

WAC 220-450-100 Wildlife rehabilitation—Facility requirements and inspections—On- and off-site care. (1) The facility requirements listed in this section address wildlife health and safety. The department of labor and industries and other local, state, or federal agencies may have additional requirements relating to human health and safety. It is the permittee's responsibility to comply with all state and federal laws and regulations, and to ensure that his or her sub-permittees do the same.

(2) Facilities.

(a) Permittees on a wildlife rehabilitation permit must maintain approved facilities that meet the most current edition of National Wildlife Rehabilitators Association and International Wildlife Rehabilitation Council's Minimum Standards for Wildlife Rehabilitation, unless as otherwise provided by the department.

(b) All wildlife held under a wildlife rehabilitation permit must be maintained in humane conditions.

(c) The wildlife rehabilitation facility must protect wildlife from predators, weather extremes, undue human contact and visual and auditory stressors.

(d) The wildlife rehabilitation facility must provide physical and visual separation from on-site domestic animals.

(e) Wildlife rehabilitation facilities must designate separate and exclusive rooms used only for wildlife housing, treatment, feeding, food preparation, and rehabilitation. It is unlawful to house, treat, or care for wildlife anywhere human food is prepared, stored, or consumed.

(f) Primary permittee shall report immediately to the department any department surveilled wildlife disease. If the director determines that such outbreak presents a threat to the wildlife of the state, the director may immediately order such action as necessary including quarantine or destruction of wildlife in care, sterilization of enclosures and facilities, cessation of activities, and disposal of wildlife in a manner satisfactory to the director.

(g) The primary permittee must notify the department at least thirty days prior to moving if he or she intends to transfer his or her wildlife rehabilitation facilities to another location. The new facilities must pass a department facility inspection before wildlife is moved to the new facility.

(h) The wildlife rehabilitation facility must be associated with a primary permittee at all times. If a facility is left with no primary permittees, facility personnel must notify the department within five days of the departure of the last primary permittee. The facility has thirty days in which to bring a primary permittee into the facility. After thirty days, if the facility is no longer associated with a primary permittee, the facility must transfer wildlife to another facility associated with a primary permittee until a primary permittee is found.

(3) All facilities must be listed on the permittees' permits.

(4) **Oiled-wildlife facility requirements.** The facility requirements described in this section address the health and safety of oiled alcids. For minimum housing/pen and pool requirements for species other than alcids, refer to the most current edition of the National Wildlife Rehabilitators Association and International Wildlife Rehabilitation Council's Minimum Standards for Wildlife Rehabilitation.

(5) **Oiled-wildlife facility requirements - Air temperature and air exchange requirements within indoor areas.**

(a) Air temperature: A permittee must ensure that the air temperature in all indoor areas where live birds are housed is adjustable and can be maintained at between 65°F - 85°F. When the number of birds in an oiled bird rehabilitation facility at a given time exceeds fifty, the following requirements also apply:

(i) Intake and stabilization areas must be air-temperature controlled independently of other oiled bird rehabilitation facility areas. However, intake and stabilization areas may be controlled together;

(ii) Wash/rinse and drying areas must be air-temperature controlled independently of other oiled bird rehabilitation facility areas. However, wash/rinse and drying areas may be controlled together; and

(iii) The isolation/intensive care unit must be air-temperature controlled independently of other oiled bird rehabilitation facility areas.

(b) Air exchange: A permittee must ensure that all indoor areas where live birds are housed allow the exchange of the air volume a minimum of ten times per hour with fresh air from outside.

(c) The fresh-air exchange rate for any given indoor area may be reduced by up to ninety percent of the fresh air by use of an air-recirculation system that employs a high efficiency particulate air (HEPA) filter and an activated carbon filter.

