

NEW JERSEY ASSOCIATION OF WILDLIFE REHABILITATORS CONFERENCE PROGRAM ABSTRACTS

Keynote:

I Blame it All on Disney

Barbara Hollands

What or who influenced your professional journey into wildlife rehabilitation. Wildlife rehabilitation has transformed throughout the last 30 years. Where did it begin, where have we been, where are we now and where will we be in the future.

Getting Wounds Wound Right

Erica Miller, DVM

Many wildlife patients present with a variety of wounds from superficial abrasions to deep, necrotic lacerations teeming with infection. This presentation provides a systematic approach to evaluating wounds so that proper decisions can be made regarding their treatment. As wounds and the animals on which they occur are living, dynamic entities, their condition needs to be assessed and modified on a regular basis. An overview of wound healing and the types of products available (dressings, bandage materials, etc.) will enable wound evaluation and the development of appropriate treatments for the wound at its present stage. Interactive cases will be used to allow attendees to practice evaluating wounds and choosing suitable procedures, dressings and bandages.

Enrichment 101: Keeping Our (Wildlife) Customers Satisfied

Deb Welter

We all know that the care that we give to our wildlife patients is important, as is the correct medical treatment and diet for each species. But we sometimes fail to put enough emphasis on enrichment for the animals while they are under our care. We owe it to them to keep them not only comfortable, but also as happy as possible. Although we can never replace Mom, enrichment can also give the infants that we raise valuable learning experiences. I will share some enrichment ideas that we use for our infant and adult mammals, and some that can be used for avian species too. As a wise person once stated "Naked cage no more!"

Multi Purpose Cage Building:

How to Keep Your Rehabilitator Wife Happy

Rich Brooks

Come and learn Freedom Center for Wildlife's take on novel and functional multipurpose cage building! Learn about the different types of cages, materials you can use, aesthetics, and overall costs. Even try your hand at designing your own cage!

Basic Intake Examination and Assessment:

How to Get From a Good Samaritan to Good Outcome!

James Boutette, DVM

Intake information and history, physical examination, problem lists, recognizing initial medical needs, medicating the patient (fluids/antibiotics/anti-inflammatories/analgesics), administration of continued supportive care, when and what to bandage and recovery environments.

**These Boots Were Made for Walking –
Then What are These Beaks, Teeth, and Feet Made for?**

Barbara Hollands

There are many different environments from which the wildlife we rehabilitate inhabit. It is vital that the rehabilitator understand and know the requirements for each species and the adaptation which allow them to inhabit these ecosystems. Learn the form and functions of different beaks, teeth, and feet of birds and mammals of the deciduous forest, wetlands, grasslands, and water ways.

Tools for Developing a

Vaccination Protocol to Meet Your Individual Needs

Karen Dashfield, DVM

Understanding how vaccines work will help the wildlife rehabilitator to develop a vaccination strategy tailored to the needs of their individual facility. Topics will include maternal antibodies and their effects on vaccination protocols, the risks and benefits of modified live versus killed vaccines, vaccination schedules, types, and age at which to begin vaccination. Take home materials will be provided to allow the lecture attendees to further study this topic and work with their veterinarian to develop an effective vaccination strategy taking into consideration the individual needs and risk factors of their facility. Lessons learned from domestic animal sheltering facilities will be utilized.

Before You Build a Moat: Preventing Critter Theft

Lauren Butcher

As wildlife rehabilitators, we take all sorts of precautions to make sure the animals entrusted to us are safe—even at the risk of being obsessive. But here is an argument for precautions of the paranoid kind: one night last winter, thieves cut through the wire of one of The Raptor Trust's locked aviaries and stole one of our education owls. Our experience, unfortunately, is not unique. I will share what we learned from having an animal stolen and (thankfully!) returned, and the advice we received along the way. How can we better safeguard our patients and program animals from theft? Before you build a moat and fill it with rabid beavers, come learn about precautions we can all take to protect our facilities from human predators without cutting ourselves off from humankind.