Getting Started

There’s no one right way to enter this field. If you are interested, we recommend that you visit one or more wildlife rehabilitators or rehabilitation centers.

**VOLUNTEER**
Inquire with a local rehabilitator if you can volunteer a few hours a week. See first-hand what wildlife rehabilitation is all about.

**LEARN BEST PRACTICES**
Educate yourself on peer-reviewed publications in the field. Start with *Principles of Wildlife Rehabilitation, Minimum Standards for Wildlife Rehabilitation*, and NWRA Quick Reference.

**CONTINUE YOUR EDUCATION**
Enroll in classes, seminars and conferences. Network with other experienced rehabilitators, biologists, and veterinarians. Join professional organizations for wildlife rehabilitators.

**RESEARCH REGULATIONS**
Contact your state/provincial wildlife agency. Ask for the office that governs wildlife rehabilitation, information on permit requirements, training, and local rehabilitators.

Explore NWRA’s Job Board for current postings. Seasonal positions and training opportunities are available across the continent. Colleges often offer credits for these practical experiences.