

Rehabilitators to the Rescue

OBJECTIVE

To understand the role of wildlife rehabilitators and why so many wild animals need to be rehabilitated.

ACTIVITY OVERVIEW

Students will hear from a speaker from a wildlife rehabilitation center. They will have specific questions prepared and will then compile the information into a book or display to share with the rest of the school and community.

MATERIALS

🐾 Books:

All Wild Creatures Welcome, by Patricia Curtis

Close to Home, Colorado's Urban Wildlife, The Denver Museum of Natural History

Healers of the Wild, by Shannon Jacobs

Wild Neighbors, The Humane Society of the United States

🐾 3x5 index cards

🐾 Materials to make books or a bulletin board display

ACTIVITY

Preliminary Discussion

- 🐾 Why do wild animals often need to be rehabilitated? What are some of the things that people do or don't do, that create problems and injuries for these animals?
- 🐾 Have you ever seen a wild animal in need of help? What happened? What could you have done to help it?
- 🐾 What do wildlife rehabilitators do? Why is their job so necessary? Are they needed just in wilderness areas or in urban settings too?

Procedure

Students will create question cards for the class. Each card should have a question about do's and don'ts regarding caring for injured wildlife. Sample questions:

- 🐾 How do you decide if a rehabilitated animal should be released?
- 🐾 What do you do with an animal if you can't release it?
- 🐾 What should I do if I find a baby bird in my yard?
- 🐾 What should I do if I see an injured wild animal on the side of the road?
- 🐾 How can you tell if an animal has rabies or some other disease?
- 🐾 Why is it important for wild animals not to be comfortable around humans?

Have each student make a question card. Put the cards in a bag and when the speaker visits, each student should choose a card. Once their question has been answered, they should write the answer on the back of their card.

Invite a speaker from a wildlife rehabilitation center to come speak to your class. The following groups may have speakers available:

🐾 Birds of Prey Rehabilitation
Foundation
2005 S. 112 Ave.
Broomfield, CO 80020
(303)460-0674

🐾 Urban Wildlife Rescue Inc.
P.O. Box 201311
Aurora, CO 80220
(303)340-4911

🐾 Greenwood Wildlife Rehabilitation
Sanctuary
P.O. Box 18987
Boulder, CO 80308-1987
(303)545-5849

🐾 State of Colorado
Department of Natural Resources
Division of Wildlife
6060 Broadway
Denver, CO 80216-1000
(303)297-1192

After the presentation, and when all questions have been answered, there are different ways you can share this information with the rest of the school. The students can compile their information into a book, either to be distributed to each student, one for each class, or one for the library. The students can create a bulletin board in the school library (or a community library), with the information they learned and also display any pertinent books (like those listed above).

Post-Discussion

- 🐾 Why are wildlife rehabilitators necessary?
- 🐾 What could you do to assist an animal that needs help?
- 🐾 What kinds of volunteer opportunities are available for working with animals in rehabilitation?

EXTENSION ACTIVITY

Find out what kind of supplies a wildlife rehabilitation center needs. Do a supply drive in your community to benefit a wildlife rehabilitation center.