

3 Ways Your Veterinary Hospital Can Help Wildlife



Rocky Mountain
Wildlife
Alliance

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Most veterinary staff working in general practice periodically receive calls regarding orphaned, injured, or nuisance wildlife. Sometimes, finders, or rescuers, will simply show up at the hospital with a wild animal that needs care. These 3 tips will help your hospital be better prepared for wildlife emergencies.

1 Know local resources for helping wildlife. You can refer clients to these resources directly when they have questions or concerns. Phone numbers to keep on hand include:

- Local Wildlife Rehabilitators and Wildlife Rehabilitation Centers
- Humane Eviction Companies
- Animal Control Departments willing to help with wildlife

2 Reach out to a wildlife rehabilitation center or local wildlife rehabilitator. Ask about the ways your veterinary hospital can directly assist them. This may include:

- Serving as a drop off location for animals to be triaged and then transported
- Offering humane euthanasia to animals who are fatally sick and/or injured
- Offering veterinary services for free or at a discounted rate to wildlife rehabilitators for the animals going through rehabilitation.

3 Educate Clients. Wild animals often need rehabilitation because of the actions of humans. Some tips you can give to clients to keep wildlife safe include:

- Keeping cats inside. Cats are very destructive to local wildlife.
- Avoiding rat poison. Not only is it bad for dogs, but it is bad for the wildlife who eat the poisoned rodents.
- Educating about humane eviction, especially during baby season to avoid the mother being trapped and removed while leaving her young behind.
- Placing decals on windows to prevent birds from flying into them.

