What is Wildlife Rehabilitation?

Wildlife rehabilitation is the treatment and temporary care of injured, diseased, and displaced indigenous animals, and the subsequent release of healthy animals to appropriate habitats in the wild. As such, wildlife rehabilitation is generally done to help an injured animal. However, through wildlife rehabilitation, individuals make an impact far beyond that one animal.

Wildlife Rehabilitators:

Contribute to wildlife conservation, especially through work with endangered and threatened species or when assisting entire populations, as in oil spill response efforts (Barham et al. 2006; Hanson et al. 2019).

Gather data and learn about species and procedures. Wildlife rehabilitators are often the first to identify certain disease or toxin problems affecting wildlife (Porter 1987; Lorch et al. 2016; Alba et al. 2017).

Educate each individual who brings an animal for treatment, and educate them—selves and volunteers with each case seen.

Offset human damage. Eighty to ninety percent of the animals brought to wildlife rehabilitators have problems due directly or indirectly to human activity (Wood 1985).

For more information, explore nwrawildlife.org. Sourced from Standards for Wildlife Rehabilitation, 2020.
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