

## The New York State Department of Environmental Conservation

### Current Wildlife Rehabilitation licenses

#### **General Description**

The mission of the New York State Department of Environmental Conservation is “To conserve, improve and protect New York’s natural resources and environment and to prevent, abate and control water, land and air pollution, in order to enhance the health, safety and welfare of the people of the state and their overall economic and social well-being.” DEC’s goal is to achieve this mission through the simultaneous pursuit of environmental quality, public health, economic prosperity and social well-being, including environmental justice and the empowerment of individuals to participate in environmental decisions that affect their lives.

Within the Department, the Division of Fish, Wildlife and Marine Resources is responsible for the Management of the State’s Fish and Wildlife resources and the habitats with which they are associated. The Bureau of Wildlife Services, within the Division, is responsible for the Division’s administration, special licenses, sportsman education, staff training and development, and extension.

Special licenses (generally non-hunting, fishing or trapping activities) are administered through the Agencies Special Licenses Unit within the Bureau of Fish and Wildlife Services. The role of the Unit is to administer an effective, efficient, equitable and enforceable licensing program that meets the statutory and regulatory mandates governing the special uses of the fish and wildlife resources and that allows maximum user opportunity compatible with the welfare of the fish and wildlife resources of the state.

Environmental Conservation Law section 11-0515 and Title 6 Codes Rules and Regulations of New York Part 184 provide for the licensing of wildlife rehabilitators to care for wounded, injured or distressed wildlife with the goal of return to the wild. The general public and the Department rely on the use of these licensed rehabilitators to place injured animals that are found. The list is generated so that the public can contact a rehabilitator in their local area to provide rehabilitative care to injured animals that they find.

Applicants for a Wildlife Rehabilitation License are required to pass a written minimum standards test administered by the Department. The application and testing requirements allow for the establishment of a specially trained group of individuals who can provide care for injured and debilitated wildlife. By encouraging that injured or debilitated wildlife be placed in the care of specially trained wildlife rehabilitators, it is possible to achieve more humane care and greater expectation that distressed wildlife can be returned to the wild.

#### **Data Set Collection methodology**

The dataset includes the names, city, county, and contact phone information for licensed wildlife rehabilitators statewide. The list is generated from the Department’s Special License issuing

system which keeps track of applications and issued licenses. This contact list is for basic reference only. Contact the rehabilitator to verify they can care for the animal you have found. In some cases, a rehabilitator may not be able to accept the animal due to limited capacity or resources.

### **Updated Data**

The dataset is updated annually in January. Newly licensed rehabilitator names are added to the list at this time