

EXPLORE WILDLIFE REHABILITATION SPECIALIST

WHAT ARE WILDLIFE REHABILITATION SPECIALISTS?

Wildlife Rehabilitation Specialists are responsible for caring for sick, injured and abandoned animals to prepare them for release into their natural habitat, including catching and transporting the injured animal, feeding them and cleaning their cages. Along with all the duties that go along with caring for the animals, other duties include fundraising and educating the public about the creatures.

FREQUENT JOB TITLES

- Wildlife Rehabilitator
- Wildlife Caretaker
- Seasonal Wildlife Technician
- Wildlife Rescue Team Member
- Wildlife Nutrition Coordinator
- Animal Caretaker
- Rehabilitation Coordinator

QUALIFICATIONS

- Communication Skills
- Ability to work as part of a team
- Physical Strength and Agility

SAMPLE EMPLOYERS

- Wildlife in Need Center
- Dane County Humane Society
- U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service
- Animal Hospitals (often in populated areas)
- Private Sanctuaries

PROFESSIONAL ORGANIZATIONS

- National Wildlife Rehabilitators Association
- The Wildlife Society
- National Wildlife Federation Ecoleaders

RELATED STUDENT ORGS

- Student Chapter of the Wildlife Society
- Wildlife Disease Association
- Club for Animal Respect and Education

HIRING TRENDS

- Springtime

REQUIRED EDUCATION

- Many require special qualifications to work with rare or threatened animals
- States have different permits to handle wild animals

QUALIFICATIONS

- Wildlife Rehabilitation Licensure is required for many types of jobs and will vary by state
- A bachelor's degree is usually enough for most entry-level roles
- Master's degrees are necessary for more advanced roles including project supervising
- Doctorates are suitable for those who wish to enter into a career in academia such as university research and teaching, and they will also be required in industry for those who might desire to manage their own projects