Veterinary Committee Charter

Last revised: December 2022

Committee Type: Advisory

Purpose:

The Veterinary Committee is a working group of NWRA member veterinarians who support NWRA’s principles. Members are, or have been, active participants in NWRA’s mission, including current or past NWRA Board service, authorship of NWRA publications, and development of NWRA Symposium Workshops.

This small, focused group is designed to help steer decisions that require veterinary involvement and discussion to support the goals of NWRA.

Composition of Committee:

- Chair: Must be an NWRA Board member; chair must be approved by the board
- Committee Members: Committee members may be NWRA Board members and Association members; no specific number or ratio is required. Committee members must be currently licensed or retired veterinarians. Approximately 10-12 members will be part of the committee.

Subcommittees: Research

Committee Responsibilities:

The Committee’s responsibilities and goals may include the following:

- Develop and share educational aids to further a professional approach to the veterinary care provided to wildlife patients in rehabilitation.

- Maintain an active involvement in, and awareness of legal issues, rules, regulations, and policies which affect wildlife health and wildlife veterinary medicine.

- Keep NWRA members informed of current issues with regard to wildlife and veterinary medicine. This may involve writing articles for the Bulletin and other NWRA publications, assist in peer review of articles, etc.

- Serve as a liaison between NWRA and veterinary and veterinary technical schools. This may involve presentations of topics in wildlife medicine at selected veterinary conferences.
● Develop and refine NWRA Veterinary Committee position statements as recommendations for subsequent NWRA Board approval
● Oversee special projects, such as development and/or delivery of the Wildlife Medicine Course, Topics in Wildlife Medicine, or other veterinary-related publications
● Provide leadership and act as a sounding board for questions and discussion that arise from the NWRA Board and/or the broader community
● Promote NWRA membership and participation of veterinarians and veterinary students
● Administer the annual veterinary student scholarship competition
● Provide collective thoughts and recommendations to Program Committee regarding workshop content (as it relates to medical procedures)
● Assist with coordinating the veterinary session of the NWRA Symposium with the Program Committee

Committee Chair Responsibilities:
● Oversee the annual veterinary student scholarship process
● Call meetings and set the agenda

Expectations of Committee Members:
Committee members are expected to hold a 3-year term. This term is renewable based on mutual benefit for both NWRA and the committee member, as appointed by the Veterinary Committee Chair.

The committee will meet once annually (in person if possible) during the NWRA conference, and informally throughout the year by email and/or videoconference or telephone. Members are expected to develop and/or respond promptly to various issues and opportunities that arise within NWRA.

Calendar/Deadlines/Meeting Schedule:
FEB/MAR Meet in person during annual NWRA Symposium
NOV Veterinary student scholarship application review and decisioning

Research Subcommittee Charter
Last revised: October 2022
Purpose:

To encourage and support research studies regarding the rehabilitation of wildlife and facilitate dissemination of information gained from such studies.

Composition of Subcommittee:

Lead: Must be an NWRA Board member

Subcommittee Members: Both NWRA Board of Directors and NWRA members; no specific number or ratio is required.

Subcommittee Responsibilities:

• Support wildlife rehabilitators conducting and/or collaborating on clinical, medical, husbandry, post-release survival, or other research initiatives related to wildlife rehabilitation.

• Identify those individuals and organizations currently doing studies as well as those who are interested in becoming involved.

• Encourage wildlife rehabilitators’ involvement in research.

• Identify training and support needed to increase studies.

• Provide instructional materials for NWRA members interested in research project planning.

• Provide an avenue to improve and broaden collaboration between wildlife rehabilitators, governmental agencies, accredited zoos, universities, nonprofit organizations, and individuals conducting post-release studies and wildlife health research.

• Assist researchers by providing guidelines that ensure study designs and proposals involving rehabilitated wildlife adequately address animal welfare considerations by adhering to humane standards of care that do not infringe on the NWRA code of ethics.

• Provide information on wildlife rehabilitation permit compliance and safe handling procedures for wildlife involved in scientific research.

• Provide input regarding the scientific merit of NWRA competitive research grant applications as needed.

• Provide content regarding research pertinent to wildlife rehabilitation for the NWRA website.

• Assist NWRA with acquisition of NWRA-funded studies final reports for publication in the journal.
Subcommittee Lead Responsibilities:

Lead the call for, and review of the NWRA annual research awards. Annually, request funding for the total grant award target amount from BOD during the budgeting process.

Expectations of Subcommittee Members:

Subcommittee members will review research grant applications in a timely fashion and make recommendations to the subcommittee lead regarding funding of NWRA research grants. Assist with revision of the process on an iterative basis.

Calendar/Deadlines/Meeting Schedule:

General annual schedule:

- **Aug 1**: Update RFP call for pre-proposals documents; collaborate with NWRA staff to advertise the opportunity.
- **Sept**: Assemble subcommittee in preparation of proposal reviews
- **Oct 1**: Due date for pre-proposals
- **Oct**: Review pre-proposals, decide which to invite for full proposals
- **Nov 1**: Invite full proposals
- **Dec 15**: Due date for full proposals
- **Feb 1**: Final decisions