

WAC 220-450-140 Wildlife rehabilitation—Falconers assisting with raptor rehabilitation. (1) A wildlife rehabilitator may utilize a department permitted three-year general or master falconer only for prerelease conditioning for release. Falconers may not practice wildlife rehabilitation without a wildlife rehabilitation permit. Falconers may not rehabilitate hatchling and nestling raptors.

(2) If the raptor is assigned to a falconer, the primary permittee must provide the falconer with:

(a) A copy of the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service wildlife rehabilitation permit showing the falconer listed as a subpermittee; or

(b) A copy of the primary permittee's wildlife rehabilitation permit and a copy of the department authorization for transfer; and

(c) A written document identifying the raptor and explaining that the falconer is assisting in the raptor's rehabilitation and acting as an authorized subpermittee of the primary permittee. The written document must:

(i) Provide the dates of possession and the falconer's name, state falconry license number, contact information, and location of the falconer's facility; and

(ii) Accompany the raptor at all times, including during transport and at the housing location of the raptor.

(3) The primary permittee is responsible for ensuring that falconers adhere to permit terms, state law, department rules, and federal law and regulations at all times when assisting in rehabilitation activities under the primary permittee's rehabilitation permit.

(4) A falconer may house a raptor undergoing conditioning for release at an approved falconry facility that does not meet wildlife rehabilitation facility standards so long as the falconry facility meets the standards under department rule for housing raptors.

(5) Any raptor that cannot be permanently released into the wild must be returned to the primary permittee within one hundred eighty days from the date of transfer to the falconer, unless: The department authorizes retaining the raptor for longer than one hundred eighty days to complete conditioning or is awaiting placement to a permitted education facility.

(6) A primary permittee may transfer a releasable raptor directly to a falconer for falconry purposes so long as the falconer can lawfully possess the species of raptor and complies with all applicable state and federal laws and regulations. The primary permittee must notify the department of the transfer of the raptor to a falconer within ten days of the transfer. The USFWS may also require notification of raptor transfers and release. It is the primary permittee's and falconer's responsibility to ensure compliance with all state and federal laws and regulations.

(7) A falconer may not transfer a bird under his or her care for rehabilitation conditioning to his or her falconry permit; a raptor in rehabilitation conditioning must remain on the wildlife rehabilitator's permit at all times.

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

(b) A violation of this section by a falconer assisting a primary permittee is punishable under the statute for the species being rehabilitated, including RCW 77.15.120 for endangered birds; RCW 77.15.130 for protected birds; and RCW 77.15.400 for all other wild birds.

[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), § 220-450-140, 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 § 220-450-140, 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), § 232-12-855, filed 8/30/13, effective 9/30/13.]