the yellow bird. It was found in the county off Hwy 64. It could be a goldfinch, a flycatcher, an oriole or some kind of warbler. She takes the bird to a golf course for release hoping it is a goldfinch. Later she shows the release picture to a friend who IDs it as a prothonotary warbler. "Did you release it by the river or at the Mill Pond? They are special and live in a riparian habitat." her friend asks.

- How does this relate to the Wildlife Rehabilitator's Code of Ethics?
- Which Code (s) might apply?
- How can this be resolved?
- Other questions/ issues?

Answers to previous ethics case**Case Study # 13**

It's that time of the year-BABY SEASON! And, the clinic is full of 39 baby songbirds, possums, and bunnies. The wildlife rehabilitator also receives a baby least tern into rehab. "Terns are precision; I'll put down a mirror and some mealworms for it. "Gads! I have so much to do: write case studies & a presentation for the Symposium, prepare presentations for the Rotary Club (they make great donations) a Bible School program for some kids, a program for the Preservation Society and an oil contamination presentation next week!" "I'll get up early & clean, clean at night after dark and rely on volunteers to do the feeding so I can work, that's it. This stuff has to get done." Two days later, when she returns to the center from the Bible School Presentation the tern is dead and cages are filthy, and the birds don't look well. Which Code (s) might apply?

Code # 7- Place optimum animal care above personal gain.