

Wildlife Custodian Authorization
New or Enhanced Standard Conditions

1. DEFINITIONS:

In this authorization, “Act” means the Fish and Wildlife Conservation Act, 1997.

“authorized wildlife” means the species listed in this authorization.

“euthanasia” means to take away life for a humane purpose, and is the induction of death with minimal pain, stress or anxiety, and “euthanize” has a corresponding meaning.

“facility” means a building or part of a building which is used for wildlife rehabilitation or care.

“foster care giver” means a wildlife assistant who acts as an agent of the wildlife custodian by providing rehabilitation or care of wildlife on the foster care giver’s own premises.

“game wildlife” as defined in the FWCA means, furbearing mammals (Schedule 1), game amphibians (Schedule 5),

game birds (Schedule 3), game mammals (Schedule 2), or game reptiles (Schedule 4).

“immature” means a specimen that cannot reasonably survive in the wild without significant parental care due to it’s early stage of development.

“medical treatment” means any diagnostic or prognostic procedure, administration of or prescription for medication, and any anesthesia of, or surgery on, wildlife.

“Rabies High Risk Area” means an area delineated by the ministry where actions are undertaken to minimize the risk of wildlife transmitting the rabies virus to humans, domestic animals and other wildlife.

“rehabilitation or care” means the keeping of injured, sick or immature wildlife in captivity on a temporary basis to restore or effectively condition the wildlife so it can be successfully returned to the wild and may include medical treatment.

“SARO list” means Species at Risk in Ontario List (available at www.ontarioparks.com or from your local MNR office).

“specially protected wildlife” as defined in the FWCA means, specially protected amphibians (Schedule 10), specially protected birds (raptors)(Schedule 7), specially protected birds (Schedule 8), specially protected invertebrates (Schedule 11), specially protected mammals (Schedule 6) or specially protected reptiles (Schedule 9).

“wildlife assistant” means any person, including an agent, employee or volunteer, who assists a Wildlife Custodian in the rehabilitation or care of wildlife or in the management of the authorized rehabilitation facility, but does not include a licensed veterinarian.

WILDLIFE THAT MAY BE KEPT

2. The wildlife custodian shall only provide rehabilitation or care to authorized wildlife. The Area Supervisor may amend this authorization by adding, in writing, additional species to the list of authorized wildlife.

3. The wildlife custodian shall only provide rehabilitation or care to a specimen of authorized wildlife that has a reasonable chance of surviving in the wild following its rehabilitation or care.

4. Without the prior written approval of the Area Supervisor the wildlife custodian shall not accept or provide rehabilitation or care to game wildlife or specially protected wildlife that has been transported into Ontario.

5. The wildlife custodian shall only keep specimens of game wildlife or specially protected wildlife that are not authorized wildlife for the purpose of,

(a) performing euthanasia or stabilizing treatment; or

(b) transporting the wildlife to another wildlife custodian.

If the wildlife cannot be transported to an authorized facility within 96 hours, it may be humanely euthanized unless otherwise directed by the Area Supervisor.

6. The wildlife custodian shall notify,

(a) the Area Supervisor, within one working day of receiving a specimen that is listed on the SARO list; or

(b) the appropriate reporting office, within one week of receiving a specimen of wildlife that is marked or banded.

GENERAL CONDITIONS OF OPERATION

7. Specimens of game wildlife or specially protected wildlife that are incapable of surviving in the wild, including those that have been human habituated or imprinted, may be humanely euthanized.

8. The wildlife custodian is responsible for all activities carried out under this authorization including those carried out by wildlife assistants.

9. The wildlife custodian shall submit to the Area Supervisor an executed Foster Care Agreement for each foster care giver within 48 hours of the foster care giver first receiving game wildlife or specially protected wildlife for care and treatment.

10. The wildlife custodian shall not display game wildlife or specially protected wildlife kept under their authorization to the public, unless approved by the Area Supervisor.

11. The wildlife custodian shall not permit game wildlife or specially protected wildlife kept under their authorization,

(a) to become imprinted or habituated to animals of a different species, including humans or domestic animals;

or

(b) to have physical or direct visual contact with domestic or non-native animals kept on the premises.

Condition 11b comes into effect on January 1, 2007

12. The wildlife custodian shall ensure that all rehabilitation facilities under their authorization are equipped with all necessary equipment, including medical supplies and housing, to appropriately keep and handle authorized wildlife.

This condition comes into effect January 1, 2007

13. The wildlife custodian shall not keep a specimen of authorized wildlife in captivity for a period in excess of twelve months unless approved by the Area Supervisor.

14. The wildlife custodian shall display this authorization prominently in the rehabilitation facility.

MEDICAL TREATMENT AND DISEASE PREVENTION

15. The wildlife custodian shall consult, as necessary, with a licensed veterinarian to ensure that proper care or treatment is provided to the wildlife.

16. The wildlife custodian shall not, without prior approval of the Area Supervisor, euthanize game wildlife or specially protected wildlife that is on the SARO list unless immediate euthanasia is required to prevent unnecessary suffering.

17. The wildlife custodian shall provide a separate housing area for isolation and quarantine of wildlife that is infectious and take appropriate quarantine measures to prevent the spread of disease.

This condition comes into effect January 1, 2007

18. The wildlife custodian shall not keep specimens of game wildlife or specially protected wildlife in the same cage or enclosure unless they are the same species and all specimens were captured within the allowable release distance from each other.

19. The wildlife custodian shall ensure that wildlife kept under their authorization cannot physically contact other wildlife held at their facility, except where conspecifics are housed together for socialization purposes.

