

## Tips for a Successful Workshop at the NWRA Symposium

Hands-on workshops are one of the most valuable learning opportunities for attendees at an NWRA Symposium. Hands-on workshops allow participants to develop vital hands-on skills to provide better care to wildlife received for rehabilitation. Here are some suggestions for ensuring a successful workshop:

- Workshops at the NWRA Symposium are typically two hours in duration.
- **Pre-workshop Lecture.** Giving a lecture separately from the hands-on workshop allows more workshop time to be spent learning and practicing hands-on skills. A separate lecture also allows Symposium attendees who are not taking the workshop to get valuable information on the principles presented. A separate lecture is given only once in advance of the hands-on workshop and is not repeated, whereas any lecture given during the workshop time is repeated for the second workshop group.
- When developing a pre-workshop lecture, aim to provide as much information about WHY a particular technique is employed, for how long, complications that may develop, etc., so the hands-on time can be just that—time to practice the technique.
- **Use Audiovisual Sparingly.** Attendees want and need hands-on time to practice techniques and to develop skills. Workshop time should not be used to provide additional lecture material. Any audiovisual used during the hands-on workshop should be used only to enhance the workshop by providing visual aids (i.e., how-to-guide).
- **Plan time effectively.** Two hours is not a lot of time to teach new skills and techniques. NWRA Symposium attendees are a diverse group with varying levels of experience; teaching participants how to do two or three things well often is more helpful than trying to skim through ten different things.
- Have printed handouts or a list of references that attendees to which can refer when they return home to make sure they retain the skills they learned during the hands-on workshop.