STANDARDS in wildlife rehabilitation
STANDARDS

- What are they?
- How did they come to be?
- How can we use them?
- What is new and exciting in Standards?
STANDARDS

- What are they?
STANDARDS

“...a cooperative effort that represents the most current knowledge, expertise and techniques in our field...a reflection of what we have learned collectively and have successfully applied.”
MINIMUM STANDARDS

- Community norms
- Accepted practices
- Damage control
- Increase expertise
STANDARDS

- Basic standards
  - Improve quality of care
  - Reduce harm
- Provide guidance
  - Enclosures
  - Nutrition
  - Safety and health
STANDARDS ARE NOT

- A series of enclosure sizes
- A comprehensive guide to rehabilitation in theory and practice
- An attempt to make everyone the same
STANDARDS ALSO ARE NOT

- Standards of excellence
- Best practices
- Certification
STANDARDS!

Ummm.
Are you asking me to conform to THE MAN?!?!

Possibly....
MINIMUM STANDARDS

Acceptable standards
Practices supported by peers

Unacceptable standards
Not supported by peers

STANDARDS of EXCELLENCE
STANDARDS

- How did they come to be?
Minimum Standards for Wildlife Rehabilitation (MSWR)

- First published in 1989
- Collaborative effort of NWRA & IWRC
- Adopted community standards
2nd Edition 1993

- Refined and updated earlier standards
- Recommendations from rehabilitators, NWRA & IWRC members
3rd Edition 2000

- Refined and updated standards & guidelines for care
- Recommendations from rehabilitators, NWRA & IWRC members
- Self evaluation checklist
**Practitioner’s Forum**

**Minimum Standards for Wildlife Rehabilitation—It’s All About You**

**Wendy Fox**

**Pelican Harbor Seabird Station**
**Miami, Florida**


*Wendy Fox was the director of Pelican Harbor Seabird Station in Miami, FL. She served on the Board of Directors for both the Florida Wildlife Rehabilitators Association (FWRA) and NWRA.*

Much discussion has taken place regarding the wildlife rehabilitator’s changing role and place in wildlife management. In the last 20 years, wildlife rehabilitation has made great strides in elevating itself to the status of a profession.

*[Editor’s Note. Profession: a vocation or occupation requiring advanced education and training, and involving intellectual skills...].*

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SELF EVALUATION CHECKLIST

To be used in conjunction with the MSWR

- Help rehabilitators ensure wildlife receives appropriate housing & medical treatment
- Protect both wildlife and humans from disease and contamination.
- Help state, provincial, and federal agency personnel inspecting facilities
TRAINING & EDUCATION (Section 2.3)

Are there written policies and/or procedures for staff and volunteers regarding:

- ☐ ☐ Zoonotic diseases and proper animal handling protocols?
- ☐ ☐ The use of safety equipment (goggles, gloves, nets, etc.)
- ☐ ☐ The use of disposable gloves and masks? ☐ ☐ Are they readily available?
- ☐ ☐ The first aid kit; and is a kit available?
- ☐ ☐ Insurance for staff and/or volunteers?
- ☐ ☐ Are there operational policies available to staff members and volunteers (e.g., operations manual, rules derived from Board decisions, or training materials)?
- ☐ ☐ Is continuing education available to staff/permittees?
  - ☐ ☐ Publications, conferences, networking opportunities
  - ☐ ☐ Method to update staff and volunteers of new procedures in the field
- ☐ ☐ Does the permittee and/or others in the organization attend continuing education classes or conferences on wildlife rehabilitation?

- Basic knowledge requirements for wildlife rehabilitation
- Facility checklist & forms
- Self evaluation checklist
- Enrichment
- Turtle care information
- References
What is new and exciting in Standards?
NARWAHLS!
RECOMMENDED STANDARDS

Acceptable standards
Practices supported by peers

Unacceptable standards
Not supported by peers
STANDARDS 2020

- Minimum and recommended standards
- Animal welfare in theory & practice
- Expanded information for all species
  - Housing, enrichment, environmental factors
- Euthanasia
STANDARDS 2020

- New chapters
  - Stress
  - Disaster preparedness
  - Capture & transport
  - Release
  - Criteria & decision-making tree for release, surrogacy & placement
STANDARDS

- How can we use them to best effect?
STANDARDS

- Read the whole text, then refer back to sections
- Honest assessments
- Center animal needs and health
- Guidance for rehabilitators and regulators
STANDARDS

in wildlife rehabilitation

There is always more to LEARN