(6) **Oiled-wildlife facility requirements.** When the number of birds in an oiled bird rehabilitation facility at a given time exceeds fifty, the following requirements also apply:

(a) Intake and stabilization areas must be independent of other oiled bird rehabilitation facility air-exchange systems, but they may be combined on the same air-exchange system;

(b) Wash/rinse and drying areas must be independent of other oiled bird rehabilitation facility air-exchange systems, but they may be combined on the same air exchange system;

(c) The isolation/intensive care unit air-exchange system must be independent of other oiled bird rehabilitation facility areas; and

(d) The morgue/necropsy air-exchange system must be independent of other oiled bird rehabilitation facility areas.

(7) **Oiled-wildlife facility requirements - Intake space requirements.** Intake of oiled birds must occur in an indoor area. Forty square feet of contiguous floor space must be provided for each group of sixty live or dead oiled birds, or portion of each group of sixty, that are awaiting intake. The floor of the intake space must be impermeable and water must not be allowed to accumulate on the floor.

(8) **Oiled-wildlife facility requirements - Stabilization resource requirements.** Stabilization must occur in an indoor area. Oiled bird rehabilitation pen space and the associated dedicated workspace must be provided in the stabilization area.

(a) Pen requirements: Oiled-wildlife pens must be constructed to minimize potential injury, provide ventilation and meet species-specific husbandry requirements as defined below or, for nonalcids, as documented in the current edition of the National Wildlife Rehabilitators Association and International Wildlife Rehabilitation Council's Minimum Standards for Wildlife Rehabilitation.

(b) For oiled alcids, stabilization pens must be:

(i) At least two feet in length by two feet in width, by two feet tall;

(ii) Constructed with knotless nylon net-bottoms with a one-half inch mesh size;

(iii) Constructed so that no point within the pen is greater than two feet from a pen wall;

(iv) Constructed to provide a minimum of at least 1.6 square feet of pen space per bird.

(c) Space requirements: In addition to the space required for the oiled bird stabilization pens, a minimum of an additional 3.2 square feet of dedicated workspace must be provided in the stabilization area for each bird held in that area. The floor of the stabilization area must be impermeable and water must not be allowed to accumulate on the floor.

(9) **Oiled-wildlife facility requirements - Wash/rinse resource requirements.** Wash/rinse must occur in an indoor area. A bird must have wash/rinse space and associated resources made available within twenty-four hours after intake.

(a) Water requirements: A minimum of three hundred gallons of fresh water with the following characteristics must be available within each wash/rinse space for each oiled bird being washed and rinsed. All water requirements listed below must remain available within the specified range at all times.

(i) The water temperature must be adjustable and maintainable at any given temperature between 102°F - 108°F;

(ii) The water hardness must be maintained between 34 mg - 85 mg calcium carbonate/liter (2-5 grain hardness);

(iii) The water pressure must be maintained between 40 - 60 p.s.i.;

(iv) The water flow rate must be no less than two gallons per minute from the wash/rinse supply line measured with the wash/rinse nozzle in place.

(b) Space requirements: One hundred square feet of contiguous floor space must be provided for each group of sixteen live oiled birds, or portion of each group of sixteen, that are ready to be washed and rinsed. The floor of the wash/rinse area must be impermeable and water must not be allowed to accumulate on the floor. Wastewater from wash stations should be disposed of appropriately.

(10) **Oiled-wildlife facility requirements - Drying resource requirements.** Drying must occur in an indoor area. Oiled bird rehabilitation pen space and the associated dedicated workspace must be provided in the drying area. Drying must be accomplished by warming the air in the drying pen. The drying temperature must be adjustable and maintained at any given temperature between 90°F - 106°F.

(a) Pen requirements. Oiled-wildlife pens must be constructed to minimize potential injury, provide ventilation and meet species-specific husbandry requirements as defined below or, for nonalcids, as documented in the current edition of the National Wildlife Rehabilitators Association and International Wildlife Rehabilitation Council's Minimum Standards for Wildlife Rehabilitation.

