

Basic Wildlife Rehabilitation



IWRC
International Wildlife
Rehabilitation Council

Improving Wildlife Care Worldwide

Syllabus and Course Info Basic Wildlife Rehabilitation Online

Description:

**This syllabus contains critical information for successful course completion. Ensure you read and understand all requirements and contact the class coordinator with any questions.

This course is intended as an overview of the foundational skills needed for wildlife rehabilitation, it is an essential for beginner or novice rehabilitators while also serving as a valuable refresher for those experienced in the field. It is structured in a hybrid format of live online lectures presented by one of our instructors, paired with asynchronous recordings and assignments completed on your own. We estimate that live lectures will total about 7 hours and asynchronous work (homework, pre-recorded lectures, forum, and exam) will take about 8+ hours.

This program has been approved for 15 hours of continuing education credit in jurisdictions that recognize RACE approval. Contact an IWRC representative to apply for CE for this course.



Basic Wildlife Rehabilitation

General Class information

Topics Included in this Course:

Basic Wildlife Rehabilitation lecture topics:

- One Health
- Head & Spinal Trauma
- Physical exam
- Animal welfare
- Physical exam
- Basic bandaging
- Basic anatomy & physiology
- Euthanasia
- Injections
- Admission & identification
- Fluid Therapy
- Avian gavage
- Capture and restraint
- Thermoregulation
- Nutrition
- Stress and shock
- Starvation & Emaciation
- Release Criteria
- Wound Management
- Housing

Lab topics include:

- Physical exam
- Basic bandaging
- Injections
- Avian gavage

Student Learning Outcomes:

1. Students will gain a general understanding of and be able to articulate the concepts of the topics listed above.
2. Students will understand and feel comfortable performing basic medical math.
3. Students will demonstrate an understanding of wildlife rehabilitation as a discipline as well as standards of care in the field.
4. Students will understand the process of each lab skill and are comfortable performing the basic procedures necessary for their effective treatment.
5. Students will be able to apply their theoretical knowledge to real world scenarios.

Course Materials

Required reading:

- Wildlife Rehabilitation: A Comprehensive Approach (2nd edition preferred)
- Standards of Wildlife Rehabilitation

Required Materials:

- Access to a computer or tablet with video/audio capabilities
- Reliable internet

**Students must have the ability to use virtual learning tools and applications. Those uncomfortable with these tools are encouraged to opt for an in-person course—IWRC’s capacity to provide technical support is limited.

For Virtual Labs Only

IWRC lab kit OR the following:

- bandage scissors; 1, 3, 35, & 60 ml syringes; 18 & 22 g needles; 1” zonal tape; 1” micropore tape; 2” roll cotton; 2” stretch gauze; 2” vet wrap, telfa pad, cotton balls, gavage tubes, rubber topped tube, nitrile gloves in your size
- *Optional:* Stethoscope, digital thermometer, penlight, gram scale, isopropyl alcohol

In lab station set up in advance including

- a device connected to Zoom with working audio/video
- easy-to-clean location for procedures (at home or at a rehabilitation center) including table covering (Butcher paper, plastic sheeting, paper bags, etc.)
- Container for fluids (Large disposable cup, triangular graduated container, etc.)
- Sharps container (*Make your own*)
- 1 mammal and 1 avian carcass. Carcasses may be acquired from commercial operations (i.e. pet stores, lab suppliers, etc.). Check our [Cadaver Acquisition document](#) for more information. Please note that you cannot use rabies vector species (such as raccoons, foxes, skunks, and bats). More information on rabies vector species: [USA](#), [Canada](#). If you are completing the lab and are not under a current wildlife rehabilitation permit please obtain feeder specimens as listed below:
 - Mammals: Rat (Size Large or greater), Rabbit
 - Birds: Pigeon/Dove, Quail, Chicken (Adult)

For in-person Labs Only

- A smartphone, tablet, or personal computer and corresponding charger
- An appropriate mask if specified for your course

Course Components and Assignments

Course pre-work (must be completed **BEFORE** your class begins):

Reading:

- i. Wildlife Rehabilitation: A Comprehensive Approach 2nd ed - Chapters 1, 2, and 4
 - If you have the first edition of the textbook, the One Health and Welfare chapters of the textbook are available in the online classroom
- ii. Standards of Wildlife Rehabilitation - Pages 6-11 and as needed for homework

Homework: Parts 1, 2, and 3 of the homework found in the online classroom. These assignments are due before your first live session and must be completed on time in order to have results by the homework review session (attendance optional but highly encouraged). Final submissions are due at 11:59 pm the day of the last class lecture. Students may only retake failed homework assignments. Students must achieve a score of 70% or higher on all three sections.

