

ANIMAL REHABILITATORS OF THE CAROLINAS VOLUNTEER AGREEMENT

It is a privilege to share the lives of wild animals; it also entails some responsibilities and commitment. An ARC volunteer shall always be compassionate in dealing with the wildlife in their care. While the animal's safety is important, a volunteer must always consider his/her own safety first. ARC strongly recommends that all volunteers handling wildlife have the rabies pre-exposure vaccinations.

AS A VOLUNTEER I WILL:

1. Obtain the proper Rehabilitation Permit and keep the permit(s) current and renewed as required. Send a copy to the ARC secretary to keep in my file. (A copy of the application sent in for your Permit is to be kept in your file until your actual Permit is received.)
2. Obtain and wear the proper gloves for handling each species.
3. Make sure my tetanus vaccinations are up-to-date. Supply proof of date of last vaccinations to be kept in my ARC file.
4. Notify an ARC Board Member IMMEDIATELY if I am bitten or scratched by any animal that could potentially be rabid and if the skin is broken.
5. Notify an ARC Board Member if I am pregnant or immuno-compromised. A pregnant woman or anyone immuno-compromised will NOT be allowed to work with animals unless he/she obtains a letter of permission from his/her doctor and submits this to the ARC Secretary to be placed in his/her file.
6. Maintain all standards of cleanliness for the protection of both myself and the animals in my possession.
7. **Handle any rabies vector species in accordance with applicable state laws. Where permitted, do not handle any rabies vector species without current pre-exposure rabies vaccinations or a current blood titer showing pre-exposure protection. Proof of vaccinations is to be provided to ARC to keep on file.**
8. Follow the care and feeding plan given to me by ARC for all animals in my possession.
9. Notify ARC of the final disposition of each animal in my care when requested or at the end of each calendar year. Supply end-of-the-year statistics (to be used for grant requests) to the Statistics Committee.
10. IMMEDIATELY surrender any animal(s) to another ARC member if I am requested to do so by the ARC Board of Directors.
11. All ARC property will be returned upon request.
12. Keep accurate records on all animals in my possession for review by ARC, the State, or Federal law enforcement authorities.
13. Abide by all recommendations and restrictions mandated by the Wildlife Resources Commission of my State and Federal Government. This includes restrictions concerning any federally protected bird.
14. Attend all Basic Training Classes and Species Specific Classes prior to receiving any animals.
15. Be 18 years of age or older.
16. Not allow any member of the general public or young children in my household to handle any animal in my care.
17. Actively participate in the Telephone Hotline and agree to be responsible for a minimum of two (2) three-hour shifts per month.

It is important to realize that a volunteer will be exposed to many zoonotic diseases (those transmissible from animals to humans). While ordinary common sense and good hygiene will prevent most infection, I understand that it is important to tell my doctor that I work with wildlife on a regular basis, and to offer to provide them with information on zoonosis.

I have chosen to be a volunteer for ARC and I am aware of the possible risks outlined above. I will not hold ARC, ARC Board Members or ARC volunteers liable in the event of my injury or illness, or the injury or illness of another family member or any individual who comes in contact with an animal in my care.

VOLUNTEER SIGNATURE: _____ DATE: _____
(Rev. 11/2009)