(b) For alcids, drying pens must be:

(i) At least two feet in length by two feet in width, by two feet tall;

(ii) Constructed with knotless nylon net-bottoms with one-half inch mesh size;

(iii) Constructed so that no point within the pen is greater than two feet from a pen wall;

(iv) Constructed to provide a minimum of 2.7 square feet of pen space per bird.

(c) Space requirements: In addition to the space required for drying pens, a minimum of an additional 3.2 square feet of dedicated

workspace must be provided in the drying area for each bird held in that area. The floor of the drying area must be impermeable and water must not be allowed to accumulate on the floor.

(11) **Oiled bird rehabilitation pool resource requirements.** Oiled bird rehabilitation pools must be filled with fresh water. Oiled bird rehabilitation pool space must be available for use immediately after a bird has been dried, and must be available until the bird is released.

(a) Oiled bird rehabilitation pool requirements: Water from oiled bird rehabilitation pools may be recirculated within pools if the water is made oil-free. Each oiled bird rehabilitation pool must:

(i) Have dimensions so no point within the pool is greater than eight feet from a side of the pool;

(ii) Have a breathable cover available for use to prevent birds from escaping;

(iii) Have a constant supply of water sufficient to maintain a minimum depth of three feet and an exchange rate of not less than four and one-half times per day;

(iv) Be constructed so that water exiting the pool comes from the surface of the pool so that floating debris and oil are removed.

(b) Space requirements:

(i) For alcids, a minimum of 7.5 square feet of water-surface space should be provided for each bird (e.g., a twelve-foot diameter oiled bird rehabilitation pool may not house more than fifteen alcids);

(ii) For nonalcids, pools must meet the species-specific husbandry requirements as documented in the most current edition of the National Wildlife Rehabilitators Association and International Wildlife Rehabilitation Council's Minimum Standards for Wildlife Rehabilitation;

(iii) Oiled bird rehabilitation pools must be located within the area of the oiled bird rehabilitation facility and constructed at least four feet away from other structures.

(12) **Oiled-wildlife facility requirements - Semi-static areas.**

(a) Semi-static areas are spaces within an oiled bird rehabilitation facility where the required size of the space will vary relative to the number of birds present in the facility. Semi-static areas must be areas with impermeable floors and water must not be allowed to accumulate on the floor.

(b) Space requirements:

(i) When the total number of birds in a facility is less than fifty, there are no minimum space requirements for semi-static areas;

(ii) When the total number of birds in a facility is between fifty and one thousand, each semi-static area listed below must be allocated the indicated space:

(A) Morgue/necropsy: Two hundred fifty square feet.

(B) Animal food preparation: Three hundred square feet.

(C) Dry storage: One hundred square feet. May be accomplished off-site.

(D) Animal food freezer: One hundred square feet. May be accomplished off-site.

(iii) When the total number of birds in a facility is between one thousand one and two thousand, each semi-static area listed above must be allocated two times the associated space;

(iv) When the total number of birds in a facility is between two thousand one and three thousand, each semi-static area listed above must be allocated three times the associated space, etc.; and

(v) Space for the semi-static area listed above must be accommodated as a part of an oiled bird rehabilitation facility.

(13) Oiled-wildlife facility requirements - Static areas.

(a) Static areas are dedicated spaces within an oiled bird rehabilitation facility where the required size of the space does not vary, regardless of the number of animals in the facility. Static areas must be indoor areas with impermeable floors and water must not be allowed to accumulate on the floor.

(b) Space requirements:

(i) When the total number of birds in a facility is less than fifty, there are no minimum space requirements for static areas.

(ii) When the number of birds in a facility exceeds fifty, each static area listed below must be allocated the associated space.

(iii) All of the space associated with the areas listed below must be accommodated as a part of an oiled bird rehabilitation facility.

(c) Static area space requirements by activity type:

(i) Isolation/intensive care unit: Two hundred square feet;

(ii) Medical lab: Two hundred square feet;

(iii) Laundry: Two hundred square feet; may be accommodated off-site.