Live Lectures:

The four live lectures will take place with an IWRC instructor over Zoom. Students must ensure they can attend all sessions before registering, attendance at each live session is mandatory and required to receive a passing grade. Note that recordings will not be made available unless your absence is excused. If a session is missed due to circumstances out of your control, contact an IWRC representative as soon as possible.

Asynchronous Modules:

- i. Video Lectures: Between live sessions students will be expected to complete two asynchronous modules which consist of video lectures taught by a range of IWRC instructors. To complete the course students must watch all the video lectures completely (unless labeled as optional) in the order they are listed.
- ii. Forums: should be completed after watching all the videos in an asynchronous model. Students are expected to create one post and respond to one post per forum (two posts and two replies total). The post must be directly relevant to the modules watched but can take the form of a question, an interesting point, or observation. Responses must be several sentences long and show engagement with the post- yes or no answers or incomplete sentences will not be accepted.

Lab:

Each student must sign up for one lab slot. Lab sign ups are first come first served and must be completed by the Wednesday live lecture. During the lab students will be taught 6 skills which they must perform to a satisfactory standard. There are two types of labs:

- i. Virtual lab: takes place in Zoom with an IWRC instructor. A link will be provided with further instructions via email once the lab groups have been established. Each student should set up their lab stations set up **before** the lab (see required materials above) and, if frozen, cadavers should be fully thawed. Please note that cadavers cannot be shared and each student needs to have their own device connected to zoom.
- ii. In person lab: takes place at a host facility, contact your host for directions or specific about the lab location. Hosts will provide cadavers and lab supplies. Instructors will monitor over Zoom. Students must bring a phone, tablet, or computer to set up at their lab station. Students must follow all local safety protocols regarding COVID-19 and any safety protocols specified by the IWRC and host. Any students exhibiting signs of COVID-19 may not enter the lab facility, no exceptions.

Exam:

The final exam has 34 questions including multiple choice, matching, and short answer. Students must achieve a grade of 70% or more to pass the exam. You have one week from the last lecture to sit your exam in the online classroom. You have two hours to take the exam and it is open book—you may use *Wildlife Rehabilitation: A Comprehensive Approach*, *Standards of Wildlife Rehabilitation*, and your own handwritten notes. You are expected to complete the exam without outside assistance.

Grading and Makeup Work

To pass the class students must:

- Achieve a grade of 70% or higher on all three sections of the homework and the exam
- Demonstrate all required lab skills
- Attend all four live lectures and one lab
- Watch all asynchronous lectures
- Successfully write one post and one reply per forum for a total of two posts and two replies

** Note! grades are not averaged, each individual assignment must be passed to pass the course.

After the exam closes instructors have two weeks to finish grading exams and homework and to calculate final grades. IWRC will email out results and certificates to passing students shortly thereafter. Mailed copies of certificates and pass letters are available upon request.

Students that have not met the requirements for a certificate may reattempt or complete makeup assignments within two weeks of the receipt of a fail notification unless otherwise specified. Please see the [Assessment Completion and Grade Policy](#) for more details.

- Attendance can only be made-up if the absence is excused
- An excused lab maybe made up within a year of your class date
- The exam may only be attempted twice after the initial attempt
- Make up requirements may be adjusted on a case by case basis for exceptional circumstances or for those with approved accommodations.

Academic Integrity

Students engaged in any form of academic dishonesty, e.g. the use of unauthorized assistance or plagiarism, may be required to re-do the offending assignment/s or may fail the course at the discretion of the IWRC instructor and staff. Examples of academic dishonesty include but are not limited to plagiarism, answer sharing, sharing of exam questions, having another person complete all or part of an assignment, and using unauthorized materials or assistance for the exam.

Assistance and Accommodations

The IWRC welcomes all students and is happy to make accommodations for those that qualify as having a disability or impairment. If you wish to receive accommodations or have any questions on this topic please contact us at online@theiwrc.org or call 866.871.1869 Ext 2. Once contacted, we will provide a form to fill out and guidelines for disability or impairment documentation. Please allow two weeks for the accommodation, however, we may be able to accommodate you more quickly depending on the need.

