

GUIDELINES FOR SELECTION OF A WILDLIFE REHABILITATOR

The following criteria will be applied by United States Fish and Wildlife Service (USFWS) and state wildlife agencies in selecting a rehabilitation organization:

- The selected wildlife rehabilitator must have, or be able to obtain, the appropriate federal and state permits and licenses to collect, possess, treat, and band migratory birds and/or Threatened and Endangered (T&E) species.
- The wildlife rehabilitator must demonstrate high standards of practice, treatment, conduct, and ethics, as reflected by organizations such as the National Wildlife Rehabilitator Association, the American Veterinarian Association, and the American Society for Prevention of Cruelty to Animals.
- The wildlife rehabilitator must have adequate liability insurance to protect both staff and volunteers.
- The wildlife rehabilitator should have a proven record and experience in rescue and rehabilitation of oiled wildlife.
- The wildlife rehabilitator must comply with all applicable federal (Occupational Safety and Health Administration [OSHA], etc.) and state safety regulations to protect staff and volunteers.

Two organizations, International Bird Rescue in Berkeley, California, and Tri-State Bird Rescue and Research, Inc., in Newark, Delaware, are recognized experts in oiled bird rehabilitation. Contact information is provided in Annex I of the Regional Contingency Plan (RCP).

Both organizations have extensive experience in bird rescue and rehabilitation and have worked with both government and industry. Other local, less well-known bird rehabilitation organizations with requisite knowledge may be present in this area. Veterinarians and researchers from USFWS, other federal agencies, state wildlife agencies, and universities may also be able to provide assistance and expertise during wildlife rehabilitation efforts.

All rescue and rehabilitation efforts will be directed by USFWS and the state wildlife agency, including notification of a qualified wildlife rehabilitation organization and acquisition of necessary permits.