(14) Off-site facilities and care.

(a) A primary permittee is responsible for ensuring that his or her off-site facilities, or those of his or her subpermittee, meet all species- and treatment-stage-specific facility requirements as provided by department rule.

(b) A primary permittee, or subpermittee authorized to care for wildlife off-site from the wildlife rehabilitation facilities, must have adequate facilities to house the species in his or her care, based on the criteria for wildlife rehabilitation facilities outlined in the most current edition of the National Wildlife Rehabilitators Association and International Wildlife Rehabilitation Council's Minimum Standards for Wildlife Rehabilitation.

(c) It is unlawful for a subpermittee to care for wildlife in his or her off-site facility, or for the primary permittee to transfer wildlife to the subpermittee, unless the following requirements are met:

(i) There is a need for twenty-four-hour or after-hours care, such as nestling care or nursing small mammals, or critical care;

(ii) The off-site subpermittee only houses and cares for the following species off-site: Eastern gray squirrels, Douglas squirrels, opossum, mallard ducks, pheasant, quail, rock dove, American robin, black-capped chickadee, chestnut-backed chickadee, song-sparrow, dark-eyed junco, white-crowned sparrow, house finch, house sparrow, and hummingbirds if the primary permittee is permitted for those species;

(iii) The number of wildlife animals held at the off-site facility does not exceed the total capacity of the primary facility so that the primary facility does not use the off-site subpermittees to increase capacity;

(iv) The primary permittee would not exceed their permitted capacity if animals were returned from the off-site subpermittee;

(v) The wildlife receives an initial intake exam at the primary permittee's facility before it is transferred to the subpermittee for off-site care;

(vi) The wildlife exhibits no signs of a reportable disease;

(vii) The subpermittee follows a treatment plan developed by the veterinarian or directions from the primary permittee;

(viii) The subpermittee possesses a copy of the wildlife rehabilitation permit at all times while in possession of wildlife, including while transporting wildlife for the wildlife rehabilitation facility. It is unlawful for an off-site subpermittee to release wildlife from their facility without a release evaluation by the primary permittee.

(d) It is unlawful for a subpermittee to house, possess, care for, or treat large carnivores at his or her off-site facilities.

(e) It is unlawful for a subpermittee to house, possess, care for, or treat state or federally designated threatened, endangered, or sensitive species at his or her off-site facilities.

(f) Off-site subpermittees may not operate their own facilities.

(15) Inspections.

(a) Fish and wildlife officers or other agents of the department may inspect without warrant or advanced notice at reasonable times and in a reasonable manner all wildlife rehabilitation facilities and premises, cages, enclosures, all records required by the department for wildlife rehabilitation, and all equipment, and animals.

(b) If wildlife rehabilitation facilities are on property owned by a person other than the permittee, the permittee must submit a signed, dated statement in which the property owner gives written permission to the permittee to engage in wildlife rehabilitation on the property.

(16) A violation of this section by a permittee or a subpermittee is punishable under RCW 77.15.750(1), Unlawful use of a department permit—Penalty.

[Statutory Authority: RCW 77.04.012, 77.04.013, 77.04.020, 77.04.055, 77.12.047, 77.12.240, 77.12.467, 77.12.469, and 77.32.070. WSR 19-06-038 (Order 19-35), § 220-450-100, filed 3/1/19, effective 4/1/19. Statutory Authority: RCW 77.04.012, 77.04.013, 77.04.020, 77.04.055, and 77.12.047. WSR 17-05-112 (Order 17-04), recodified as § 220-450-100, filed 2/15/17, effective 3/18/17. Statutory Authority: RCW 77.12.047, 77.12.240, 77.12.467, 77.12.469, and 77.32.070. WSR 13-18-046 (Order 13-192), § 232-12-847, filed 8/30/13, effective 9/30/13.]