



Rehabilitation of Rabies Vector Species (RVS) Position Statement by the NWRA Veterinary Committee

Individuals intending to rehabilitate rabies vector species (RVS) must follow any applicable regulations in their state or province. The NWRA Veterinary Committee supports the legal rehabilitation of rabies vector species as defined by the regulating provincial or state authority, provided at minimum all of the following guidelines are met.

- Protective titers: Rehabilitators and their volunteers who may have contact with an RVS should have protective rabies titer as confirmed by their healthcare provider on a regular basis as determined by the provincial/state recommendations
- RVS training: Rehabilitators should have training in the specific needs and handling for RVS they will be rehabilitating
- Personal protective equipment (PPE): Appropriate PPE is required when handling RVS
- Biosecurity: Any RVS exhibiting neurologic signs or other signs of illness should be quarantined and a veterinarian should be consulted immediately
- Housing: Healthy young RVS may be housed with conspecifics according to species-specific husbandry guidelines
- Release: All healthy RVS adults should be released in the area in which they were found. When possible, juveniles RVS should be released in the general area in which they were found.
- All rehabilitators should follow state/provincial protocol in regards to potential human or animal exposures.