To obtain and retain a rehabber's permit, an 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 change of assistants.
(10) Request extensions for animals whose treatment exceed 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.

In Indiana, a permittee must be retested every three years, or prove 9 hours of additional rehab training. Both Indiana DNR and the US Fish & Wildlife Service (USFWS), require the permittee to submit end-of-year reports, detailing the disposition of animals treated and details of all presentations of exhibit animals.

For federal permits, a 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. In addition to the end-of-year reports, the USFWS requires a permittee to provide photos and drawings of the facility every three years.