WANT TO BECOME A REHABBER?

To operate a rehab facility like Soarin' Hawk, several state and federal permits are required. The permits are reciprocal, in that you can't have a state permit without a federal permit, and vice versa.

Permits are not issued to organizations, only to individuals, so to operate a rehab facility in Indiana, first an individual must obtain a rehabbers permit. Then, the organization is granted Exhibit and Salvage permits under that individual's permit.

To obtain a rehab permit, each individual applicant must:

1. Pass a state examination for the type of animal(s) to be rehabilitated.
2. Have a select library of manuals pertaining to rehabilitation, medical treatment, identification, biology, etc. of animals to be rehabilitated.
3. Produce a list of medicines and medical equipment that are available at the intended facility.
4. Submit photographs and drawings of all caging, enclosures, and treatment areas. The caging must meet NWRA minimum requirements for the species to be treated.
5. Submit a list of assistants (sub-permittees).
6. Have a veterinarian of record.
7. Have a federal permit for the treatment of migratory species.
8. Have a federal permit for eagles and certain endangered species.
9. Update monthly changes of assistants.
10. Request extensions for animals whose treatment exceeds 180 days.
11. Request permission for the transfer of animals.
12. Apply for a permit to exhibit non-releasable animals that meet state requirements.
13. Apply for a permit to salvage animals or animal parts.
14. Pass an inspection by the local conservation officer.

For the federal permits, the permittee must submit proof of state permits, plus records of training, photographs and drawings of facilities, available veterinary services, and identification of animals to be treated.

For both the Indiana DNR (Department of Natural Resources) and USFWS (US Fish & Wildlife Service), the permittee must submit end-of-year reports, detailing the disposition of animals treated and details of all presentations of exhibit animals.

For Indiana, the permittee must be retested every 3 years, or prove 9 hours of additional rehab training.

For USFWS, the permittee, in addition to end-of-year reports, must provide up-to-date photos and drawings of their facility every 3 years.

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