

“Getting more Rehabbers”

Sept 17-2023 meeting

Facts

Declining Numbers- Before 2006 over 200 Wildlife Rehabbers in Ontario. In 2017 there were 70, in 2019 there were 60 and in Nov of 2022 - 53. September 2023 now 48. Training Courses. Sherri’s course 2019 had 28 people, resulted in only one new Rehabber.

There are more injured and orphaned wild animals in Ontario looked after by the public than by Wildlife Rehabbers. If the public cannot find help they will try to look after the animals themselves.

Recruiting prospects (multi-year project)

Prospects --Foster Care People, OWR requests, Laurel’s requests, Northern Collage, News Media Stories, MNRF leads (public requests for information), Vets, public who rescues, Community events.

Ideas Sept 17th/23

- seminars (training sessions) sponsored by local Rehabber.
- around Ontario, to get interest in Rehabbing
- Canadian Wildlife, Nature Ontario & Quebec
- Recruiting new Rehabbers website (www.ewildagain.org)

Promotion- News media, social media, request lists, MNRF (Districts)

Ideas Sept 17th /23

- OWR has list of 186 media outlets in Ontario
- find out what area person is interested
- brochure on becoming a Wildlife Rehabbers for current Rehabbers to give out to people bring in rescues during the season.
- schools, collages, volunteer fairs

Resources to Get and Assist New Rehabbers

Current – OWR “How to page”, MNRF “How to become” page, Sherri’s course, Coach Laurel.

Support- Annual meeting, Online Rehabbers Group, OWR food warehouse, Metro/Basics, Manitoulin Transport, Audrey Fund.

New- Online courses, seminars by Rehabbers, mentoring team list, New Rehabbers Group, update OWR “How to page” other resources?

-update Laurel’s “Raccoons, Skunks and Squirrels Down loads”

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Tracking Applications – How?

-Sept 17th Ideas

-new Rehabbers submitted by current Rehabbers

A) Veterinarian barriers

-lack of, shortage of, retiring on Rehabbers, Vet of record for authorization

Vet solutions

- direct mailing, appeal to Vets
- list of possible Vets
- OV Collage distribution flyers (Sherri)

Ideas Sept 17th

- Sherri
- list of possible Vets

B) MNRF barrier

-**Getting Approved** (Kawartha 3, Thunder Birds 3, Mally's 2 ½ and Georgian Bay Turtle 1 1/2)

Lost Applications: -know of 5 applications the MNR never responded to.

New Assessment Checklist- everything appears to be mandatory. District wants yes on all questions. Applicants think they do not qualify.

MNRF barriers solutions?

-goes to #1 and #2 on Priority MNRF List

#1 On the application form write "You will be contacted by your District Office within 30 days. If you are not contacted within 30 days please call (phone number or email)

#2 On the New Rehabber assessment check list form mark what is mandatory and everything else is a plus but not mandatory.

Ideas Sept 17th

- keep pushing and shoving
- go to media
- need authorization for two people per location
- take list of those interested in becoming Rehabbers to MNRF

C) Provincial Animal Welfare Services Barriers

Paws fines Deterrent - wipe out most Wildlife Rehabbers.

Paws Regulations are based on animals in permanent captivity (GFAS)

Paws can be used to retaliate against a Wildlife Rehabber.

MNRF site inspections are not acceptable to Paws.

Paws "distress". (injured, sick, in pain or suffering). Section 15 (b)

Solicitor General's Office – Rehabbers will just have to live with it.

Paws barriers solutions? (MNRF has no control on Paws)

- 1) **Target** Solicitor General's Office
- 2) **Go public** – News Media and social media "Wildlife Rescue being regulated out of existence "
- 3) **Wait till next Rehabber has problem**

Ideas Sept 17th

-get other organizations support

Timing

Ideas Sept 17th

-work on more Vets first

-MNRF second

-Paws third or same time as MNRF