This condition comes into effect January 1, 2007

NUTRITION AND HOUSING REQUIREMENTS

20. The wildlife custodian shall read and be familiar with the most recent edition of the Minimum Standards for Wildlife Rehabilitation prepared by the International Wildlife Rehabilitation Council and the National Wildlife Rehabilitators Association as these represent the standards established by the wildlife rehabilitation profession for the rehabilitation of wildlife. A copy of these standards is available at

<http://www.nrawildlife.org/home.asp> or from your MNR district office.

21. The wildlife custodian shall ensure food and water is provided at the appropriate time to game wildlife and specially protected wildlife kept under their authorization. It shall be nutritious, palatable and of the quantity required, taking into consideration the species, its size, condition and age.

22. The wildlife custodian shall ensure that the housing and materials used to house authorized wildlife are appropriate taking into consideration the species, its size, condition and age.

This condition comes into effect January 1, 2007

23. The wildlife custodian shall ensure that the game wildlife or specially protected wildlife kept under their authorization is not housed in a portion of a property that is being used as a dwelling.

TRANSPORT

24. The wildlife custodian shall ensure that game wildlife and specially protected wildlife is transported safely.

25. The wildlife custodian shall not, without prior approval of the Area Supervisor, transport,

(a) game wildlife or specially protected wildlife that is on the SARO list; or

(b) game wildlife or specially protected wildlife to another place where wildlife is kept in captivity, except another wildlife custodian, a foster care giver, or a licensed veterinarian.

HANDLING OF DEAD WILDLIFE

26. The custodian shall contact the Area Supervisor for direction on the final disposition of the carcass of any specimen of game wildlife or specially protected wildlife if it appears that the specimen,

(a) died of a contagious disease that leads the wildlife custodian to believe that special protocols must be followed when disposing of the carcass; or

(b) died of a known or unknown cause that the wildlife custodian believes may be potentially damaging to wild native wildlife populations.

27. The wildlife custodian may dispose of a carcass of any game wildlife or specially protected wildlife, where there is no concern about contagion or unknown cause of symptoms or death.

RECORD-KEEPING

28. The wildlife custodian shall ensure that all game wildlife and specially protected wildlife received at the facility is made uniquely identifiable in the facility in a humane manner during the period of its captivity.

29. The wildlife custodian shall keep a logbook that contains a record of all game wildlife and specially protected wildlife received in the facility, whether alive or dead, regardless of the length of time it is kept. This logbook shall be true and accurate, and include the following information:

1. Authorization number and name of holder;
 2. the case number;
 3. the date it entered the wildlife custodian's rehabilitation or care;
 4. the species, its lifestage (e.g., immature, adult), and estimated age.
 5. a description of the unique temporary marker;
 6. a description of how it is uniquely identifiable in the facility;
 7. the name, address, and phone number of the person who delivered it to the facility;
 8. the date and specific location of its capture;
 9. the reason it was brought to the wildlife custodian; and
 10. the date of its death, if applicable, and the date, manner and location of its disposition.
30. The log shall be updated within 24 hours of any event that the ministry has prescribed as being required in the logbook, or as reasonably possible.

31. The custodian shall keep all logbooks kept under this or previous authorizations for a period of at least 3 years from the date of the last recorded entry in the log.

32. The wildlife custodian shall maintain a registry of all wildlife assistants at the rehabilitation facility, including:

- a) the names, addresses and telephone numbers of all wildlife assistants associated with the facility;
- b) the species each wildlife assistant has been trained to handle; and
- c) the training each wildlife assistant has received in rehabilitation or care.

33. The wildlife custodian shall submit to the Area Supervisor an annual wildlife rehabilitation report as prescribed by the ministry for each calendar year by January 31st of the next year. This annual wildlife rehabilitation report shall be in a format provided by the Ministry and shall include at least the following information or any additional information required by the format of the report:

1. The species and number of game wildlife or specially protected wildlife kept during the year;
2. Their disposition; and
3. Any information about disease or parasites that the custodian believes should be recorded for future provincial trend analysis.

RELEASE

34. The wildlife custodian shall comply with any direction from the Area Supervisor regarding permanent marking of game wildlife or specially protected wildlife prior to release. The permanent marking code will be recorded in the logbook.

35. All rehabilitated game wildlife or specially protected wildlife that was an adult when originally captured shall be released as close as possible to the site of original capture up to a maximum of one kilometre away, and in similar habitat when possible.

36. Outside a rabies High Risk Area all rehabilitated game wildlife or specially protected wildlife that was immature when originally captured shall be released as close as possible to the site of original capture up to a maximum of fifteen kilometres away, and in similar habitat when possible.

37. Inside a rabies High Risk Area:

a) All rehabilitated game wildlife or specially protected wildlife, except raccoons, skunks and foxes, that was immature when originally captured shall be released as close as possible to the site of original capture up to a maximum of 15 kilometres away, and in similar habitat when possible.

b) All rehabilitated raccoons, skunks and foxes shall be released as close as possible to the site of original capture up to a maximum of 1 kilometre away, and in similar habitat when possible.

38. The wildlife custodian shall seek the direction of the Area Supervisor prior to releasing a specimen listed in Appendix A of this authorization.

39. A wildlife custodian shall not release game wildlife or specially protected wildlife on private property without first obtaining the permission of the owner.

40. All raccoons, skunks or foxes captured within a rabies High Risk Area shall be released within the rabies High Risk Area in which it was originally found.

Appendix A

Bear, Black (*Ursus americanus*)

Deer, White-tailed (*Odocoileus virginianus*)

Moose (*Alces alces*)

Caribou, Woodland (*Rangifer tarandus*)

Elk, American (*Cervus elaphus*)

Wolf (*Canis lupus*)

Lynx (*Lynx Canadensis*)

Bobcat (*Lynx rufus*)

Wolverine (*Gulo luscus*)

Specially Protected Raptors

Specially Protected Bats